

American Folklore Society Monthly News Bulletin

August 2009

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

Edward D. ("Sandy") Ives, 1925-2009

Folklorist Sandy Ives passed away Sunday evening, August 2, at home in Maine. Sandy received his PhD in folklore from Indiana University in 1962 and was a professor of folklore at the University of Maine from 1964 to his retirement in 1998. He founded the Maine Folklife Center and the Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History, both at the University. Among his major publications were *Larry Gorman: The Man Who Made the Songs* (Indiana University Press, 1964), *Folksongs and Their Makers* (co-editor; Bowling Green State University Popular Press, 1970), *Joe Scott: The Woodsman Songmaker* (University of Illinois Press, 1978), and *George Magoon and the Down East Game War* (University of Illinois Press, 1988). In 2000, Ives received a festschrift issue of the journal he founded, *Northeast Folklore*, entitled *Essays in Honor of Edward D. "Sandy" Ives* and edited by Pauleena MacDougall and David Taylor (University of Maine Press). He was elected to the Fellows of the AFS in 1980, and received the Society's Kenneth Goldstein Award for Lifetime Academic Leadership in 2003.

Society Names Next *Journal of American Folklore* Editors

The AFS Executive Board is happy to announce that it has selected Tom DuBois and Jim Leary of the University of Wisconsin to be the next editors of the *Journal of American Folklore*.

DuBois and Leary will be assisted by a collective of folklorists from the University, from the Wisconsin Arts Board, and from the local public sector, including Christine Garlough, Janet Gilmore, Rick March, Jack Niles, Ruth Olson, and Anne Pryor. Rob Howard will join the collective once his tenure as editor of *Western Folklore* is complete. DuBois and Leary will begin work soon on their first issue, which is to be submitted to the University of Illinois Press in July 2010 and will be published in January 2011. Their term as editors will run through the 2015 volume year.

Current *JAF* editors Harry Berger and Giovanna del Negro of Texas A&M University, AFS web site editor John Laudun of the University of Louisiana, Lafayette, and DuBois and Leary will participate in a "meet the editors" question-and-answer session on Friday afternoon of the Boise annual meeting.

Boise Meeting and Special Event Registration Deadline: August 31

The deadline for registering for the Boise annual meeting at lower pre-meeting rates, and for registering for pre-meeting tours and professional development sessions, and Saturday night's Basque dinner and dance party, is August 31. After that deadline, meeting registration will be available on site at higher rates, but pre-meeting tour, professional development session, and Saturday night registration will be closed. You can register for all these activities online on a secure page of the AFS web site at www.afsnet.org/annualmeet/nextAMreg.cfm.

August 31 is also the deadline for receiving a refund of your registration fees if you withdraw from the meeting.

Second Boise Hotel Announced

Since our sleeping room block at the Grove Hotel is almost filled, AFS has added a second host hotel for our annual meeting this October in Boise: the brand-new Hampton Inn and Suites Boise Downtown, located just one block away from the Boise Centre, the site of all meeting sessions. The Hampton Inn offers, among other amenities, a free continental breakfast.

Rooms at the Hampton Inn are available for \$109 a night (plus 13% tax) for singles and doubles. To make a reservation at meeting rates, please call 208/331-1900 and use group code CHXAFS. These rates will be available until September 29.

AFS Botkin and Paredes Prize Deadlines Approach

August 31 is the deadline for nominations for the Society's 2009 Benjamin A. Botkin and Américo Paredes Prizes.

Benjamin A. Botkin Prize

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

The review criteria are:

- Engagement of a broad public audience in the materials of folklore
- Impact on the field of public folklore: development of models, methodology, visibility, advocacy
- Impact on communities/constituents and their traditional culture
- Contributions to the body of materials of folklore/public folklore
- Quality of artistry in presentation: writing, photography, stagecraft, etc.
- Quality of scholarship
- Impact on the discipline of folklore, its theories and methodology
- Quality/adequacy of nomination package itself
- Breadth of support, as evidenced by letters from community members and non-folklorists in addition to folklore colleagues

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

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

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

Past Benjamin A. Botkin Prize Recipients:

- Bess Lomax Hawes, folklore scholar, performer, and advocate, formerly of the National Endowment for the Arts (1994)
- Archie Green, folklore scholar and advocate-at-large (1995)
- Jane Beck, founder of the Vermont Folklife Center (1996)
- Dan Sheehy of the National Endowment for the Arts and Joe Wilson of the National Council for the Traditional Arts (1997)
- Jim Griffith of the Southwest Folklife Center (1998)
- Richard Kurin of the Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage (1999)
- Bobby Fulcher of the Tennessee State Parks (2000)
- Hal Cannon of the Western Folklife Center (2001)

- Robert Baron of the New York State Council for the Arts and Nick Spitzer of the University of New Orleans and National Public Radio (2002)
- Alan Jabbour of Washington, DC, formerly of the American Folklife Center, Library of Congress (2003)
- Jens Lund, independent folklorist of Olympia, Washington (2004)
- James Leary, University of Wisconsin (2005)
- Elaine Thatcher, Utah State University (2006)
- Steve Zeitlin, City Lore (2007)
- Yvonne Lockwood, Michigan State University (2008)

Américo Paredes Prize

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

Américo Paredes (1915-1999), a leading scholar in folklore and Greater Mexico studies, worked relentlessly throughout his life, in the words of Olga Nájera-Ramírez, "to better understand, represent, and respect the rights, lives, and culture of U.S. Latinas and Latinos." Paredes contributed significantly to the formation of various intellectual trends and in particular to the scholarship on "native" folklorists and anthropologists; indeed, he trained several generations of "natives." He was the first Mexican American to receive a PhD at the University of Texas, where he taught from 1958 until his retirement in 1984.

