

FOLKLORE VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of Folklore Village
A Not-for-Profit Organization
www.folklorevillage.org
October 2004

Governor's Award

"On behalf of the people of the State of Wisconsin, this official commendation [is given] for faithful dedication to maintaining and expanding the folklife activities and multiage educational program that have multiplied the cultural and artistic opportunities available to the residents of Dodgeville, southwestern Wisconsin and Midwestern communities."

—Taken from the opening paragraph of Folklore Village's "Governor's Award in Support of the Arts"

Last October, staff and board members traveled to the Executive Residence of Governor Jim and First Lady Jessica Doyle to receive the prestigious "Governor's Award in Support of the Arts." The Wisconsin Foundation for the Arts, which has organized the event for over 20 years, joined the Governor in bestowing the honors.

Folklore Village received the award for being a premier Community Organi-

zation. "In her nomination, Anne Pryor of the Wisconsin Arts Board, recounted how 'Folklore Village programming serves the state's diverse populations, including Native Americans, Asians, Mexicans, Africans and Europeans, with an extraordinary range of artistic forms and cultural communities.'

[In 1988, Jane Farwell received an individual Governor's Award in Support of the Arts for her talent and leadership.]

A testament to careful planning, after Jane's death in 1993, Folklore Village professional staff and countless volunteers continued and expanded its mission and outreach programs. Folklore Village's remarkable program demonstrates 'the arts are for everyone.'" (From the

Arts Letter, Wisconsin Foundation for the Arts, Vol. 29, No. 2.)



Governor's Award Reception: from left, Don Macaulay, Ken Whiteash, Melissa Leef, Governor Jim Doyle, Bonnie Isaacson-Miller, Doug Miller

Aslak Lie House Update

Folklore Village's project to save the historic home of Norwegian craftsman and community leader Aslak Olsen Lie is well underway. As many of you know, this house could no longer remain on its original site near Mt. Horeb and was going to be destroyed if it could not be relocated.

We are very happy to report that this 1848 two-story log and frame house has now been dismantled and all of the building materials have been moved into storage for safekeeping. The dismantling process was documented with over 1,400 photographs as well as with drawings and detailed measurements. In addition, every piece of building material has been labeled and recorded.

In the months ahead we will be focusing on fundraising and rebuilding the exterior. This will include replicating/replacing rotten logs and boards, and reassembling the structure on a new foundation at Folklore Village. We will also be working to raise

continued on page 2

The 57th Annual Festival of Christmas and Midwinter Traditions is fast approaching. On Dec. 28-Jan. 1 all are invited to share in the camaraderie, fun, learning, dancing, music, and crafts. We have a great bunch of folks on staff this year (of course!) including: * Sanna and Mars Longden, ethnic dance * Ada Dziejewowska, Polish dance * Val Mindel & Rita Ruby, singing workshops * Alicia Rheel, community art project (felted quilt) * Amy McFarland & Maria Terres-Sandgren, festival band * Anne Marie Kraus, children's program * Gene & Celeste Gryniewicz, children's program, crafts and storytelling * Stephanie Lemke, Croatian Pisanica * Tom Peterson, blacksmithing. And that's not all! Evening dance parties, delicious food (and lots of it!), skits, games.... We're adding more every week. Ahhhh! There's so much to prepare... keep your eyes on our website and your mailbox closer to December for all the details!



Sonia Valle shares a Jamaican game with children at the 2003 Festival of Christmas & Mid-Winter Traditions

Folk Fare

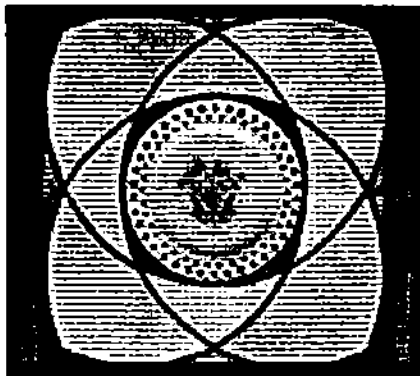
Folklore Village nourishes the heart, mind and spirit – not to mention our bellies, as anyone who has attended a festival or potluck supper here can attest to! We educate and empower people of all ages by providing programs that honor traditions and promote respect for diversity. In order to provide these services, we must rely on our community and fundraising events.

This is a critical time for Folklore Village. We are dedicated to keeping our fees low, enabling school children, senior citizens, families and individuals on fixed budgets to attend. Our staff and board work diligently to manage our limited financial resources, while providing accessible programs and services. To help meet the demands of rising programming costs, we are introducing a unique new fundraiser—*Folk Fare*.

