

Folklore Village

Report to the Community 2013

Folklore Village is a nationally-recognized folk arts center dedicated to enriching lives through time honored traditions.

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Forty Five Years

Jane Farwell founded the Folklore Village Christmas Festival 66 years ago, in 1947. In 1971, Folklore Village was officially founded as a non-profit corporation and has grown continually since then.

From its windswept ridge in the rolling hills of southwestern Wisconsin, Folklore Village is a 94-acre site that overlooks gently contoured fields, dairy farms, nearby woods and a prairie restoration project. Farwell Hall is a 5,500 square foot facility with two beautiful hardwood dance floors, exhibit and classroom spaces and a restaurant-quality kitchen. A historic one-room country schoolhouse is on site, as well as the Plum Grove Church,



which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Folklore Village programs actively "pass on" folklife traditions through experiential learning, inter-generational learning and cultural diversity. The idea that our cultural traditions connect us to each other is central to Folklore Village programs. Traditions are threads of culture that ultimately guide our actions

and behavior, while showcasing our beliefs and values. Furthermore, we strive to inspire people to look beyond their own traditions and value the diversity of traditions in the world and right here in our communities.

Holding hands in a circle at a barn dance, parents and children are learning the steps together, grandparent is learning side-by-side with grandchild at the blacksmithing forge, or a middle school expert Origami student is teaching a room of adults how to fold at Midwinter Festival. This supports the idea that our children can teach us, that adults can always continue learning and developing their skills and erases the hierarchy that too often we find ourselves in.

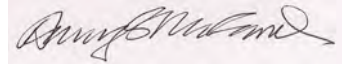
Thanks to all who helped us grow in 2013, and we look forward to hosting you in 2014.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

During this time of transition, the Folklore Village Board is committed to helping the organization flourish and grow, to be open to its possibilities, and to explore ideas and solutions honestly and collaboratively. Folklore Village faces many challenges as it changes, but we are confident that we can all help it thrive, and we'd like to share that confidence with you.

Aside from our Executive Director search, maintaining Folklore Village's financial health has been the Board's primary concern. At this time, the Board is looking to all possible sources to increase our income, and we are overseeing expenditures as frugally as we can. We also ask you to keep being a part of this important process - by coming to events, by bringing your friends, by volunteering, and by contributing financially.

Our Mission and our future sustainability are our essential focus. Be a part of everything Folklore Village is, and can be, and help us take it into the future.



Amy McFarland



School programs serve urban and rural children alike

Years ago Jane Farwell would visit schools equipped only with a record player and an armload of records. Students now visit Folklore Village where they enjoy traditional music, games, dance and more in Farwell Hall, Plum Grove Church and Wakefield School.

Folklife...Your Life is a program designed to help children learn more about themselves, their families and communities, inspiring an appreciation for traditions and heritage. It also provides a door for children to discover the world of folklife. From the way we celebrate



holidays, to understanding our family stories and to the songs we sing-folklife is an important part of every person's life.

Folklore Village welcomed almost 2,000 students from 23 schools in the 2012-2013 school year. Some schools sent groups on multiple days so we had 28 days of school programming at Farwell Hall. Thanks to generous grants we were able to subsidize the cost for small, rural schools to enable their participation in fiscal tough times. In the spring of 2013 we surveyed teachers to get a handle on how we were doing and how to improve. One teacher responded, "The overall experience of being out in the country with no electronics is priceless! Seeing that (the students) can have fun, learn and participate in the activities is also a huge bonus!" Another summarized many reflections when saying, "Many of our students would never have an experience like this if we did not take them to Folklore Village."

And Doug Miller is still a teacher!

Concerts warm the hearts of area seniors

Free senior concerts provide joy, comfort and a sense of belonging to senior citizens throughout the region, through sharing of familiar songs, music and stories.

