American Folklore Society

2013 Annual Report

working to sustain the field
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Dear Folklore Friends,

This is my last report as AFS president, as I have now officially passed the reins into the capable hands of Michael Ann Williams. It has been an incredible honor to serve as President of the American Folklore Society over the last two years. I have learned a lot about our society and our membership, but most of all I have learned how hard so many of you work to advance the goals of AFS and the discipline: on the Executive Board, through our publications, on our committees, at annual meetings, as consultants, reviewers—the list goes on and on. I am humbled by your hard work on behalf of AFS and our folklore family, and I thank you all for everything you do.

It is unbelievable that another year has gone by since my last report. We continue, at AFS, to try to find new ways to serve our membership and our field: surveying our members for what works and what doesn’t, developing new initiatives, and focusing on new ways to grow, adapt, and maintain our efforts, and yours, in this changing world of professional organizations, the academy, and public folklore.

Your responses to our surveys help considerably, suggesting what you value and what you are challenged by, both within the Society and in your professional lives. Often, meeting the needs of our membership requires that our office staff must make difficult decisions, informed by your feedback, that work toward compromises addressing the manifold concerns of our diverse organization. In that spirit, this past year, the staff responded to comments from the previous member survey and adapted our jam-packed annual meeting schedule to increase opportunities for informal engagement. This experiment at the 2013 meeting in Providence involved moving two general sessions to Wednesday in order to free up time for a much longer lunch hour and an open late-afternoon time slot on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday for conversation and networking. Feedback on the Providence meeting was mostly positive, though some members expressed concerns about the added expenses and work schedule conflicts created by making the meeting a day longer. As a result, this year’s meeting in Santa Fe—where we hope to see all of you—will retain the longer lunch hour and the Thursday afternoon free period while keeping all general sessions on the old Thursday–Saturday schedule. The sites for the next three AFS annual meetings are Long Beach (October 2015), Miami (October 2016), and Minneapolis (October 2017). We are delighted that the 2016 meeting in Miami will be a joint meeting with the International Society for Folk Narrative Research.

As always, there was a lot going on in the world of AFS publications and scholarly communications in 2013. Journal of American Folklore editors Thomas A. DuBois and James P. Leary announced they would step down at the end of their five-year term. I thank them for their superior editorial work and service to the Society. The AFS Executive Board and Publications Committee are now carrying out a search for the next editor of JAF, whose first issues will appear in early 2016. Also in 2013, the AFS-Indiana University Bloomington Libraries Open Folklore project debuted a new design and improved search capabilities. We encourage you to go to the site and have a look around. Thank you to our Indiana University collaborators, Julie Bobay, Associate Dean for Collection Development and Scholarly Communications, and Carolyn Walters, Executive Associate Dean for Indiana University Bloomington Libraries, as well as the Open Folklore project team of Jason Baird Jackson, Jen Laherty, Moira Marsh, and Garett Montanez, for thinking ever more creatively and working ever harder for our award-winning collaborative effort. We are also excited to announce that AFS and the Indiana University Bloomington Libraries signed a memorandum of agreement this past year for the IUBL to permanently host the database for the AFS National Folklore Archives Initiative project.
During 2013, AFS continued work on several special projects. These included the 11th year of partnership with the American Folklife Center’s Veterans History Project, an AFS-managed national program of providing leaders from the fields of folklore studies and oral history for community-based workshops about collecting oral histories from military veterans.

The second phase of our China-US folklore studies initiative began in 2013. It is producing two conferences comparing China and US ethnographic museum practice, a pair of professional development exchanges for younger ethnographic museum personnel from the two countries, and new resources and programs for folklore scholarship and fieldwork. As part of this effort there will be a significant China presence at our annual meeting this November in Santa Fe. Generously funded by the Henry Luce Foundation, phase two adds breadth and depth to our US-China relationship. Stay tuned for more information on new initiatives and new dimensions to our collaboration.

The AFS Consultancy and Professional Development Program continued on in its fifth year. This program provides support for capacity-building activities for public folklore organizations and individual public folklorists, which then lead to best-practice and case-study reports shared openly on the AFS website. Thank you to the National Endowment for the Arts for supporting these important endeavors.

We also continued work, using our own financial resources, on the National Folklore Archives Initiative, a project AFS has undertaken in collaboration with academic programs, government agencies, and public folklore organizations across the country. In 2014 we will submit a proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities for second-phase support of this project.

AFS also began supporting the activities of a working group on folklore and museum policy and practice, the third in a series of such working groups, which is planning a series of museum-related sessions and activities for the 2014 annual meeting. Our second working group, focused on historic preservation policy, concluded its two-year efforts to provide meaningful opportunities for folklorists to join current dialogues about historic preservation policies of the future. The final reports of this working group are available on the AFS website. The call for proposals for the next folklore and public policy working group will be made through the AFS website later this year. If you have a policy area in mind to which you can bring your expertise, and if you know a team of colleagues who can collaborate with you, please work together to submit a proposal.

Additionally, last year saw the AFS Executive Board and staff beginning work on a revision of our current long-range plan to cover the years 2014–18. The board, with your help, has identified a number of ways we can better serve the membership and the field. You will be hearing more about this effort in the coming year. Thanks to all of you who provided us with feedback on target areas for the plan.

To close, I want to remind you about the AFS Endowment Fund. The Executive Board created the fund in 2003 as a way for AFS members and friends to support the field of folklore by strengthening its scholarly organization for the long term. Since this campaign began, many of our colleagues have made present gifts or pledged future contributions to the fund. Some of this support is already in our account; the great majority of it, though, will come to AFS over the years in various forms as part of members’ estates. We encourage you to contribute to the Endowment Fund. Your gift will ensure the continued vigor and viability of the American Folklore Society. Thank you to everyone who has already made a contribution.

Last but not least, thank you to our staff in the office—executive director Timothy Lloyd, associate director Lorraine Walsh Cashman, and administrative associate Rob Vanscoyoc. We are the luckiest society on earth to have such a smart, creative, and dedicated staff and I am honored to have worked with them.

I wish you a wonderful and productive 2014.

Diane E. Goldstein, 2013 president
Highlights

Annual Meeting

The 2013 annual meeting in Providence, the theme for which was “Cultural Sustainability,” attracted 670 attendees. The meeting program featured an opening plenary address by Rory Turner (“Digging in the Dirt of the Landscape of Cultural Sustainability”), Jay Mechling’s Francis Lee Utley Memorial Lecture of the AFS Fellows (“Folklore and the Cultural Contradictions of Capitalism”), and Diane E. Goldstein’s presidential address (“Vernacular Turns: Narrative, Local Knowledge, and the Changing Context of Folklore”).

The sites for the next four AFS annual meetings are Santa Fe (November 2014), Long Beach (October 2015), Miami (October 2016—a joint meeting with the International Society for Folk Narrative Research), and Minneapolis (October 2017).

Publications and Communications

Journal of American Folklore editors Thomas A. DuBois and James P. Leary announced that they will step down at the end of their five-year editorial term. The Society’s Publications Committee and Executive Board are now carrying out a search for the next editor(s), whose first issues of JAF will appear in early 2016.

The AFS-Indiana University Bloomington Libraries Open Folklore project debuted a new design and improved search capabilities during 2013.

AFS and the Indiana University Bloomington Libraries signed a memorandum of agreement for the IUBL to serve as the permanent host for the database for the AFS National Folklore Archives Initiative project.

Special Projects

In 2013, AFS continued work on four special projects:

• The Veteran’s History Project, now in its 11th year. Assisting the American Folklife Center in this national program, AFS provides leaders from the fields of folklore and oral history to direct community-based workshops where participants learn how to collect oral histories from military veterans.

• The China-US folklore studies initiative, funded by the Henry Luce Foundation. The first phase of this project culminated in May with a bilingual conference in Washington, DC. This final in a series of four conferences featuring members of AFS and the China Folklore Society compared archiving practices in both countries. The project is now entering its second phase, which will focus on ethnographic museum practice in each country.

• The AFS Consultancy and Professional Development Program, funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. Now in its fifth year, the program provides support for capacity-building activities for public folklore organizations and individual public folklorists, which then lead to best-practice and case-study reports available on the AFS website.
The National Folklore Archives Initiative. Using its own financial resources, AFS has undertaken this project in collaboration with academic, governmental, and public folklore organizations across the country. In 2014, AFS will submit a proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities for second-phase support of this project.

Folklore and Public Policy

In 2013, AFS began supporting a working group on folklore and museums policy and practice, the third in a series of such working groups. This group is planning a series of museum-related program sessions and other activities for the 2014 annual meeting in Santa Fe.

The previous working group, focused on historic preservation policy, concluded its two-year efforts to provide opportunities for folklorists to join current dialogues about future historic preservation policies. The group’s final reports are available online.