This event features artistic contributions by regional artists and craftspeople around the theme of a simple dinner plate (hence the term “Fare.”)

The decorated plates will be raffled off during an evening of music, fun and scrumptious desserts, Saturday, November 13th beginning at 7:30 pm. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

Interested? Call (608) 924-4000.



Stained Glass Plate by Will Hamm

Earn College Credits at Folklore Village

Did you know that all that fun you have dancing, singing and making music at Folklore Village could earn you college credit through the University of Wisconsin-Platteville? Our upcoming Swedish Music & Dance Weekend, Festival of Christmas & Mid-Winter Traditions, Cajun Music & Dance Weekend, in fact all of our 3-4 day culture learning retreats, can be taken for undergraduate or graduate credit. Call or email our office for information.

Aslak Lie House Update

the estimated \$50,000 needed for this next phase of the project.

Our work to save the Aslak Lie House would not be possible without the support and encouragement of many people:

Thanks once again to the generosity of Bob Monschein and Kevin Green for



Tad and Craig Van Valin dismantling the Aslak Lie house

giving the house to Folklore Village and to the Horton Law Office for preparing the paperwork. Thanks also to the Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society for supporting our proposal to save the house.

Thanks to our wonderful advisory team which includes: Jack Holzhueter, noted historian and Aslak Lie authority; Darrell Henning, Curator Emeritus, Vesterhiem Museum; Jim Draeger, Architectural Historian, Wisconsin State Historical Society; and Brian Betteridge, restoration consultant.

Thanks to Paul Scheffel for volunteering countless hours at the site and for all his photography work during the dismantling process. Thanks also to Ken Whiteash, Tim White, Dick Ainsworth and Bill Boyer for their talents and energy, and to Tad and Craig Van Valin, our fearless dismantling/restoration contractors.

Thanks to Kristine Dewey and John and Jubie Simonson for donating storage space for building materials.

continued from page 1

Thanks to everyone on both sides of the Atlantic that made gifts towards this project thus far. We send a special thanks to Keith Syvrud and Betty Karrmann, Jim and Merle Woodburn, Phillip Mayer, Sara Krebsbach and Glenn Reinl, the Valdres Historielag, Keith Syvrud, Bev & Don Syvrud, Bjorn Gunnar Ostgard, Loretta Kelly, Bob Woodburn and especially to the late Bob Granum, whose \$5,000 gift really helped get things started. Thanks also to Tim & Karen White and the Steve Albert Family for the benefit program last February that raised \$900 for the project. Your enthusiastic support is an inspiration.

If you would like more information on how you can become involved in the Aslak Lie Project contact Doug Miller at doug@folklorevillage.org.



Henning Anderson (Hardanger fiddler), Jahn Bore Jahnsen (Valdres Historical Society) and Ellsabeth Mellbye, all from Valdres, Norway, dedicate the future site of the Aslak Lie house with a Valdressingring

Folklore Village

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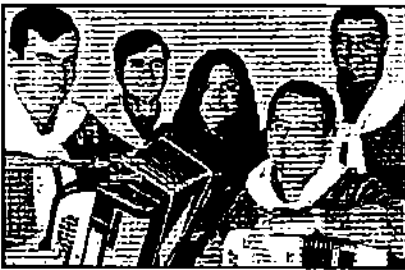
ADVISORY COUNCIL

Jerry Apps • Mary Jo Ceniti
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Diverse, Fun Fall Concert Schedule

Rubén Rodríguez y su Conjunto, a traditional Chamamé music group from Argentina, will perform Friday, Oct 1 at 7:30 pm. Chamamé is music from the river provinces of Argentina. It is a cultural fusion of music and traditions of the area's native people, the Spanish Creoles and the European immigrants. Rodríguez was born in Corrientes, Argentina, the birthplace of Chamamé musicians. He is, without a doubt, "the voice of Corrientes." Rodríguez is a poet, accordionist and author of more than 50 songs. He and the group have played many festivals throughout Argentina and now will share their wonderful, upbeat traditional music in the United States. We are proud to present this gifted group from South America.

Rubén
Rodríguez y
su Conjunto



We are excited to share the rest of our fall concert line up with you...

Nationally known and respected songwriters **Lou & Peter Berryman** will be here Friday, October 8 at 7:30 pm with their musical talent, wit and humor. You'll laugh until your cheeks ache!

Join us Friday, October 22 as singer/songwriter **Clay Riness** returns. His belief that music "should touch all emotions" really comes through in his funny, heartwarming performances.