In the fall of 2013, Folklore Village presented a total of 11 senior outreach concerts. Three of those concerts were held at Folklore Village and, by coordinating with the Iowa County Commission on Aging's senior bus, we had very high attendance. Eight of our concerts were held on-site at care centers, meal sites and a senior based apartment building. Some centers benefited from being able to take their participants on an outing to Folklore Village, while a total of 8 centers enjoyed the ease of artists coming directly to their sites. Total attendance this year at our eleven concerts remained healthy and increased to 445 seniors.



One of our favorite acts, KG and the Ranger, told us, "One resident, who is 99 was excited to remember all his cowboy heroes like Tom Mix and Ken Maynard. A woman told us she used to play button accordion in her father's band. I asked her if her husband was in the band, too, and she said 'no - he couldn't carry a tune in a bucket!'. One of the women yodeled along with us on Cowboy's Sweetheart and seemed to know almost every song we did. They were a quiet group during the show, but very talkative afterwards. Our music really seems to bring back memories for folks."



MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR

Forty-five years of celebrating traditions is a remarkable achievement. This past year was a time in which Folklore Village passed on our own traditions, welcoming new staff to carry on.

Folklore Village continues to grow; I think Jane Farwell would be both amazed and proud.

At the same time some of our equipment and facilities are aging and will need replacement. So the challenges go on.

I'm proud to be at Folklore Village and proud of what our community has done to make 2013 another banner year. I especially want to thank our dedicated staff who keep us growing and board members whose collective wisdom and skilled guidance have at times calmed an inordinately choppy sea.

Rick Rolfsmeyer



Traditions thrive at Folklore Village festivals

Three and five day festivals provide unique opportunities for people to learn folk-life traditions. Our four and five day festivals bring master tradition-bearers to teach as well as younger, new teachers to develop the skills of festival participants. Music and dance weekends such as Spring Scandinavian, Fall Swedish, Cajun and English Country Dance provide cultural music and dance workshops for all levels and the boisterous nightly parties serve to strengthen our sense of community. In 2013, we danced and jammed with Jesse Lege and Joel Savoy from Louisiana, Bjorn Ove Opheim and Elise Tegner from Norway, the Dahlin family, and The Bare Necessities, to name a few. The five day Festival of Christmas and Midwinter Traditions is an international flavored festival of dance, song, crafts, stories, reflection, creativity, and hi-jinks for the whole family. In one local paper, it was labeled as "an antidote to commercialism."

"Family traditions counter alienation and confusion. They help us define who we are; they provide something steady, reliable and safe in a confusing world."
Susan Lieberman

Confucius Institute

Our partnership with the UW-Platteville's Confucius Institute continued in 2013 with a Dragonboat Day that included a Zongzi cooking workshop and an interactive Chinese folk dance workshop with The Blue Willow Dance Troupe. Eileen 吴, from the

Confucius Institute also presented a lovely gong-fu tea service to the 2013 Christmas and Midwinter Festival attendees.



Open Mic

Our free, open-mic series provides an opportunity for local musicians and poets to gather and share their artistic work. With an attentive audience, people gain experience performing for other people and receive positive feedback about their endeavors.



Concerts

Our concerts showcase world-class tradition bearers and encourage the appreciation and continued vitality of traditional music. In 2013, we offered Irish fiddle and Irish guitar intensive workshops with Liz Carroll and Daithi Sproule before their joint concert. The two-hour workshops were a special opportunity to learn from two celebrated and award-winning artists. Liz Carroll is a National Heritage Award Fellowship recipient and Daithi Sproule was one of the first guitarists to develop DADGAD tuning for Irish music. We also presented the Tim Eriksen Trio, who enthralled the audience with their startling interpretations of old ballads, love songs, shape-note gospel and dance tunes from New England and Southern Appalachia. A talented local acoustic band, Point 5, also took the stage for a Mother's Day concert of original folk songs and lovely harmony singing.

2013 Staff

Rick Rolfsmeyer, Interim Director
Meghan Dudle, Program Director
Karla Vogel, Office Manager
Bonnie Miller, Office Manager / Foodways

Ray Price-Waddington, Facilities
Jeremiah Miller, Facilities
Sherry Miess, Foodways

Foodways

Foodways recognizes that the differences in how people eat reflect the rich variety in cultural communities and connects us to our past. Our kitchen staff creates meals that reflect the traditions we are celebrating within our programming, whether it be Cajun, Mexican, Chinese, Italian, Irish, German, West African, or Swedish.

