

American Folklore Society Monthly News Bulletin

July 2009

[A monthly e-mail update from AFS to fill the gap between the *AFS News* and the new AFS web site.]

Slate for the 2009 American Folklore Society Election

The AFS Nominating Committee (Solimar Otero, chair; Suzanne Seriff, Juwen Zhang, and Guha Shankar, Executive Board liaison) announces the following nominees for Society offices that will become vacant at the end of 2009:

Executive Board (three to be elected for three-year terms):

Ray Cashman, The Ohio State University

Jason Baird Jackson, Indiana University

Joyce Jackson, Louisiana State University

Kimberly Lau, University of California, Santa Cruz

Rachelle H. Saltzman, Iowa Arts Council

Rory Turner, Goucher College

Nominating Committee (one to be elected for a three-year term):

Guillermo de los Reyes Heredia, University of Houston

Stephen Winick, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress

Any member of the Society who wants to add the name of another member to the above slate may do so by submitting a petition signed by at least ten Society members. This petition must include the name, complete address, and phone number of the nominee, the office for which she or he is being nominated, and a signed statement from the nominee indicating agreement to run. The nominee must also provide a brief biography and a platform statement of no more than 250 words.

Scan, save, and send an electronic copy of all nomination-by-petition materials to Solimar Otero at solimar@lsu.edu no later than September 1.

We will invite all candidates to participate in a Candidates' Forum on Saturday afternoon, October 24, at the annual meeting in Boise. Secure online voting will open around November 1 and will continue through December 31. We will announce election results shortly after the first of next year on the AFS website. Those elected will take office on January 1, 2010.

JAF Issues Available

A recently retired AFS member has generously offered to donate his complete run of 1973-2005 issues of the Journal of American Folklore to an interested institution or individual in the field. If you are interested, please contact AFS Executive Director Tim Lloyd at lloyd.100@osu.edu.

2009 Deadline for AFS Botkin, Hurston, and Paredes Prizes Approaches

August 31 is the deadline for nominations for the 2009 Benjamin A. Botkin, Zora Neale Hurston, and Américo Paredes Prizes.

Benjamin A. Botkin Prize

Each year, the Public Programs Section of the American Folklore Society joins with the AFS Executive Board to award the Benjamin A. Botkin Prize of \$200 to an individual for significant achievement in public folklore. This prize is given in recognition of the work of Benjamin A. Botkin (1901-1975). Eminent New Deal-era folklorist, national folklore editor of the Federal Writers' Project in 1938-1939, advocate for the public responsibilities of folklorists, author and compiler of many publications on American folklore for general audiences, and head of the Archive of American Folk Song at the Library of Congress from 1942 to 1945, Botkin has had a major impact on the field of public folklore and on the public understanding of folklore.

The review criteria are:

Engagement of a broad public audience in the materials of folklore

Impact on the field of public folklore: development of models, methodology, visibility, advocacy

Impact on communities/constituents and their traditional culture

Contributions to the body of materials of folklore/public folklore

Quality of artistry in presentation: writing, photography, stagecraft, etc.

Quality of scholarship

Impact on the discipline of folklore, its theories and methodology

Quality/adequacy of nomination package itself

Breadth of support, as evidenced by letters from community members and non-folklorists in addition to folklore colleagues

The deadline for nominations is August 31, 2009. Please direct nominations, as well as your questions, to Botkin Prize Committee chair Anne Pryor (608/266-8106), Folk and Traditional Arts Specialist at the Wisconsin Arts Board.

Nominations should include a letter of nomination; a one- or two-page biography or resume of the nominee; three to five letters of support from a broad range of people, including community members who have benefited from the nominee's work and people from outside the folklore field in addition to colleagues. Letters should specifically address the review criteria listed above and should explain how the nominee has taken folklore to a broad public audience.

All nomination letters and support material must be submitted in electronic format so they can be distributed easily and quickly to the committee members. Nominations remain active for three years. Previous nominators should contact Pryor to ensure that their nominations are still in the pool, to arrange to send electronic versions of materials previously sent in hard copy, and to inquire about adding new or updated materials to those nominations.

Zora Neale Hurston Prize

This prize of \$100 is named for the pioneering folklorist, ethnographer, and creative writer who lived from 1891 to 1960, worked in and wrote extensively about African American communities throughout the southern U.S., and is internationally known for her folklore collection *Mules and Men* (1935) and her novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937), as well as other notable works. The prize is given to a graduate or undergraduate student for the best work in any medium—including but not limited to papers, films, sound recordings, or exhibitions—on African American folklore.

Works submitted for prize consideration do not have to be about Hurston herself. One of the past prize-winning works was a graduate research paper that resulted in a thesis, another was a course paper written by a graduate student and later published as an article in the journal *Southern Folklore*, and the most recent was an ethnography project conducted by an undergraduate student for a senior seminar course.

The next deadline for nominations is August 31, 2009. Please send three copies of your submission, with an electronic copy of all paper submissions and cover letters sent by e-mail, to AFS Zora Neale Hurston Prize, American Folklore

Society, The Ohio State University, 1501 Neil Avenue, Columbus OH 43201 USA;
lloyd.100@osu.edu.

Nominees not selected in the year of their original nomination are kept in consideration for two more reviews.

Américo Paredes Prize

Each year, the AFS Task Force on Cultural Diversity, Chicana/Chicano Section, and Folklore Latino, Latinoamericano, y Caribeño Section join with the AFS Executive Board to give this prize of \$200, which recognizes excellence in integrating scholarship and engagement with the people and communities one studies, or in teaching and encouraging scholars and practitioners to work in their own cultures or communities.