Renowned banjo player **Bob Carlin** will teach a clawhammer banjo workshop on Saturday, November 6 at 9:30 am and then will share an enlightening afternoon presentation/performance entitled "From Africa to Appalachia" which traces the journey of the banjo through its modern day uses. The show begins at 2:30 pm.

"Your Midsummer
Fest was wonderful -
it is better every year,
which is a remarkable
feat!"
-2004 Participant-



Swedish Music & Dance Weekend, October 29-31

The Dahlin family has been sharing the traditions of their Swedish homeland with us for many years. Each fall we look forward to the time when they return to Folklore Village with their stories, music and heart. The talented Leif Alspjö returns from Sweden to teach Nyckelharpa, fiddle and dance. Learn the beauty of Swedish Dance with the warmth and patience of respected instructor Roo Lester and her teaching partner Larry Harding. Becky Weis will also share her skillful music on both fiddle and Nyckelharpa. The festival offers workshops for beginning through advanced music and dance.

More information is available at folklorevillage.org. Call to reserve your place today!

Families Learning Together

Folklore Village strives to make intergenerational connections and we offer wonderful programs for families to learn and create together. Though children are welcome at all of our events, the following three programs are designed especially for families.

- ◆ **Create Your Own Indian Storystick!**
Sat., Nov. 20, 1 pm. Oneida storyteller Debra Morningstar will lead this special workshop. Bring your own wooden stick and special items, such as ribbon, beads, and feathers, to make the project more personal. (Materials will also be provided.) All ages are invited to join this journey of self-discovery.
- ◆ **Close Knit Families**, Sat., Dec. 4, 1 pm. Share an afternoon warming your hands and hearts as you learn the beautiful folk art of knitting, lead by Bonnie Schmidt and Pam Karstens. Best for ages 8 and up. Materials will be provided.
- ◆ **Scandinavian Holiday Crafts & Activities**, Sat., Dec. 11, 3-5 pm. This annual afternoon of learning traditional Swedish Sankta Lucia songs, shaping saffron buns and making star ornaments leads the way for our beautiful Swedish Sankta Lucia program held in the evening. (The evening program begins with a potluck at 6:30 pm, with the program to follow. Children who attend the afternoon session are invited to participate in the evening ceremony.)

Labor of Love

Ken Whiteash really defined the phrase "labor of love" this past year. As caretaker he went above and beyond the call of duty. Not only did he do a terrific job taking care of our 94 acres and ten buildings, but he also added much fun to our work days. Ken has now moved on to another career, but still visits frequently and works just as hard as a volunteer. Ken, we can't thank you enough. We wish you luck in your new job and look forward to seeing you here as a participant! Of course, if you feel like lending a hand, you're always welcome!

In May Richard Johnson joined our staff as our new caretaker. He has already spent many hours on the lawnmower this summer, along with other projects. Welcome Richard! We promise, the grass is just about finished growing!

Eldon Keeney is back! He has been out lending his talented hands and wonderful smile to numerous projects here. It's a joy working with him again.

Marian Strutt, who has been our patient bookkeeper for many years, is dealing with some health problems. Please send positive thoughts her way!

Pen-and-ink drawing of Folklore Village (page one) by Don Macaulay, artist, dancer, and Folklore Village Board member, 2002.

Prairie Project Update

Under the direction of Kurt Waterstradt, a Wildlife Biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, we have been working to restore our 40-acre pasture to a Tall Grass Prairie. Located to the south and west of Farwell Hall, this area still includes many native Tall Grass Prairie plant, wildlife and insect species.

Our work began in the fall of 2002 with a controlled burn of the northern section of the pasture. The burn removed dead plant material and encouraged the native Tall Grass Prairie plants that were still present. We have also been weeding out, spraying and mowing down the species that do not belong, such as Canadian Thistle and Wild Parsnip. In addition, there have been several rounds of seeding to restore the native species that have waned over the years.

When we began two years ago, Kurt told us that this project would take time. After all, it took thousands of years for the original prairie to evolve. We are very excited to report that we are gaining the upper hand on the invasive species and a number of native species, remnant and seeded, are taking hold!

On a recent walk through the prairie Kurt found Little Bluestem, Yellow Coneflower, Wild Quinine, Purple Prairie Clover, Compass Plant, Indian Grass, Lead Plant, Rosin Weed, Showy Sunflower and many other Tall Grass Prairie plants. The first section of the prairie should be a joy to behold next spring!

We send our thanks to everyone that donated time, seed and plants to this project, with a special thanks to Steve Bunker, Barb Glass, Ruth Forrester, Rich Henderson, Susan Hollett, Bo Monroe & Mary Romolino, Paul Ohlrogge, Kristin Westad and Kurt Waterstradt. Your gifts will truly flower for generations to come.