"Folklore Village is a magical place where people of all ages are reconnected with one another, with the landscape that supports us, and the stories that draw us together."
Dena Wortzel, Wisconsin Humanities Council

2013 Board members

Amy McFarland, President
Mindy Habecker, Vice President
Allen Pincus, Treasurer
Nancy Zucker, Secretary
Bonnie Schmidt, Past President
Chuck Hornemann
Richard March
Jody McCann
Mike Wolkomir

Folklife.....Your Life: 2013 School Program Staff

Sarah Kyrie
Lucy Richards
Diane Fox
Kriss Marion
Doug Miller
Meghan Dudle
Vicki Mecozzi

Folklore Village International Dancers

The Folklore Village International Dancers are a group of dedicated volunteers versed in many of the dances that Jane Farwell would share. With colorful traditional costumes and a great live band, they take the stage at regional cultural festivals to represent

Folklore Village and spread the joy of traditional folk dance. The International Dancers represented Folklore Village at numerous events in 2013, including Triangle Fest in Madison and the Old Time Gathering at the Dodge County Fairgrounds.





Dances and socials

The art of American barn dance calling is an oral tradition that we also strive to pass on and renew, as is the old time string band music that accompanies it. Our barn dances throughout the year of 2013 drew a strengthening and revitalizing crowd of younger dancers and the nights were full of driving music and new faces. Our Saturday Night Socials continue the pot-luck tradition of sitting down and eating together at candle-lit tables as well as the group, social dances that Jane Farwell loved so much. Our two popular seasonal socials, the Maypole Dance Social and the St. Lucia Ceremony Social are two traditions that we remain committed to carrying on for families.

Volunteers

Our wonderful volunteers dedicated over 1,700 hours in 2013! Talented and energetic volunteers do everything from setting up potlucks, baking St. Lucia buns, calling dances, playing live music, and gardening to helping promote events. One outstanding volunteer, Dan Lippitt, was recognized for his worker-bee volunteer days that

helped to repair our historic buildings and many other jobs well done. We wholeheartedly thank our volunteers for making Folklore Village a unique and welcoming organization!

"Tradition, which is always old, is at the same time ever new because it is always reviving – born again in each new generation, to be lived and applied in a new and particular way." Thomas Merton

With our heartfelt thanks

Folklore Village deeply appreciates everyone's support. Special thanks to the businesses and

organizations that made a great year possible, including: The Kohler Foundation, Walmart, Dodgeville Kiwanis, United Fund of Iowa County, BMO Harris Bank, Peoples

Community Bank, Upland Hills Health, Badgerland Financial, Uplands Cheese, Organic Valley,

Midwestern BioAg, Southwest WI Workforce Development Board, Uplands Cheese, Viroqua Food Co-op, State Bank of Cross Plains, Southern Wisconsin Shape Note Singers, Squirrel Moon, Farmers Savings Bank, Heartland Credit Union, and Alliant Energy.

Delicious Driftless Fare

The Delicious Driftless Fare, a collaboration with the Southwest WI Regional Planning Commission, UW-Extension and others, celebrated



local farmers and the healthy products they provide to our Driftless region. The day was full of farmers networking and connecting with new customers, local music and, of course, amazing food and drink! The event brought new sponsors and visitors to Folklore Village, which of course, used to be a farm. The day ended with a great barn dance, a Folklore Village staple.