Election

Maggie Holtzberg of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Margaret Kruesi of the American Folklife Center, and Diane Tye of Memorial University of Newfoundland were elected to the Executive Board for three-year (2013–2016) terms.

Selina Morales of the Philadelphia Folklore Project was elected to the Nominating Committee for a three-year (2014–2016) term.

The number of members casting votes rose from 262 in the last nonpresidential election in 2011 to 280 in 2013—a 7 percent increase.

AFS 2013 Prize and Award Recipients

The biennial Kenneth Goldstein Award for Lifetime Academic Leadership went to Margaret R. Yocom of George Mason University, emerita.

The Chicago Folklore Prize for the best folklore book of the year was awarded to Laura J. Olson of the University of Colorado and Svetlana Adonyeva of the University of St. Petersburg for their book *The Worlds of Russian Village Women: Tradition, Transgression, Compromise* (University of Wisconsin Press).

The Benjamin A. Botkin Prize for lifetime achievement in public folklore was awarded to Paddy Bowman of Local Learning and Kay Turner of the Brooklyn Arts Council and New York University.

The Américo Paredes Prize for lifetime achievement in studying one’s own culture and encouraging students and colleagues to do the same went to Jim Griffith of the University of Arizona, emeritus.

The Zora Neale Hurston Prize for the best student work on African or African diaspora folklore was not awarded.

The 2013 inductees to the Fellows of the American Folklife Society were Robert Baron of the New York State Council on the Arts, José Limón of the University of Notre Dame, Gerald Pocius of Memorial University of Newfoundland, Kay Turner of the Brooklyn Arts Council and New York University, and Michael Ann Williams of Western Kentucky University.
# Financial Summary

## Administration

Revenue
- Membership Dues 73,386
- Investments 13,210
- Gifts and Contributions 14,368
- Other Revenue 3,720

Total Revenue 104,684
Total Expenses (including staff time) 133,806
Administration Net Income -29,122

## Special Projects

Total Revenue 323,323
Total Expenses (including staff time) 295,307
Special Projects Net Income 28,016

## Annual Meeting*

Total Revenue 81,345
Total Expenses (including staff time) 138,119
Annual Meeting Net Income -56,774

## Publications

Total Revenue 120,970
Total Expenses (including staff time) 82,364
Publications Net Income 38,606

## Sections

Total Revenue 22,921
Total Expenses (including staff time) 25,468
Sections Net Income -2,547

**FY12–13 Revenue** $653,243  
**FY12–13 Expenses** $675,064  
**FY12–13 Net Income** **-$21,821**

## Notes

These figures reflect AFS’s financial activities during its 2013 fiscal year, which ran from September 1, 2012, through August 31, 2013.

Beginning this year, our financial report allocates the cost of staff time as it was spent on the Society’s various activities, rather than grouping all staff time into the “administration” category.

* Annual meeting figures are for the 2012 meeting in New Orleans, which took place in AFS’s 2013 fiscal year.

** Following nine years of positive financial results, AFS ended its 2013 fiscal year with a 3 percent deficit ($21,821) in an annual budget of approximately $675,000. This deficit was caused by several factors, including decreased revenue from fundraising and JAF royalties, and the increased costs of health insurance for AFS staff, the New Orleans annual meeting, and the MLA Bibliography project. We are responding to the deficit by moving funds from the AFS cash reserve, and by curtailing nonessential expenses in fiscal year 2014. We will also carry out a more active outside fundraising campaign during the next two years.
committee and delegate reports
Committee Reports

Committee on International Issues

This year the Committee on International Issues was reconfigured into a smaller group with only four members: Katherine Borland, David McDonald, Juwen Zhang (the representative from the AFS Executive Board), and myself as chair. I first would like to express our gratitude to all the members who cycled off in 2013 and especially to Lee Haring, who served as chair for the last several years. We are deeply grateful for their thoughtful and creative work and for their commitment to making AFS an internationally vibrant society.

As in past years, one of the committee’s principal responsibilities was granting travel funds to international scholars through the international travel stipend program. This year we received applications from scholars in nine countries and were able to fund seven of them: Richard Allen (Iceland), Allan Babunga (Kenya), Heidi Haapoja (Finland), Li Xiangzhen (China), Irina Sadovina (Estonia), Boston Soko (Malawi) and Sofiya Zahova (Bulgaria). We focused on selecting scholars early in their careers as well as scholars with little or no institutional support to travel to the annual meeting. Because several of these recipients were relying almost entirely on AFS support for their visit, this year the Executive Board generously granted us an additional $1800; in total we distributed $6800 in stipends. Awardees also received free accommodations for the annual meeting and a waiver of their registration fees. At least six of these international grantees also participated in the mentoring program (lunch and shadowing programs) recently established by the Executive Board, giving them a chance to meet senior scholars and others sharing similar academic interests.

In the interest of more fully integrating international scholars into the annual meeting and creating a dynamic forum for exchanging ideas, this year the committee also piloted a “World Café” event. The event facilitated discussion of common themes in folklore, encouraged a comparative perspective, and engendered new working relations between scholars from a range of cultures and countries. Organized and run by committee member Katherine Borland, the event had approximately 30 attendees, both senior scholars and students. We hope to build on this successful start and further develop the World Café, perhaps making it a regular feature of the annual meeting. The annual meeting also featured numerous panels and presentations concerning folklore and folkloristics in places beyond North America and/or presented by scholars working abroad. In short, international presence at the annual meeting, as well as AFS’s engagement with international issues in general, is continuing to grow.

Beyond the annual meeting, the committee has also been exploring new ways to increase international engagement and make AFS’s current initiatives more visible. We presented a list of “best practices” and a brief outline of proposals to the Executive Board at the October meeting. Our proposals range from simply reorganizing parts of the AFS website to developing a program for translating academic articles (or abstracts). We also suggested an ambitious Global Folklore Initiative that would entail lectures and engagement outside the annual meeting itself. Understanding that the Executive Board has limited time and money to implement these recommendations, we still hope they will consider them as elements in a long-term strategic plan. The committee also welcomes any practical suggestions from members for further developing international engagement and visibility.

Michael Dylan Foster, chair

Cultural Diversity Committee

The 2013 members of the Cultural Diversity Committee were Marilyn M. White, chair (serving through 2013), Diana N’Diaye (2013), Jerrilyn McGregor (2014),
Selina Morales (2014), Maribel Alvarez (2015), and David Todd Lawrence (AFS Executive Board liaison, serving through 2015).

The Executive Board recently asked the committee to provide recommendations for increasing participation and engagement by folklorists of color in the Society’s annual meetings. At our committee meeting in Providence in October 2013, we discussed focusing on indigenous issues at the AFS annual meeting in 2014, especially because of the meeting’s location in Santa Fe. For the 2015 meeting in Long Beach, we discussed proposing a number of panels and guest speakers. We also discussed the fact that, because of some of the comments we’ve received from them, first-time attendees at the annual meeting might benefit from some more assistance—including, perhaps, a mentor/mentee relationship with an experienced AFS annual meeting participant.

Our preliminary recommendations to the Executive Board are that we:

• Continue our traditional lunchtime meeting and forego the breakfast meeting.

• Ensure that our committee’s meeting does not conflict with the meeting of the Politics, Folklore, and Social Justice Section.

• Make outreach and special invitations to the Native American community, perhaps in conjunction with other committees and/or sections, for the 2014 annual meeting in Santa Fe.

• Have a reunion of current and former Gerald L. Davis Fund Travel Grant recipients to ensure their continued engagement with AFS and to provide opportunities for networking.

Committee members and others also took a role in awarding Gerald L. Davis Fund Travel Grants to assist minority scholars and community scholars with the costs of traveling to and participating in the Providence annual meeting. We revised and clarified the application instructions for the stipend, which resulted in more competitive and fewer problematic applications. The award committee received 15 applications and was able to support 9 applicants with stipends and complimentary registrations. In the future, more coordination needs to occur between this committee and the Committee on International Issues regarding applications from international scholars.

To highlight its activities and increase its presence, as well as to emphasize AFS’s commitment to diversity, the committee plans to create a page on the AFS website that will include general information about the Society’s commitment to diversity and the work of the committee, including the Zora Neale Hurston Prize and the Gerald L. Davis Fund Travel Grants.

The committee also discussed the fact that diversifying the annual meeting doesn’t necessarily mean diversifying AFS. To begin to achieve diversity in AFS, we need to examine the following, among other issues:

• What kinds of students are in academic folklore programs, and how did they get there? In this regard, the committee discussed focusing our diversity efforts, and the majority of our membership-development efforts, in the world of undergraduate liberal arts education. After all, this is where the folklorists of the future, for the most part, are now. We might want to explore this idea more systematically, enlisting the academic folklore programs to survey their students about how and why they chose folklore as a field of study.