What's next? We plan to burn two areas in the northern section this fall and hope to begin work on the southern section with a burn next spring. Want to get involved in our Prairie Project? Just email or call Folklore Village.

From the Program Manager

I've been program manager for a bit over a year now and my friends and family keep asking me, "So, what exactly do you do at Folklore Village?" Those of you who have met me know I can talk up a storm about most anything so I start to say that I plan programs, book artists, publicize concerts, things like that. But in truth, I really can't tell them what I do. How can I describe the look on a child's face in a school program when they suddenly understand how important their own culture is? How can I convey the warmth felt in a candlelit room filled with people singing carols around a 14-foot evergreen, or the achingly beautiful harmonies coming from a song sharing workshop in a 120 year old church? What about the energy and laughter of 100 people dancing to old time music after having just shared a wonderful meal together and the beauty of a couple sharing the last waltz of the evening? Or the sound of giggling children (and adults) playing Jane Farwell's "magic broom" games?

Folklore Village staff (left to right) Richard Johnson, Melissa Leef, Bonnie Isaacson-Miller, Doug Miller



One of my favorite things to do is walk out under a starlit sky when a dance or festival is going on and just watch and listen as the sounds of music and chatter and the light of the room mix with the night. There is a sort of awe that fills my heart in moments like this. It's when I say "Ahh, this is what I do." But it's not - not really. It's what everyone else does, what each individual brings to - and receives from - our programs. It's a feeling, a smile, a hug, a memory of times past. People get to be themselves here. When folks walk through our doors, they are reminded of where they came from, who they are, and where they want to go. So, what exactly do I do? Well, I still don't have the words, but if you stand close enough you can hear the answer beating in my heart.

Senior Outreach

We all know a tune can carry us back to a special time and place. Thanks to a generous grant from the United Fund of Iowa County, Folklore Village's Senior Outreach programs are bringing these tunes to area seniors. Our artists travel to care facilities, senior centers and meal sites to share the gift of live music. The performances focus on songs from homelands and old time music. Our musicians often tell us wonderful stories upon returning from these valuable programs. For example, at one performance a gentleman danced with his visiting daughter, which was his first dance in 15 years. At another a resident who had broken a hip and shoulder months earlier reached for the fiddle of one of the performers and played

tremendously. A staff member mentioned they didn't know he could play and would have to get his fiddle for him!

We also have Seniors Concerts at Folklore Village to allow seniors the chance to get out for a special afternoon. After one such performance, a gentleman in a wheelchair came over to me with tears in his eyes. "I just want to say thank you," he said. "This music really brought me back to when I was young." He explained that though he couldn't dance anymore he had learned at house parties his family had while he was growing up. It is these "thank yous," the gentle foot tapping and smiles on the faces of people in attendance, that make us proud to present over 30 of these programs each year.

Our fall and winter schedule is packed with concerts, dances, family activities, and festivals. Please check www.folklorevillage.org or call us at (608)924-4000 for a new calendar!

We want to work with you!

We'd like to send a heartfelt "thank you" to Catherine Baer who has been our Volunteer Coordinator for many years. Together we decided that with her increasing family and work responsibilities it would be easier to have the volunteers work directly with staff, so Melissa Leef is the new volunteer coordinator. You did a great job setting things up for us, Catherine!

There is a crispness in the air, which means our fall and winter programs are underway! If you've looked at our calendar, you'll see that we have over 30 programs between now and the end of the year. What fun to have the smiling faces, playing hands and dancing feet that bring life to Folklore Village back in full force.

But let's be honest, it's a lot of work. With such a small staff I'll admit that it gets tough to keep our energy level high during our busy seasons. We rely on volunteers to help us through and right now we are in need of more of you! Do you have a weekday free?



We need help in the office—answering phones, making copies, updating records, etc. Like the outdoors? Please spend some time getting to know our gardens up close and personal! Are you good with computers? Come help us with ours. Do you enjoy the delicious Folklore Village food? Get in on the action in the kitchen! Already planning on coming out to a concert or dance? Come early and help welcome and direct folks and take admission. Please let us know before you come so we have things ready for you. We have volunteer opportunities that fit almost every age and skill. Please call us—we'd love to work with you!

Doug and the MSCR Camp Possible volunteer painting crew at the Wakefield School

Thanks to Our Angels & Friends

Folklore Village is truly a community effort. Each activity, event and experience is made possible by the financial support of many caring individuals, families, and community business leaders.

