

FROM THE EDITOR

I am proud to present the thirty-ninth volume of the *Children's Folklore Review*, the first in, what I hope will be, a long line of digital, open-access issues dedicated to the study of children's folklore. This issue represents the start of a new era for our journal, one that I hope is marked by more accessible content, an expanded audience, and a renewed interest in the literature, practices, games, modes of play, etc. of children and the meaning these practices have in the lives of children.

This past year has reminded me of how vital folklore is and will continue to be for children, especially as they cope with a world that is rapidly evolving and in which their protections are eroding. At the time of this writing, there have been twenty-two school shootings in the United States in 2018. As a teenager, I would spend my summers working at my Grandfather's ranch in Floresville, Texas, just down the road from Sutherland Springs First Baptist Church where, in November 2017, a gunman opened fired killing 26 and injuring 20 others, of which many were children. At immigration detention centers around the country, children of illegal aliens and amnesty-seekers have been separated from their families as political bargaining chips. As scholars, as folklorists, I believe it is our responsibility to use our craft to provide insight into the lives of children, to describe how they cope with these new realities, and the meaning of material culture, social and cultural practices, modes of expression, and language. I hope I am not alone in this.

I will pivot now to share more about how digital this transition transpired. During last year's meeting of the Children's Folklore Section of the American Folklore Society held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, I shared some of my concerns about the continued viability of the *Children's Folklore Review* as a print publication. These were not new concerns; the previous editor, Trevor Blank, had also acknowledged this issue and had begun exploring alternative publishing outlets. Without institutional support, we argued, the publication and editorial costs of the journal would gradually erode the section's coffers. At our meeting, I proposed—and the section members voted unanimously—to shift the journal delivery method from print to digital. What you are reading today is the byproduct of that decision.

Even before last year's meeting, I held exploratory discussions with the professionals who manage Indiana University's ScholarWorks. ScholarWorks has longed maintained the *Children's Folklore Review's* digital repository of past issues, hosting, at no cost to the journal or section, an archive of the journal dating back to 1990. By partnering with IU, not only do we have a low-cost solution to our publishing concerns, but we also have the means of expanding our reach across the globe.

Finally, I would like to offer my thanks to the many people who have assisted in making this transition and this issue possible. First, I would like to thank our wonderful executive board Simon, Jay, Priscilla, Libby, and our newest member, Trevor Blank, for their guidance, wisdom,

and valuable feedback on the articles in this issue. I would also like to thank the leadership and staff at IUScholarWorks: Jamie Wittenberg, Richard Higgins, Jim Halliday, Sarah Hare, and Jennifer Hoops. Last of all, I want to thank Spencer Green for joining me as the review's editor for the journal and continuing to expand our review offerings.

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