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

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

The next deadline for nominations is August 31, 2009. To nominate a candidate, e-mail a letter describing how the nominee has achieved excellence in either or both of the achievements the Prize recognizes, with an electronic copy sent by e-mail, to AFS Executive Director [Tim Lloyd](#). Nominees not selected in the year of their original nomination are kept in consideration for two more reviews.

Past Américo Paredes Prize Recipients:

- William A. Wilson, Brigham Young University, *emeritus* (2002)
- Norma Cantú, University of Texas, San Antonio (2003)
- C. Kurt Dewhurst and Marsha MacDowell, Michigan State University Museum (2004)
- Enrique Lamadrid, University of New Mexico (2005)
- The “El Rio” Project (2006)
- Barre Toelken, Utah State University, *emeritus* (2007)
- Barry Jean Ancelet, University of Louisiana, Lafayette (2008)

AFS @ New Orleans, October 2012

The Society’s office has just signed a contract to hold our 2012 annual meeting at the Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans, Louisiana—the same hotel at which AFS held its last New Orleans annual meeting in 1975. Dates for the meeting will be October 24-28, and the Society will plan the meeting collaboratively with academic and public folklorists in Louisiana.

New Benefit of AFS Membership: ACLS Humanities E-Book Subscriptions

ACLS Humanities E-Book (HEB) is pleased to make individual subscriptions available through standing membership in the American Folklore Society as an added benefit of your membership.

The subscription offers unlimited access to its [collection](#) of more than 2,200 cross-searchable, full-text titles across the humanities and related social sciences. Titles have been selected and peer-reviewed by ACLS learned societies in the humanities and social science disciplines for their continued value in teaching and researching, and approximately 500 are being added each year.

The collection includes both in- and out-of-print titles ranging from the 1880s to the current year. Titles link to publishers’ websites and to online reviews in JSTOR, Project MUSE, and other sites.

Individual subscriptions are ideal for those whose school might not yet have an institutional subscription to HEB or for individual members of a learned society who might not be affiliated with a subscribing institution.

Individual subscriptions are USD \$35 for a year. \$15 of your subscription will come back directly to the American Folklore Society and the balance will help sustain HEB as a resource for the entire scholarly community.

The link below will bring you directly to the online purchase module at ACLS

Humanities E-Book. You will need to choose the American Folklore Society from the pull-down menu and provide your membership number.

For inquiries, e-mail subscriptions@hebook.org. To open a subscription, visit https://www.humanitiesebook.org/subscription_purchase.html.

Do You Teach at a Community College?

AFS member Charley Camp writes:

"I currently teach at Maryland Institute College of Art and at Anne Arundel Community College, a large, well-established community college near Annapolis, Maryland. I'm interested in hearing from folklorists who teach part- or full-time at community colleges, and perhaps in creating a section or other group to facilitate communication about community college teaching. America's current economic woes have refocused attention on community colleges not only as alternatives to increasingly expensive four-year colleges and universities, but also as close-to-the-ground providers of workforce solutions in a wide variety of fields. I want to include people with folklore training and/or experience who teach at a community college, whether or not they teach folklore. There's no specific goal in mind; I'd just like to follow the thread that links community college students to the communities in which they live and work as a potential constituency for educational opportunities that mix academic and real-world experience. My email address is charleycamp@comcast.net. Thank you."

University of Illinois Plans Archie Green Tribute

The School of Labor and Employment Relations of the University of Illinois is planning a memorial honoring Archie Green—union man, laborlore scholar, folklife advocate, and master teacher—on the evening of September 14, 2009, in the School's Wagner Education Center, University of Illinois, 504 East Armory Street, Champaign, Illinois. The formal program will run from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, with a reception and refreshments afterward.

Presenters include: Stephen Wade, performer, writer, and folk music scholar, "How Archie Taught Us to Learn from Music;" Mike Munoz, Bay Area pile driver and union historian, "Archie as Trade Unionist;" David Taylor, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, "Archie Green and the Founding of the American Folklife Center;" and David Roediger, Department of History, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, "Labor Music as History Lesson."

The memorial is free and open to the public. For more information as it becomes available, please go to <http://www.ler.illinois.edu/archiegreen.html>. There you can also contribute your own reflections and memories of Archie.

World Oral Literature Project

The World Oral Literature Project and website has just been launched (www.oralliterature.org/). Director of the Project is Dr. Mark Turin of the University of Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

The World Oral Literature Project is an urgent global initiative to document and make accessible endangered oral literatures before they disappear without record.

For many communities around the world, the transmission of oral literature from one generation to the next lies at the heart of cultural practice. These creative works--which may include ritual texts, curative chants, epic poems, musical genres, folk tales, creation tales, songs, myths, legends, word games, life histories or historical narratives—are increasingly endangered. Globalization and rapid socio-economic change exert complex pressures on smaller communities, often eroding expressive diversity and transforming culture through assimilation to more dominant ways of life. As vehicles for the transmission of unique cultural knowledge, local languages encode oral traditions that become threatened when elders die and livelihoods are disrupted. Of the world's over 6,000 living languages, around half will cease to be used as spoken vernaculars by the end of this century.

The World Oral Literature Project has been established to support local communities and committed fieldworkers engaged in the collection and preservation of oral literature by providing funding for original research, alongside training in fieldwork and digital archiving methods.

Please visit the project website for more information about its supplemental grants program, activities, and planned publications.