Our heartfelt thanks to all who contributed thus far to our 2003-2004 Friends of Folklore Village and Acre Maker fundraising drives. Over 380 individuals and families contributed in support of our programs and operations! A special thanks to Beth Atkinson, Paul Biere & Ginger Brand Family, Karen Carlson, Karin & Nelson Gottier, Larry Harding, Nancy Holland, Marian and Eric Klieber Family, Don Katz, Don & Alayne Macaulay, Amy & Tom McFarland Family, Dan Lippitt & Glenn Mitroff, Louise Neu, Marc & Don O'Brien, Don & Joanna Thompson, Gail & Willi Van Haren Family, Grace Wolff, Rolf & Susan Wulfsberg Family, Will Zarwell & Robin Chapman, and our anonymous angels for their generous gifts.

Thanks to the following businesses, corporations, foundations, and associations whose 2003-2004 contributions supported the Folklife Programs for Schools, Seniors Outreach, Paths of Tradition Concerts, Community Dances and other programs.

- \$10,000 - \$50,000
Hirschmann Charitable Trust
- \$5,000 - \$9,999
Lands' End
- \$2,500 - \$4,999
Dodgeville Kiwanis Club
United Fund of Iowa County
Wisconsin Arts Board
- \$1,000 - \$2,499
Capezio/Ballet Makers Foundation
Farmer's Savings Bank
Mellon Financial Corporation
Foundation
Sprint Foundation
- \$500 - \$999
Cajun Weekend Acre Makers
Community Foundation of
Southern Wisconsin
Hooper Foundation
Jackman Foundation
Johnson Trust
Wal-Mart Foundation
- \$100 - \$499
American Express
Dodgeville Lions Club
EMC/Novagen
United Way of Dane County
World Reach

"Thank you so much for allowing us the opportunity to visit and help Folklore Village. What a beautiful place! The contribution made to our community [by Folklore Village] is tremendous. Thanks for all you do!"

—MSCR Camp Possible

Celebrating Volunteers

On August 29, the Folklore Village staff and Volunteer Committee held a party to honor our volunteers. Lunch was served, complete with a cake, entertainment was provided by riverboat Captain "Smith Harris" (a.k.a. Craig Dunigan), and Doug and Bonnie Miller and Melissa Leef played some tunes. Special recognition was given to the Folklore Village Dancers for their dedication to sharing traditional dances with so many groups for over 30 years and to the Oak Apple Morris Dancers for making sure the crops grow tall and the sun rises each May Day morning and sharing their joyful dances with us. Hooray volunteers – we appreciate you all!

"I just wanted to let all of you know that our day was absolutely FABULOUS yesterday! So many of our students come off the bus at the end of the day saying, "This is the best field trip ever!" I, myself, never tire of the program or your facility either—I always learn something new... Thanks for bringing so much excitement to our learning!"

3rd grade teacher, Riverdale Elementary

From the Director

I have often heard it said that folklife is "hidden in plain sight." It is such a familiar and pervasive part of life that we just don't acknowledge its presence.

Just as everyone needs air to live, we all need folklife traditions to live together. Our dances, foods, songs, celebrations, games, stories and handy work are activities we often take for granted without ever really recognizing their significance. These traditions and the values and beliefs they carry are like a cultural breath, sustaining and connecting friends, families and communities.

It is this flow of traditions that helps shape who we are. It also shapes our neighbors next door and neighbors on the other side of the world. Folklife traditions are the basic elements of the cultural diversity we value so highly.

I can think of no better way for us to gain an understanding of our own humanity and the humanity of our neighbors near and far, than by deepening the understanding of each other's culture and traditions.

We live in a time of remarkably rapid cultural change and, unfortunately, increasing cultural conflict. Folklife education is such a timely and important tool for improving cultural awareness and understanding that we cannot afford to let it remain "hidden in plain sight."

Folklore Village founder Jane Farwell knew the importance of these concepts decades ago when she began dreaming and planning for Folklore Village. They became founding principles of our organization.

We are deeply committed to improving cultural awareness and the quality of life for everyone through folklife education and programming.

Matching Gifts

Many contributing Friends of Folklore Village multiply the value of their contributions through their employer's Matching Gifts Program. Check the Matching Gifts Program where you work the next time you are making a Friends gift. (Last year matching gifts from employers provided an additional \$2,300 in contributed support to Folklore Village!)

Folklore Village Staff

Doug Miller, *Executive Director*

Melissa Leef, *Program Manager & Volunteer Coordinator*

Bonnie Isaacson-Miller, *Office Manager & Foodways Coordinator*

Richard Johnson, *Caretaker*

Marion Strutt, *Bookkeeper*

In Memoriam:

Jane Farwell, *Founder and Guiding Spirit*

Contact us at:

staff@folklorevillage.org

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