• What is the attrition rate for folklore students in MA and PhD programs?

• What does diversity look like in public sector folklife and arts agencies?

The committee also began a discussion of the issue of how to measure diversity, including numbers of people and opportunities for access.

Marilyn M. White, chair
Nominating Committee

The 2013 Nominating Committee consisted of chair Christina Barr, AFS Executive Board representative Leonard Norman Primiano, and committee members Laura Marcus Green and Sally Van de Water. The committee met several times throughout the summer of 2013 to select a slate of candidates for the 2013 election. The priorities established by the committee, in collaboration with the AFS Executive Board, president, and executive director, were ethnic diversity, engagement within AFS, seniority of experience within the field, and a balance of public and academic focus among the candidates.

The final slate of candidates consisted of:

- Executive Board: Carol Edison, Tom Green, Lisa Higgins, Maggie Holtzberg, Margaret Kruesi, and Diane Tye
- Nominating Committee: Selina Morales and Daniel Wojcik

Our candidates participated (either in person or in writing) in the Candidates’ Forum at the annual meeting in Providence. Voting began on November 1 and continued through December 31.

The following candidates were elected for office:

- Executive Board: Maggie Holtzberg, Massachusetts Cultural Council; Margaret Kruesi, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress; and Diane Tye, Memorial University of Newfoundland
- Nominating Committee: Selina Morales, Philadelphia Folklore Project

A total of 280 members cast votes this year, up 7 percent from the last time we held a nonpresidential election in 2011. Sally Van de Water will chair the Nominating Committee in 2014.

Christina Barr, chair

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee did not actively pursue formal business in 2013, but its members anticipate active involvement in the JAF editor selection process in 2014. I was unexpectedly ill at the time of the annual meeting in Providence and thus was not able to attend. For this reason a planned informal gathering of committee members was not held.

While the committee did not meet formally in 2013, it communicated by email. I was in regular consultative dialogue with the executive director as the call for editor candidates was being developed and circulated.

Jason Baird Jackson, chair
American Council of Learned Societies

The 2013 meeting of ACLS was held in Baltimore in May. It returned to the topic of open access, which has occupied the delegates for several years, and which made me wonder why the road to open access is taking so long to traverse. The program began as usual on Thursday evening, with two simultaneous sessions, “Open Access, Managing Change,” and “Changing Funding Patterns in International and Area Studies.” Being in the midst of publishing a book in an open-access format, I attended the first of these two sessions. Predictably enough, the presentations at this meeting generally favored the new mode of publication, pointing to the economic nonviability of the present system. There are currently 24,000 peer-reviewed journals, which put out 1.7 million peer-reviewed articles per year. Journals from nonprofit organizations cost 9 percent of the production dollars but generate 62 percent of citations. Libraries cannot keep up with the output of scholarship (JAF take notice). Meanwhile, society is pressing for more and more openness. The Internet in fact has created the expectation of global access. ACLS is uniquely positioned to ask, don’t the creation, publication, dissemination, and reformulation of scholarly publishing all have to be managed by scholars? What will open access mean for libraries? What will it mean for publishers? If knowledge is a public trust, it would make sense to move the scholarly world towards taxpayer-funded research, created for public access—a move supported, we were told, by the National Endowment for the Humanities. It was also observed that Harvard, MIT, the University of Kansas, Oberlin College, and Duke have joined in the Registry of Open Access Repositories Mandatory Archiving Policies. The Association of College and Research Libraries, ACRL, published the book Common Ground at the Nexus of Information Literacy and Scholarly Communication, by Stephanie Davis-Kahl and Merinda Kaye Hensley, in 2013. We were also referred to the ACRL’s journal, College & Research Libraries.

The formal meeting was opened by ACLS president Pauline Yu. Supreme tactful as usual, she swept over a broad range of Baltimorean reference, including H. L. Mencken, The Wire, and Johns Hopkins University, the first research university in the United States. Nor did she omit Francis Scott Key, Edgar Allan Poe, or the Orioles. In her presidential address she foregrounded the importance of folklore by quoting the chief of the Eastern Shawnee tribe of Oklahoma’s philippic against the loss of language, costume, hairstyle, and religion at the hands of majority culture.

The Friday morning session began with hearing from recent ACLS Fellows Ruha Benjamin (Boston University), Sarah H. Jacoby (Northwestern University), and Adrian Johns (University of Chicago), moderated by my former colleague Teofilo Ruiz (UCLA). As usual, I was strongly impressed by the versatility and brilliance of the younger scholars, particularly Adrian Johns, because he discussed issues of intellectual property that have been a concern to folklorists. According to him, the concept of intellectual property originated only in the 19th century, whereas the notion of piracy has been around much longer. He pointed to an “intellectual property defense industry” invented in the 1970s, which obscures the fact that laws come into being when enforcement practices fail. Obviously there is a relation between the “intellectual property defense industry” and the move toward open access (see openfolklore.org). When people unthinkingly defend authorship by individuals, where shall the line be drawn? I came away applying what Adrian Johns said, thinking that folklorists should learn to translate their cultural research into policy decisions, not sacrificing the essence or complexity of what they do for the sake of relevancy.

This year’s Charles Homer Haskins Prize lecturer was the scholar and critic Robert Alter, whose 1981 book The Art of Biblical Narrative is well known. At the beginning and end of his lecture, he kept close to the
autobiographical assignment; in the middle, departing from the stated purpose of the Haskins lecture, he included some narrative analysis that treated texts and topics recognizable to all scholars of verbal art.

Again, as in the past, I encourage university-based folklorists to apply for ACLS fellowships. According to the ACLS website,

ACLS now has twelve different programs awarding fellowships. Ten programs focus on US-based scholars, two are open to scholars based abroad, one invites applications from both the US and East Asia, and one is entirely focused on sub-Saharan Africa. The program called simply “ACLS Fellowships” is endowed; all others are funded by program grants. Three focus on the predoctoral stage, two on the immediate postdoctoral phase, and seven are open to scholars at different career stages. Most support work in any field of the humanities and interpretive social sciences, while four concern specific themes or world areas.

The budget recommended by Rep. Paul Ryan for 2014 would eliminate all funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities (headed in 1997–2001 by folklorist William R. Ferris). It was observed at the meeting that even if NEH funding is maintained, the objective of eliminating government support for humanities research will remain for humanists to counter. Constituents in key districts (e.g. the remodeled folklore program at the University of Wisconsin, Rep. Ryan’s state) should be sure to advocate for the humanities with their representatives.

Considering the meeting, I point to the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation, which is funding research in/on China, an area drawing some AFS members already. China’s study of folklore has its own methods and assumptions. At least one AFS member is already analyzing models of producing knowledge, with a view to creating a new model transposable to other disciplines (Regina Bendix’s “Reflexivity and the Project of a History of Folkloristic Knowledge Production” is forthcoming in the Journal of Baltic Studies). That brings me to remark on an opacity that has developed in folklore studies, partly a result of boundary maintenance around a discipline perceived as marginal. The wide variety of sources we use, the variety of analytic methods we apply to everyday life, and our openness to various devices of communication have applicability well beyond university walls. Folklorists should be eminently employable and should avoid “shortsighted vocationalism.” The American Historical Association and Modern Language Association show interest in nontraditional careers for their PhDs. With support or direction from AFS, universities and colleges could answer the question, why study folklore in college?

Lee Haring, delegate

American Folklore Society Archives

In 2013, Utah State University Library’s Special Collections and Archives provided excellent reference services for the American Folklore Society’s records, processed all recent Society accruals, and updated the robust EAD finding guide.

Thanks to all who deposited AFS materials in 2013. With the AFS staff, we are currently developing plans for accessioning digital materials and creating a deposit schedule for AFS materials. Look for information about this policy in 2014. This year we will also be soliciting the AFS membership for missing copies of JAF in order to complete our collection. For information on the AFS collection or on depositing materials, please contact Clint Pumphrey, manuscript curator for USU’s Special Collections and Archives.

Randy Williams, liaison

National Recording Preservation Board

I wrote last year that the release of the Library of Congress’s National Recording Preservation Plan was imminent. It’s now available, and I urge folklorists who are in any way involved with audio recording to
have a look. It’s available at the National Recording Preservation Board’s website. That’s the biggest and most important news from the National Recording Preservation Board this year.

The NRPB was established by Congress in 2000 to help raise awareness of the importance of the nation’s recorded sound heritage. Every year, the board works with the Librarian of Congress to create the annual National Recording Registry, a list of 25 recordings distinguished by their aesthetic, cultural, or historical qualities, a list intended to focus attention on the need for audio preservation. The registry can be viewed at the website listed above. The board itself is made up of representatives of the recording industry, various societies, and other specialists, and as the AFS representative, I often find myself collaborating with the representative from the Society for Ethnomusicology as well as colleagues from the Country Music Foundation and other fellow travelers. This year, among the nominees we’ve put forward are a set of field recordings by Franz Boas, the first release on the Arhoolie label, and Mike Seeger’s field recordings.