Américo Paredes (1915-1999), a leading scholar in folklore and Greater Mexico studies, worked relentlessly throughout his life, in the words of Olga Nájera-Ramírez, "to better understand, represent, and respect the rights, lives, and culture of U.S. Latinas and Latinos."

Paredes contributed significantly to the formation of various intellectual trends and in particular to the scholarship on "native" folklorists and anthropologists; indeed, he trained several generations of "natives." He was the first Mexican American to receive a Ph.D. at the University of Texas, where he taught from 1958 until his retirement in 1984.

The Paredes Prize recognizes his contributions to the field and to the Society, gives respect to his memory, and recognizes exemplary achievements that build upon his cross-disciplinary, socially engaged legacy.

The prize may be awarded for many forms of accomplishment, including products such as a book, article, software package, or exhibit; or on the basis of the overall impact of the nominee's engaged teaching and scholarship, or her/his fostering of work in one's own community or culture.

The next deadline for nominations is August 31, 2009. To nominate a candidate, send a letter describing how the nominee has achieved excellence in either or both of the achievements the Prize recognizes, with an electronic copy sent by e-mail, to AFS Américo Paredes Prize, American Folklore Society, Mershon Center, Ohio State University, 1501 Neil Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201 USA;
lloyd.100@osu.edu.

Nominees not selected in the year of their original nomination are kept in consideration for two more reviews.

AFS Archives and Libraries Section Offers the Polly Grimshaw Prize

The Archives and Libraries Section of the American Folklore Society offers stipends of up to \$500 in honor of the late Polly Grimshaw, curator of the folklore collection at Indiana University Libraries. The Grimshaw Prize is intended to support folklore or ethnomusicology projects with a significant connection to libraries and/or archives.

Examples of eligible projects:

- support for travel costs to enable on-site research in a library or archive collection
- research into problems, issues, or methods in information organization and retrieval in folklore/ethnomusicology, including libraries, archives, collections, and related topics; or travel to AFS to present the results of such research

Applications from students, professionals, or researchers in folklore or ethnomusicology are welcome to apply for the Grimshaw Prize. Primary consideration is given to students enrolled in folklore graduate curricula and professional folklorists. Applications will consist of a succinct narrative describing the project and its relationship to libraries and/or archives; a detailed budget; a resume or curriculum vitae; and one letter of recommendation. The application deadline is 31 August 2009.

Applications should be mailed or emailed to: Kristi Young, 1160 HBLL, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602; kristi_young@byu.edu.

PhD Position in European Cultural Studies

The Department of Foreign Languages at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim has available one PhD position connected to the research project "Exhibiting Europe: Developing a European Narrative in Museums, Collections and Exhibitions," funded by the Norwegian Research Council (NFR). The project started in October 2008 and will run until September 2012. For information, visit <http://innsida.ntnu.no/getfile.php/vedlegg/4a3b9bd6d79375.96370177/utlysninstekst.pdf>

Society for Applied Anthropology 2010 Annual Meeting

The 70th Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) will be held in Mérida, Yucatan, México, March 24-27, 2010. The theme of the meeting is "Vulnerabilities And Exclusion In Globalization." Program co-chairs Liliana Goldín (Florida International) and Francisco Fernández Repetto (UADY) invite the interest and submission of abstracts for papers, sessions, posters, and workshops. Please contact either co-chair (goldin@fiu.edu or frepetto@uady.mx) or the SfAA Office at info@sfaa.net if you have questions or wish additional information.

Abstracts and papers may be in English or Spanish. The deadline for receipt of abstracts is October 15, 2009. A detailed description of the theme and the meeting venue may be found on the SfAA web page at www.sfaa.net and in the recent SfAA Newsletter at www.sfaa.net/newsletter/newsletter.html.

The Society is an international association of applied social scientists. The annual meetings emphasize problem definition and resolution. The discussions are inter-disciplinary and informal. A special welcome is extended to non-members.

News from the Library of Congress

The Librarian of Congress has recently announced the seventh annual set of additions to the National Recordings Registry.

The staff of the American Folklife Center would especially like to draw attention to the two recordings of "Tom Dooley," one by Frank Proffitt and the other by the Kingston Trio. The Frank Proffitt version, recorded by Frank and Ann Warner in 1940, became the basis for Frank Warner's rendition of the song, and also for the arrangement that appeared in John and Alan Lomax's *Folk Song USA* in 1948. From the Lomaxes' book, the song passed into the 1950s American folk revival. Based ultimately on Proffitt's version, but with innovations added by the Lomaxes and by other groups such as the Tarriers, the Kingston Trio's version was released in 1958 and became a blockbuster hit, topping the Billboard charts and winning the Grammy for Country and Western Performance at the first-ever Grammy Awards. Along with the rest of the Warners' collection, Frank Proffitt's 1940 recording is now part of the American Folklife Center's archive.

In addition to these two recordings, there are several others on the new Registry that demonstrate the committee's continued commitment to folk and traditional music, and to folklife more generally. These include an interview with Zora Neale Hurston on the Mary Margaret McBride radio program from 1943; "Boogie Chillen," recorded by Delta Blues singer John Lee Hooker in 1948; and "Rank

Stranger," recorded by the Stanley Brothers in 1960.

The annual addition to the registry covers the full range of recorded sound, including rock, pop, jazz, blues, country, Latin, classical, early music, religious music, show tunes, drama, oratory, performed literature, storytelling, comedy, and nature sounds.

You can see the full list of recordings added this year, along with the Library of Congress press release, at <http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2009/09-108.html>.