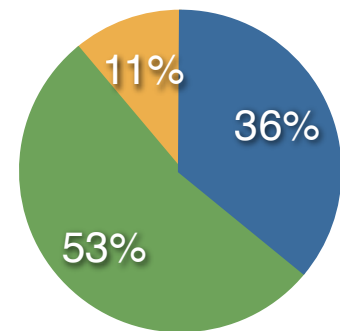


Financial statements

2013 Income	
Contributions and grants	\$81,030
Program revenue	\$119,949
Rentals, endowment, events	\$26,587
Total Income	\$227,566
2013 Expenses	
Staff costs	\$132,421
Program expenses	\$82,248
Buildings/ maintenance	\$19,758
Office	\$27,187
Depreciation	\$25,553
Total Expense	\$287,167
Assets	
Property, less depreciation	\$282,395
Other	n/a
Liabilities and Net Assets	\$282,395

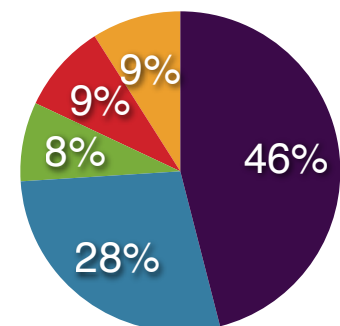
Income

- Contributions and grants
- Program revenue
- Rentals, endowments, events



Expenses

- Staff costs
- Program expenses
- Buildings/maintenance
- Office
- Depreciation



The deficit between income and expenses was covered by board contingency funds, especially valuable for facility emergencies.



We keep growing because of your support

For decades, Folklore Village has been a pioneer in the field of folklife education and presentation, helping people of all ages discover, honor and strengthen these valuable folklife threads. We have grown through the years because of the generosity of the people and organizations that support us. Your financial support is deeply appreciated and used wisely. Not only does it keep us growing, it shows that you believe in and want to sustain our work.

Please join us in ensuring that Folklore Village has the resources it needs to continue to be an arts and culture center dedicated to enriching lives with respect and understanding and the celebration of folklife. And you can be eligible for some great Friends benefits, too!

It's always a good time to donate to Folklore Village. We appreciate your support in helping Folklore Village maintain its excellent program events, inspiring educational opportunities, and glorious natural surroundings. We are also happy to talk about adding Folklore Village to your investment or estate planning. **Please be generous today!**

Also, Folklore Village has a wish list of items we're hoping might be donated. Just visit our website to view these needed items. And, of course, we're always in need of volunteers to help with myriad tasks, related to buildings or programming. For more information please contact us at 608-924-4000 or through staff@folklorevillage.org.

It's so easy to donate!

Check: Please send to Folklore Village, 3210 County Road BB,
Dodgeville, WI 53533

Auto-give or Credit Card: Please call Folklore Village at (608)-924-4000

PayPal: Please visit our website at <http://folklorevillage.com/t1/contribute>

"Folklore Village is a magical place where people of all ages are reconnected with one another, with the landscape that supports us, and the stories that draw us together." Dena Wortzel, Wisconsin Humanities Council

A year of progress; a lifetime of growth

"Folklore Village has become more than a Folklife Center, it has become a resource that all of SW-Wisconsin knows about. Folklore Village is one of the few places in all of Wisconsin that offers resources to school children (of all ages), retirees, farmers, business leaders and civic groups. When a new initiative is being investigated and a startup is in process, one of the first places we call is Folklore." *Paul Ohlrogge, Department Head, Community Resource Educator, UW-Extension Iowa County*



"Folklore Village is a regional leader in presenting traditional arts. Their site and staff are perfect hosts for the multiple forms of folk art they feature. It's an inviting place -- inviting you to get in touch with your own cultural traditions as you learn about and enjoy others. Folklore Village doesn't just celebrate community; it creates it."

Anne Pryor, Folk and Traditional Arts Specialist, Wisconsin Arts Board



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"Folklore Village is an exemplar of participatory global peace education." *Vincent Kavaloski World Peace Program Edgewood College*

"As part of the greater Military Ridge Grasslands, Folklore Village provides an educational opportunity for school groups and the local community to experience first-hand Prairie restoration and the wildlife species that utilize this unique eco-system. I hope all citizens will participate in this great effort."

Kurt Watersadt, Wisconsin Private Lands Coordinator, US Fish & Wildlife Service



FOLKLORE VILLAGE ...passing it on