In other news, the National Recording Preservation Foundation, which was also part of the 2000 legislation, is finally up and running, although struggling for support. The foundation, the private, not-for-profit companion to the board, had a good first year thanks to a generous gift from musician Jack White, but it faces big financial challenges if it is to survive. Again, I refer you to the NRPB website.

Finally, in the category of “what didn’t happen but should have,” the NRPB was scheduled to meet last summer in a special session at the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences—the organization that brings us the Grammys. That meeting was to focus on how board members, and the organizations we represent, can help implement the national preservation plan. But the sequester intervened, and you know the rest. The Library of Congress and the board are determined to see the plan through, though, so stay tuned.

Burt Feintuch, delegate
From the General Editors

The quarterly *Journal of American Folklore* is now in its 126th year. Issues 501–505 contained 1 address, 18 articles, 1 creative writing piece, 1 note on practice, 4 commentaries and a variety of obituaries and reviews. In including notes on practice, the editors created openings for the discussion and presentation of the practical work of folklorists. In terms of submissions, *JAF* received a total of 38 articles in 2013. Of these, the journal rejected 20, accepted 8, and still had 10 under review at the end of the year.

As of January 1, 2014, in order to facilitate an effective transition to the new editor(s) of *JAF*, we are no longer accepting new submissions. We will spend 2014 working through the submissions received through the end of 2013 and those articles already in the editorial pipeline. When AFS names the new *JAF* editor(s) in late spring 2014, the AFS website will post details about how and when to submit materials to the new editors.

Thomas DuBois and James P. Leary, editors

Book Reviews

In 2013, over 70 books were received for review. I submitted 35 completed reviews to the editors of *JAF*, and 42 reviews were published during this time frame. There are currently 57 books still out for review.

I would like to thank everyone who completed a review last year. Potential reviewers are welcome to contact me with inquiries. There is still a backlog of books written by folklorists in need of review, and I will continue to encourage prominent and active members of the field to contribute to the important scholarly task of evaluating research and contributions to knowledge through book reviews. If you are solicited to write a review, please consider every possibility to agree to complete it. I also request your suggestions for qualified colleagues who you believe may be interested in completing a book review.

Writing book reviews is an important contribution to the field. Perennial challenges remain, including finding willing and able reviewers and receiving book reviews within set deadlines for publication. While these problems are not unique to the field of folklore, these challenges are exaggerated by the limited number of folklorists and the highly specialized knowledge within our discipline. Please consider how your book review could provide an important service to the field.

Gregory Hansen, book review editor

Exhibit and Event Reviews

In 2013, one exhibit review was submitted on time and as promised. Five reviews that were promised for 2013 are still outstanding. As the current *JAF* editorial team wraps up its tenure, I expect very few new exhibit and event reviews to be accepted for publication.

Lisa L. Higgins, exhibit and event review editor

Website Reviews

In 2013, five writers agreed to submit reviews. Only one was submitted and none were approved for publication. Website reviews, a relatively new feature in *JAF*, focus primarily on the utility of the site for research and teaching. While web reviews often talk about a site’s scholarship and how it fits within the standards of the cultures addressed, they must also address issues of navigation and interface design. Reviews should be up to one thousand words long.

Nicole Saylor, website review editor
Section Publications

Children’s Folklore Review

The 35th volume of Children’s Folklore Review is a special issue devoted to the subject of Mormon children’s folklore. I was very pleased that we could publish a special issue on this important subject and hope that it will encourage further fieldwork and archival research.

This volume includes two essays that have won the William Wells Newell Prize. Jared S. Rife’s “Playing with the Sacred: LDS Children’s Games for Boredom and Entertainment” won the W. W. Newell Prize in 2012, and Brant W. Ellsworth’s “Playing for Change: The Performative Functions of Children’s Piano Play” is one of two winners of the prize in 2013. The other Newell Prize-winning essay, Semontee Mitra’s “Children Have Their Own World of Being: An Ethnography on Children’s Activities on the Day of Saraswati Puja,” will be published in the fall of 2014. Tom Mould’s preface for this special issue puts the articles in the context of previous scholarship and helps us understand the richness and depth of Mormon children’s folklore.

All back issues of Children’s Folklore Review, except the most recent one, are available on the internet on Indiana University’s IUScholarWorks website. It is great to know that the research published by our journal is accessible to anyone who has a computer.

All production and mailing expenses have been covered by the Dean’s Office at Harpur College of Binghamton University. Kathy Buchta has done excellent work on layout/design, and Sheridan Press should be commended for its fine printing and mailing work.

Next year our editor-elect, Trevor J. Blank, will coedit with me so that we can have a smooth transition when I step down. Expenses will continue to be covered by Binghamton University.

Elizabeth Tucker, editor

Digest

Digest: A Journal of Foodways & Culture is in its second year of operation under the new web-based, open-access format. Diane Tye, working from Memorial University in Newfoundland, handles the content gathering, editing, and reviewing, while Michael Lange of Champlain College handles the design and digital publication work. The platform is stable, and kinks and quirks are being worked out with every new issue. Digest has published its second issue, volume 2.1, with research articles from Cherry P. Levin, Anna Ralph, Katie White, and Nancy Yan, as well as contributions in other sections from nine different authors. The journal continues to serve as a publication outlet for the AFS Foodways section’s Sue Samuelsson Prize winners in addition to soliciting articles and other items for review and publication from a wide range of scholars.

Work is underway on future issues, with the material for volume 2.2 already in final text form and currently in process for digital publication in early 2014. Material is being gathered for volume 3.1 at the moment, with publication expected later in 2014. There has been some turnover of personnel in the design part of the publication process, which is housed at Champlain College, but a rhythm of the publication cycle is being established, which will hopefully make the publication of each additional issue a smoother process. At the 2013 AFS annual meeting in Providence, some discussion of technical problems with Digest took place at the Foodways section meeting. Those problems are being addressed in the most recent issue.

Also discussed at the 2013 annual meeting was a succession plan for the time when the current editors are no longer able to continue in their respective roles, as well as a plan for supporting the ongoing viability of the journal. As part of these contingency plans, an editorial board was established for Digest that consists of several active members of the Foodways
section: Robert Smith, Lucy Long, Yvonne Lockwood, and LuAnne Roth. The editorial board should provide continuity across editors, as well as help to generate material for future issues of Digest.

Digest continues to solicit new material for consideration, and continues to assemble a larger and more diverse audience. We thank you for your support of Digest, now and in the future.

Diane I. Tye and Michael Lange, editors

The Folklore Historian

Volume 29, the 2012 issue of the The Folklore Historian, was printed and delivered in November of 2013. This volume included two articles received as manuscript submissions: “Folklorists, Folk Studies, and the Folklife Archives at Western Kentucky University: A History,” by David J. Puglia, and “Folklore and Education, Three Early Twentieth-Century Educators,” by Jan Rosenberg. The final essay, “Where Did the Folklorists Go?: Folklore, History, and the Study of Vernacular Architecture,” was solicited for publication by me based on author Thomas Carter’s 2010 keynote address to the Folklore Society of Utah.

We received only one or two queries about publishing in the journal in 2013. However, the plan for the 2013 volume is to publish papers based on the Folklore and History section’s forum at the annual meeting in Providence in 2013, the American Folklore Society’s 125th year. These articles will evaluate folklore and history in the past 25 years since the AFS centennial. Short presentations given there by Rosemary Lévy Zumwalt, Dan Ben-Amos, Simon J. Bronner, Anthony Bak Buccitelli, and myself will be slightly expanded and reworked for publication in the journal.

Also, papers from an AFS panel discussing the 30th anniversary of Jack Zipes’s Fairy Tales and the Art of Subversion are slated to become volume 31 for 2014. I am working with Jennifer Schacker, who chaired the panel, to publish the papers.

The journal receives support from the Brigham Young University College of Humanities as well as the Folklore and History section of AFS. BYU has provided funding to print the journal for three years, but the funding ends this year. The section should be able to support future printing and mailing costs, however, according to convener Simon J. Bronner. Editing and production support have been provided by astute editorial assistants Christa Baxter Drake and Kristy Stewart. Future support will be provided by the BYU Humanities Publication Group under director Mel Thorne.

Jill Terry Rudy, editor

Jewish Cultural Studies Series

The Jewish Cultural Studies book series is a benefit of membership in the Jewish Folklore and Ethnology Section of the American Folklore Society. The series is published for the American Folklore Society by the Littman Library of Jewish Civilization based in Oxford, England. All books in the series are also available to non-members through Littman.

Volume 4 of the series was released in February 2014. Titled Framing Jewish Culture: Boundaries and Representations, the 420-page paperback volume, edited by Simon J. Bronner, comprises 17 essays, including two winners of the Raphael Patai Prize awarded by the section: Amy K. Milligan’s “Wearing Many Hats: The Boundaries of Hair-Covering Practices by Orthodox Jewish Women in Amish Country,” and Magdalena Luszczynska’s “Framing Father-Son Relationships in Medieval Ashkenaz: Folk Narratives as Markers of Cultural Difference.”

The series issued two calls for papers in 2013. One is for a volume on “Jewish Cyberculture,” to be edited by Simon J. Bronner and Andrea Lieber, and the other is on “Images of Jewish Motherhood,” to be edited by Marjorie Lehman and Jane Tanarek. Please email me with proposals for future thematic volumes.

Simon J. Bronner, editor
New Directions in Folklore

Published biannually, *New Directions in Folklore* (NDiF) is the refereed, open access e-journal of the New Directions in Folklore AFS section—a community of more than one hundred scholars, professionals, and graduate students dedicated to pushing the envelope of scholarship in the exploration of contemporary culture. The journal’s online interface is generously hosted by Indiana University Libraries and IUScholarWorks in partnership with the American Folklore Society. As *New Directions in Folklore* is an open access publication, it is our policy to provide immediate open access to all published content on the principle that making research freely available to the public supports a greater global exchange of knowledge.

Trevor J. Blank (State University of New York, Potsdam) currently serves as the editor of *NDiF*. David J. Puglia (Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg) and Julia Kelso (Big Horn County Libraries, Wyoming) serve as associate editors. John Price (Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg) has newly assumed the job of book reviews editor. The remainder of the journal’s editorial board and peer-review committee consists of Jade Alburo (UCLA), Suzanne Barber (Indiana University), Brooke Bryan (independent scholar), Anthony Bak Buccitelli (Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg), Richard Burns (Arkansas State University), Lydia Fish (Buffalo State College), M. Rachel Gholson (Missouri State University), Matthew Hale (Indiana University), Lynne S. McNeill (Utah State University), and Montana Miller (Bowling Green State University).

We are pleased to report that *New Directions in Folklore* published two issues last year. Volume 11, number 1, was published in May 2013 and featured Matthew Hale’s essay “Airship Captains, Pith Helmets, & Other Assorted Brassy Bits: Steampunk Personas and Material-Semiotic Production,” winner of the NDiF section’s first annual Bill Ellis Prize, as well as a “Notes” essay by Casey R. Schmitt titled “20 Years Later: Thoughts on the Folk Appeal of Christopher McCandless.” At the time of this writing (just under nine months removed from initial publication), the essays have been downloaded 749 and 934 times, respectively. In October 2013, *NDiF* published volume 11, number 2, which featured the article “Serialization, Ethnographic Drag, and the Ineffable Authenticity of Nikki S. Lee,” by Todd Richardson, and “Toying with Corporate Narratives: The Genesis of Mick(e)y Mouse,” by David J. Puglia. At the time of this writing (approximately three months removed from initial publication), the essays have been downloaded 168 and 296 times, respectively. The download figures for both issues are highly encouraging and further exhibit *New Directions in Folklore*’s growing reach and appeal.

In addition to achieving greater readership, we are also pleased to note that 2013 has netted the largest number of article submissions to the journal thus far, and we are eager to continue providing a home for new and exciting folkloristic scholarship. Currently, we are putting together our Spring 2014 issue for anticipated publication in late April/early May of 2014.

Finally, I will be stepping down as *New Directions in Folklore*’s editor following the publication of the journal’s Spring 2014 issue in order to assume the editorship of the AFS-sponsored journal *Children’s Folklore Review* in 2014. David J. Puglia, *NDiF*’s current associate editor, will assume the role of editor, and I will remain on the journal’s editorial board.

Trevor J. Blank, editor
fellows and section reports
Fellows Report

AFS Fellows

President: Simon J. Bronner, Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg

The following scholars were inducted into the Fellows of the American Folklore Society in 2013:

- Robert Baron, New York State Council on the Arts
- José Limón, University of Notre Dame
- Gerald Pocius, Memorial University of Newfoundland
- Kay Turner, Brooklyn Arts Council and New York University
- Michael Ann Williams, Western Kentucky University

At the 2013 annual meeting, the Francis Lee Utley Memorial Lecture of the AFS Fellows was presented by Jay Mechling on “The Cultural Contradictions of Capitalism and Their Relation to Folklore and Sustainability.” The Fellows also held their annual “Breakfast of Champions” for students, this year featuring conversations with Jane Beck, Dan Ben-Amos, Burt Feintuch, and Maria Herrera-Sobek. The group also held its annual reception for students on Thursday night of the meeting, with over one hundred students in attendance this year. Finally, the Fellows cooperated with the Society’s “Collecting Memories: Oral Histories of American Folklorists” project to help arrange for Amy Shuman to interview Dan Ben-Amos and for Margaret Kruesi and Leonard Norman Primiano to interview Don Yoder in oral history sessions that were open to all annual meeting attendees.
AFS members can join any of the following sections at http://www.afsnet.org/?JoinSections. The sections’ online groups are free to join and provide tools for communicating with other group members. For more information on the individual sections and their activities, go to http://www.afsnet.org/?SectionList.

The reports that follow were submitted by section conveners. The precise number of members in any section may vary throughout a year. Figures below concerning section membership were collected in December 2013.

African

Convener: Johnston A. K. Njoku, Western Kentucky University

No activity reported. The group had 40 registered members, and is seeking a new convener for 2014.

Archives and Libraries

Convener: Terri M. Jordan, University of Oklahoma

The mission of the Archives and Libraries section is to promote the exchange of information on all types of archival methodology relating to folklore, folklife, and other ethnographic collections. In addition, it aims to share information and to help develop standards relevant to library collections and activities in folklore.

In 2013, the section contributed funds in support of the American Folklife Center’s Cultural Heritage Archives Symposium, held September 26–27 at the Library of Congress.

At the AFS annual meeting in Providence, the section sponsored two panels: “Sustaining Your Documentary Collections: Finding an Archival Home” and “From the Archives: The Rewards and Challenges of Digitizing Large Folklore Collections.” It also hosted the “Ask an Archivist” table in the exhibit room, where a professional archivist was available to answer meeting attendees’ questions on a variety of archival topics. The section business meeting was attended by approximately 17 members.

The section’s primary means of communication with members is via a listserv. To join this listserv, please email Peggy Yocom.

The online group had 57 registered members.

British Folk Studies

Conveners: Thomas McKean, University of Aberdeen, and Timothy Wert, Southern New Hampshire University

In 2013, the British Folk Studies section maintained a Facebook page and met at the AFS annual meeting to plan two sponsored sessions for 2014—one on immigrant narrative and one on humor. The section also made plans to reinstate the William Thoms Prize competition for the best student essay on British folklore. The group had 77 registered members.

Chicano and Chicana

Conveners: Norma Cantú, University of Texas, San Antonio, and Rachel Gonzalez, Indiana University

The Chicano/a section has recently been working with the Folklife Latino, Latinoamericano, y Caribeño section of AFS to raise the profile of Latino issues in folklore study and practice at the AFS annual meeting. Through this collaboration, the section hopes to create a community of invested academic and community scholars working together to explore
the vibrancy and relevance of contemporary Latino folkloristics among communities in the United States, Latin America, and beyond.

At the 2013 annual meeting, the Chicano/a and Latino sections met jointly and sponsored panels and a raffle.

The Chicano/a section appointed new conveners for 2014: Julián Carillo of Indiana University and Peter Garcia of California State University, Northridge.

The section shares essential announcements with its online group, which had 21 registered members, and also communicates via a listserv. To join the listserv, contact afslatino@lists.wku.edu.

Children’s Folklore

Convener: Jared S. Rife, Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg

The Children’s Folklore Review, volume 35 (2013), on Mormon children’s folklore, was released in November. 2014 will be a transitional year, with Trevor J. Blank joining Elizabeth Tucker as editor. Many thanks to Binghamton University for its support in years past and in the coming year.

The Children’s Folklore section awards the Aesop Prize and Aesop Accolade honorable mentions each year to English-language fiction and nonfiction books for children and young adults. The 2013 Aesop Prize went to Deborah Ellis for her book Looks Like Daylight. 2013 Aesop Accolades went to Judy Goldman for her book Whiskers, Tails, & Wings: Animal Folktales from Mexico (illustrated by Fabricio Vandenbroeck), to Rosanne Parry for Written in Stone, and to Odile Weulersse for Nasreddine (illustrated by Rebecca Dautremer). The section also awards the W. W. Newell Prize for the best student essay on a topic in children’s folklore. This year, the prize went to Brant Ellsworth (Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg) for his paper “Playing for Change: The Performative Functions of Children’s Piano Play,” and to Semontee Mitra (Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg) for her paper “Children Have Their Own World of Being.”

Kevin Cordi finished his turn as chair of the Aesop Prize Committee, and will be replaced by Anne Marie Krause. Terrell A. Young will join Suzy Grindrod on the 2014 committee. The section formed a new committee to judge and solicit undergraduate and graduate papers for the Newell Prize: Jodi McDavid (chair), Brant Ellsworth, and Steven Stanzak. The section also formed a new committee on social media: Randall Parsons (chair) and Kristiana Willsey.

The group had 58 registered members; 16 members met at the section business meeting.

In addition to the AFS group tools, the section uses a Facebook page to communicate.

Dance and Movement Analysis

Conveners: Nadia Denov DeLeon, Stanford University, and Nicholas Hartmann, Western Kentucky University

This year, the section’s Facebook group grew, and its business meeting was attended by more than a dozen people—an increase from last year. Section members communicate with each other on Facebook, and conveners send announcements to the online group, which had 18 registered members.

Eastern Asian Folklore

Conveners: Li Jing, Gettysburg College, and Ayako Yoshimura, University of Wisconsin, Madison

In 2013, the section organized and sponsored panels for the AFS annual meeting, including panels involving folklorists and scholars from China, and worked with AFS to host international visitors. In the past two years the section has coordinated dinners for members during the annual meeting, and these have been great opportunities to network with other section members.
and be good hosts to visiting folklorists (in the past years, primarily from China and Japan). Additionally, 20–30 section members attended the annual business meeting, where the section discussed changing its name to be more inclusive of Asia, broadly defined, an issue that some members first put forward two years ago. The section members voted on the name change and officially changed the name to Transnational Asia/Pacific section, which went into effect early in 2014. Mitra Semontee of Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg, was elected to replace Ayako Yoshimura as coconvener in 2014.

The section communicates by using a listserv, which any interested person may join at http://lists.willa-mette.edu/mailman/listinfo/asian-as-am-folklore.

The group had 61 registered members.

Folk Arts and Material Culture
Convener: Martha C. Sims, The Ohio State University

The Folk Arts and Material Culture section is in the midst of rebuilding and strengthening active membership. The section is discussing ways to develop the Warren E. Roberts Paper Prize into a more beneficial process for winners, entrants, and the folk arts and material culture field in general. The section welcomes discussion and suggestions in its group forum.

The group had 53 registered members; four attended the section business meeting in Providence.

Folk Belief and Religious Folklife
Conveners: Margaret Kruesi, American Folklife Center, and Leonard Norman Primiano, Cabrini College

The section sponsored the annual Don Yoder Lecture in Folk Belief and Religious Folklife at the annual meeting, and is extremely pleased that Dr. Don Yoder, University of Pennsylvania, emeritus, was the featured speaker.

The section and AFS sponsored an oral history session where Dr. Yoder spoke about his lifelong career as a scholar in folklife. Both sessions were videotaped for the archives of the American Folklore Society at Utah State University. The section also sponsored the panel “Meanings/Uses of Sacred Spaces and Objects.”

The section held a silent auction thanks to section volunteers Lynne McNeil, Andrea Kitta, and Jodi McDavid, who organized the donations and paperwork. The income from the silent auction is now essential to support the section’s two student prizes, the Don Yoder prize of $500 and the William A. Wilson undergraduate student prize of $250, because dues collection isn’t keeping pace with the awards.


The section held its annual business meeting, with approximately 30 people in attendance.

The AFS group, which had 87 registered members, is the official source for all section news, announcements, and communication. In addition, interested section members established a Facebook page for the section, which has 98 likes.

Folk Narrative
Conveners: Linda J. Lee, University of Pennsylvania, and Adam Zolkover, independent

In 2013, the AFS Folk Narrative section doubled the membership of its Facebook group, which now has more than three hundred members. The section also added an official Twitter account, @folknarrative, to provide an additional means of disseminating information. The Folk Narrative section continued to raise
funds through its Café Press store, which offered an updated assortment of section-branded merchandise, and promoted merchandise through its official social media channels. Look for a new selection of items in 2014. The section sponsored one panel at the AFS meeting in Providence—“Fairies, Demons, and Wordsworth, Oh My!: The Intersection of Supernatural Folk Belief, Narrative, and Literature”—and made plans for its 2014 Stith Thompson Lecture for the AFS annual meeting in Santa Fe.

The AFS group had 72 registered members; 10 people attended the section business meeting.

### Folklore and Creative Writing

Conveners: Aunya P. R. Byrd, Lone Star College System, and Christine Widmayer, George Mason University

The Creative Writing section made big plans for growth in 2014, including hosting a variety of events at the 2014 annual meeting, and expanding its AFS group page to include a space to share and workshop writing. The section is open to all folklorists who enjoy creative writing, and encourages writers of all kinds to join.

The section shares announcements with the its AFS group and communicates via a group listserv—

![to join, go to http://listserv.gmu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A0=folkwriters-l&O=A.](http://listserv.gmu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A0=folkwriters-l&O=A)

The group had 45 registered members; 12 attended the section business meeting.

### Folklore and Education

Conveners: Nelda R. Ault, independent, and Betty Belanus, Smithsonian Institution

In 2013, the Folklore and Education section awarded Natasha Agrawal, an ESL teacher at Carroll Robbins Elementary School in Trenton, New Jersey, the Robinson-Roeder-Ward Fellowship. Her presentation, “Training Teachers to Connect with Elementary School Children from the Thai-Burmese Refugee Camps,” was part of the section-sponsored diamond session “What Do Folklorists Do? We Teach,” at the AFS annual meeting.

The section also awarded the Dorothy Howard Prize to “Pass It On: Cultural Traditions of the Lower Eastern Shore, A K–12 Curriculum and Activity Guide” by the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art at Salisbury University, and to “Everyday Music” by Alan Govenar, with the “Everyday Music Education Guide” by Paddy Bowman. The section sponsored five annual meeting panels, addressing the topics of ChinaVine, sustainable education practices, and folklore and education in K–16 and non-K–12 settings. The section also teamed up with Local Learning (which celebrated its 20th anniversary) to sponsor “More Than Measuring: A Conversation with Dennie Palmer Wolf,” who presented innovative evaluation techniques recently implemented at CityLore.

The section’s business meeting had 23 attendees. The Folklore and Education section communicates with its members using its online group, which had 55 registered members in 2013.

### Folklore and Literature

Conveners: Shelley A. Ingram, University of Louisiana, Lafayette, and Todd D. Richardson, University of Nebraska, Omaha

The section business meeting at the 2013 AFS annual meeting hosted a dozen members; plans were made for a summer “Folklore and Literature Think Tank” to be held in July in Red Cloud, NE, hometown of Willa Cather. The section primarily communicates via its online group, which had 49 members in 2013.

### Folklore and Oral History

Convener: Kathryn Wilson, Georgia State University

No activity reported. The group had 120 members.
Folklore Latino, Latinoamericano, y Caribeño

Conveners: Mintzi Martinez-Rivera and Maria Angelica Rodriguez, Indiana University

See the Chicano and Chicana section report for this past year’s activities. The Latino/a section selected new conveners for 2014: Rachel V. Gonzalez of Indiana University and Kristina G. Downs of Indiana University. The section sends announcements to its online group and also communicates using a listserv. It had 31 registered members in 2013.

Foodways

Conveners: Eve Jochnowitz, New York University, and LuAnne K. Roth, University of Missouri

One issue (vol. 2.1) of the Foodways section’s online journal, Digest, was produced under the editorship of Diane Tye of Memorial University of Newfoundland and Michael Lange of Champlain College in 2013. The second issue in volume 2 was released early in 2014.

The Sue Samuelson Award for student foodways scholarship was given for the fourth year. Diana Garvin of Cornell University received first place for “The Italian Kitchen as a Site for the Practice of Autarchy and Fascist Intervention,” and Miriam Ruth Dike of Boston University received second place for “Exploring Evolving Moroccan Identities in the Diaspora.” Winning essays will be published in Digest.

The section also hosted a reception at the AFS annual meeting and held its annual business meeting, which was attended by 11 people. Katrina Wynn of the Maine Folklife Center was selected to replace Eve Jochnowitz as coconvener for 2014.

The Foodways section conveners primarily communicate with section members using the section’s group page on the AFS website. The group had 74 registered members in 2013.

Graduate Student

Conveners: Alessandra Dreyer and Kaitlyn Markert, Western Kentucky University

In 2013, the Graduate Student section hosted or sponsored several events at the AFS annual meeting. The section established a Graduate Student Mixer for students only that had approximately 40 attendees, not all of whom were section members, and it sponsored the graduate student lounge, which had approximately 50 unique visitors throughout the conference. The section cosponsored the Fellows Reception for Students and the Public Programs Section Mixer for Students and Young Professionals. It also held a business meeting that was attended by seven members; Dominick Tartaglia and Myc Wiatrowski, both of Indiana University, were selected as coconveners for 2014. The new coconveners of the section met twice in 2013 to plan social media for the section and events for the 2014 annual meeting in Santa Fe.

Communication is currently primarily through the AFS online group, which had 63 members in 2013.

History and Folklore

Convener: Simon J. Bronner, Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg

The History and Folklore section for over 30 years has been dedicated to advancing scholarship in the history of folklore studies and historical methodologies and content in folklore studies. In 2013, the section published volume 29 of its journal, The Folklore Historian, which is edited by Jill Terry Rudy and published at Brigham Young University. In recognition of the American Folklore Society’s sesquicentennial, the section cooperated with AFS to organize a session at the 2013 AFS annual meeting on “Sustainability through Chronicling Folklore History,” chaired by Jill Terry Rudy and including distinguished historians of the field Dan Ben-Amos, Simon J. Bronner, Anthony Bak Buccitelli, and Rosemary Lévy Zumwalt. The session featured
a lively exchange with the audience on the past and future of historiography within folklore studies. The section also continued to cooperate with AFS’s “Collecting Memories” project, including assisting with two oral history sessions at the annual meeting that featured Don Yoder and Dan Ben-Amos. The section regularly includes transcriptions of interviews with folklorists in its journal.

The online group had 71 registered members; five met at the section business meeting.

**Independent Folklorists**

Conveners: Susan Eleuterio, independent, and Andrea Graham, University of Wyoming

The Independent section awarded Amy Skillman this year’s Independent Travel Award, which is cofunded by the Public Programs section. The section saw a rise in applications for the award with the increase in the stipend amount to $1,000, thanks to support from the Public Programs section. Discussion at the annual meeting included the blurred lines of defining independent folklorists—fewer folks have travel money available, so even an academically based folklorist can essentially be an independent when it comes to finances for travel to AFS. Section members also helped to staff the Local Learning table at the annual meeting, which offered independents an opportunity to talk to educators and others interested in the section. Eight members attended the section business meeting, where Lucy Long of the Center for Food and Culture was elected as the junior coconvener, with Andrea Graham serving as senior coconvener for 2014.

The section communicates through its online group, which had 65 registered members.

**Jewish Folklore and Ethnology**

Conveners: Simon J. Bronner, Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg

The Jewish Folklore and Ethnology section promotes studies of Jewish folklore, folklife, and ethnology globally. Cooperating with the Committee on the Anthropology of Jews and Judaism of the American Anthropological Association, the two organizations jointly sponsor the Jewish Cultural Studies book series published by Littman Library, the Jewish Folklore and Ethnology Listserv, and panels, forums, and special events at folklore and anthropology conferences. In December 2013, the fourth volume of the Jewish Cultural Studies series was issued. Titled *Framing Jewish Culture: Boundaries and Representations*, it includes 17 essays on the fundamental questions that boundaries and borders raise about the difference between Jews and non-Jews in modern life. It considers this discourse on a global scale, examining the thinking behind the rhetoric of boundaries and the manifestation of difference in social life. Collectively, the contributors to this volume expand our understanding of the social dynamics of framing Jewish identity.

The section awarded the annual Raphael Patai Prize for an outstanding unpublished student essay in Jewish folklore and ethnology, given in honor of the eminent folklorist Raphael Patai (1910–1996), who wrote many articles and books, and taught at many universities in Israel and the US. The 2013 winner was Kate A. Reyes for her essay “Demonology and Magic Ritual Texts in the Dead Sea Scrolls,” completed at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. Committee members praised its erudition and the sophistication with which it analyzed historical texts. Honorable mentions were awarded to Matthew Singer of Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg, for his essay “Folk Art from the Peddler’s Bed: The Creative Legacy and Historic Context of Jewish Fraktur Scriveners Justus Epstein and Martin Wetzler,” and to Tsila Zan-Bar Tsur of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for her essay “The Bathhouse and the Mikveh: Transformative Spaces in the Life of Jewish Women in Afghanistan.” The committee recognized these papers as exemplary studies of Jewish traditional practices in the context of diverse ethnic relationships. The award recipients were recognized at the AFS annual meeting.

The online group had 33 registered members.
Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer and Allies

Convener: Cory W. Thorne, Memorial University of Newfoundland

In its 27th year of being, the section sponsored two events at the annual meeting. The first was a panel, cosponsored with the Chicano/a Folklore section, the Folklore Latino/a, Latinoamericano y Caribeño section, the Socialist and Post-Socialist Area Studies section, and the Women’s section, called “Santería’s Sexualities: Race, Religion, and Politics in Cuba.” The second was a memorial for the late Polly Stewart organized as an open event where everyone was invited to speak. Margaret Yocom read two poems by Joseph P. Goodwin, Kay Turner led the group in a song, and others shared personal memories. Polly’s daughter attended and was presented with a Hula by Eric Cesar Morales. Polly and Joseph cofounded the section and were its longtime leaders, providing much inspiration and guidance to many section members over the years.

During the business meeting, the section discussed goals/functions, communication problems, ways to increase membership, ways to revise/revamp the student paper prize, and brainstormed future plans. While the role of the section has shifted over time—i.e., there seems to be less need for support of LGBTQ scholars dealing with personal and professional issues of sexual identity (where to fit within AFS or how to deal with university administrations)—there may be an increased scholarly need for the section now, such as with issues of sexuality and fieldwork, particularly a concern for graduate students. The section discussed its past actions in response to political issues affecting the LGBTQ community (such as the 1978 and 1996 annual meetings, which were held in states in the process of implementing policies that would be repressive to LGBTQ members), reiterating that it may want to monitor these in the future, especially when AFS meetings are held in locations with openly and/or increasingly anti-LGBTQ policies.

The online group had 27 registered members.

Medieval and Early Modern Folklore

Convener: Kerry Kaleba, Marymount University, and Steven Stanzak, Indiana University

This year, the section sponsored an engaging and well-attended panel on “Medieval and Early Modern Appropriations of the Past” at the AFS annual meeting. At the business meeting, which was attended by about 10 people, the section voted on a proposal to change its name to the Medieval and Early Modern Folklore section, which passed unanimously. This new name better represents the scholarly interests of section members and more accurately reflects the content of panels sponsored by the section. Additionally, an open Facebook group was created to facilitate informal communication among members.

The conveners share announcements through the online group, which had 70 registered members.

Mediterranean Studies

Convener: Adam Grydehøj, Island Dynamics, and Incorontata Insera, University of Hawai’i, Mānoa

In 2013, the Mediterranean Studies section expanded its membership activities by consolidating its online mailing list and creating a dedicated Facebook group for discussing section issues and topics of relevance to section members. The section held a business meeting at the 2013 AFS annual meeting, where it also hosted a Mediterranean-focused panel and a Mediterranean dance workshop and olive oil tasting. Meltem Turkoz of Isik University was selected to replace Adam Grydehøj as section coconvener for 2014.

The online group had 33 registered members.

Music and Song

Convener: Margaret Steiner, Indiana University, and Stephen D. Winick, American Folklife Center

The online group had 27 registered members.
The Music and Song section sponsored the Phillips Barry Lecture at the annual meeting, this year given by Nancy-Jean Ballard about Helen Hartness Flanders’s collections of New England folksongs. It also programmed the informal jam sessions and singarounds each evening at the annual meeting. Eight members of the section attended the business meeting, where they discussed reviving the Bertrand Bronson Paper Prize, sponsoring panels, film screenings, and other events at the annual meeting, and fostering more year-round communication among section members. If you’re interested in the intersections of folklore, music, and song, get in touch with the section!

The online group had 63 registered members.

New Directions in Folklore

Conveners: David J. Puglia, Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg, and Suzanne Barber, Indiana University

This year, the section changed its name, with Executive Board approval, from Newfolk@AFS to New Directions in Folklore. The second annual Bill Ellis Prize for the best graduate student essay that combines research and analysis on folklore, broadly construed, and digital culture, popular culture, or new media, was awarded to Andrea Glass for “Blogging for Urban Authenticity and Cultural Authority: The East Village Blog Mafia Battles Bloomberg, The Times, and the Highline.” At the AFS annual meeting, the section sponsored two sessions: “Children’s Folklore in the 21st Century: Folklorists of Childhood Respond to the Newtown Tragedy,” cosponsored by the Children’s Folklore section, and “Place and Folklore: A Mutual Relationship,” cosponsored by the Space, Place, and Landscapes section. The business meeting was attended by about fifteen members; Nicholas Hartmann of Western Kentucky University was elected junior convener for 2014.

The section communicated throughout the year using an open Facebook group. The online group had 40 registered members.

Nordic-Baltic Folklore

Conveners: Thomas A. DuBois and James P. Leary, University of Wisconsin, Madison

In 2013, the Nordic-Baltic section awarded the Boreal Prize for the best article-length graduate student essay to B. Marcus Cederström for “Folkloristic Koines and the Emergence of Swedish-American Ethnicity,” published in *ARV-Nordic Yearbook of Folklore* 68 (2012). Details regarding new submissions are on the section’s page on the AFS website.

At the 2013 annual meeting, the section sponsored five panels: a two-part panel, “Discourses of Belief and Genre”; “Old Hags and Commie Rags: Nordic and Nordic American Song”; “Public Folklore, Pedagogy, and Production: An International Case Study” (cosponsored by the Public Programs section and the Folklore and Education section); and “Folklore and Social Politics: Swedish Case Studies.” An additional Nordic-Baltic panel, “New Nordic Food Stories of Terroir,” was also on the program. Altogether there were 31 official participants on these panels, including participants from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Sweden, and the United States. At the section business meeting, attended by about 20 people, the section selected B. Marcus Cederström as junior convener for 2014.

The online group, which provides the distribution list for section business, had 34 members. Anyone interested in section-related discussion topics may also join the section’s Facebook page.

Politics, Folklore, and Social Justice

Conveners: Meredith Martin-Moats, independent, and Mario Montaño, Colorado College

This past year, the section has been reaching out to members to see exactly what they want from the section. It has moved away from being an organization with an outward focus and has begun to focus its attention on becoming a resource organization
for folklorists who do social justice work and/or those who want to work at this intersection of folklore and social justice. The section wants to structure itself as a support organization of sorts, offering information, training, and even funding for folklorists who do this very difficult and often undervalued work, especially independents and organizers and university professors who do this work on their own time. It has also begun conversations with members in other sections and groups in AFS that share its values, including the AFS Cultural Diversity Committee. The section is working to see where its work overlaps and how it can effectively work together with other groups. In short, the section is trying to compile its strengths and make better use of its limited time and resources so it can grow its work sustainably over the long haul. This past year, it has updated its webpage, created an active Facebook page, and has begun outreach to folklore-based organizations that share common goals. The section has taken on small bits of work, striving to complete each small piece before moving on to the next step, and developing a core group of members/organizers along the way. It also curated the 2013 annual meeting, offering a guide to programming that section members would find of interest.

The section’s online group had 104 registered members.

Public Programs
Conveners: Brent A. Björkman, Western Kentucky University/Kentucky Folklife Program, and Guha Shankar, American Folklife Center

In 2013, the section sponsored nine sessions at the annual meeting in Providence, which were attended by approximately three hundred people. It also acted as a partner with AFS to fund the Benjamin A. Botkin Prize, which was awarded to Paddy Bowman of Local Learning, and Kay Turner of the Brooklyn Arts Council and New York University. This year, the section increased its contribution to the Independent Folklorists section’s travel stipend, bringing it to $1000. The section also sponsored the annual Mixer for Graduate Students and Young Professionals, funded four $500 Archie Green Student Travel Awards, and made a new monetary award of $500 to the recipients of the Benjamin A. Botkin Prize. The business meeting was attended by about one hundred people.

The section’s online group, which had 128 members, is the primary channel for section communication. Section members also keep in touch with each other on the publore listserv.

Socialist and Post-Socialist Area Studies
Conveners: Erik A. Aasland, Fuller Graduate School of Intercultural Studies, and Elo-Hanna Seljamaa, University of Tartu

The Socialist and Post-Socialist Area Studies section cosponsored a panel at the 2013 annual meeting, where it also held its business meeting, attended by nine people. The online group had 38 members.

Space, Place, and Landscapes
Convener: Elijah Gaddis, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

The Space, Place, and Landscapes section this year sponsored its first ever lecture at the annual meeting in Providence; Kent Ryden presented “Running in Place: Mapping the Invisible Landscape, 20 Years On,” which was attended by roughly 50 people. Five people attended the section business meeting.

The section has a listserv; to join, contact the convener. The online group had 64 members.

Storytelling
Conveners: Milbre E. Burch, University of Missouri, Columbia, and Joseph D. Sobol, East Tennessee State University
In recent years, attendance at the Dan Crowley Memorial Concerts has been negatively impacted by scheduling conflicts on Friday nights of the annual meeting. For the last two years, in lieu of the concert, the section has produced or cosponsored walking tours as fund-raisers to pay for the Dan Crowley Paper Prize and other section expenses. This year, the section and the local planning committee cosponsored two “Spirits of Benefit Street” walking tours. Michael E. Bell (Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, retired) led the tours. Both were sold out with 30 folks signed up.

This year, the section also sponsored two sessions at the annual meeting: “Stories from the Margins: Interactions of Traditional and Personal Narrative in Alternative Cultural Groups,” and “The Spellbinders Reunion: A Revival Storytelling Community Remembered,” which included community scholars Len Cabral, Bill Harley, Marc Levitt, and Valerie Tutson from the Spellbinders storytelling collective. An editor of the peer-reviewed journal *Storytelling, Self, Society* was in attendance and expressed interest in publishing the proceedings of the session.

The annual Dan Crowley Memorial Student Essay Prize of $200 was awarded to Chad Buterbaugh of Indiana University for his essay “The Transnational Mediation of the Irish Foundation Myth.”

The section held its annual business meeting with five members in attendance. They reviewed past section history and section revenues, discussed future section member benefits, brainstormed about 2014 programming, and presented the Dan Crowley Memorial Student Essay Prize. During the business meeting, members discussed ways to enliven the response to the section’s offerings, engage its current members, and encourage other AFS members to join the section and/or attend its programming.

The section had 28 registered members in its online group. Section members also use a listserv to communicate; to join, send a request to jradner@american.edu with a copy to sobol@mail.etsu.edu.

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**Women’s**

**Conveners:** Katherine Borland, The Ohio State University, and Kristina G. Downs, Indiana University

This year the Women’s section awarded the Elli Köngäs-Maranda Professional Prize to Laura J. Olson and Svetlana Adonyeva for their book *The Worlds of Russian Village Women: Tradition, Transgression, Compromise*; it awarded the student prize to Rachel Gonzalez for her paper “Quinceañeras as Ephemeral Autobiography: Narrating Latina Lived-Experiences in America’s Heartland.” The runner up for the professional prize was Suzanne Seriff for the exhibition “Empowering Women: Artisan Cooperatives that Transform Communities.” The section cosponsored the “Advances in Folklore Scholarship: Diaspora and Belonging” panel at the annual meeting, focusing on recent books by Solimar Otero and Debra Lattanzi Shutika. Sadly, section members said goodbye to longtime active member Polly Stewart, who passed away this year.

The business meeting was attended by 41 members. Theresa Vaughan of the University of Central Oklahoma was selected to serve as junior convener in 2014.

The section’s online group had 134 registered members. You can communicate with the Women’s section via its online group or its listserv. To join the listserv, email section convener Kristina G. Downs. The section also has a Facebook group.
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**Image Captions**

Pg. 6: AFS annual meeting attendees browsing the Artists’ Marketplace, where a number of New England traditional artists demonstrated their skills and sold their work (back)

Pg. 7: Lee Haring accepting the 2013 Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award (back)

Pg. 15: NRPB member-at-large and 2006–2007 AFS president Bill Ivey and AFS executive director Timothy Lloyd exploring the Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives at the Smithsonian Institution’s Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage (back)

Pg. 22 (top): Jay Mechling preparing to give the 2013 Utley Lecture with Simon J. Bronner (back)

Pg. 22 (bottom): Margaret Kruesi (C) and Leonard Norman Primiano (R) interviewing Don Yoder (L) for the “Collecting Memories” project (back)

Pg. 34 (top): 2013 AFS president-elect Michael Ann Williams and president Diane E. Goldstein (back)

Pg. 34 (bottom): AFS officers and staff: (Front, L to R) Maria Carmen Gambliel, Carolyn E. Ware, Michael Ann Williams, Pravina Shukla, Solimar Otero, Diane E. Goldstein, Lorraine Walsh Cashman, (Back, L to R) David Todd Lawrence, Leonard Norman Primiano, Sabina Magliocco, Timothy Lloyd, Brent Björkman, and Juwen Zhang (back)

Pg. 39: Nominating Committee chair Christina Barr introducing Executive Board candidates Lisa Higgins, Maggie Holtzberg, and Margaret Kruesi at the 2013 Candidates’ Forum (back)

Pg. 40: Chen Xi translating during a bilingual exchange at the Fourth Forum on China-US Intangible Cultural Heritage at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian (back)