

Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association

FY2020 Highlights

(July 2019 – June 2020)

1. New CSHSA Board Members FY2020

We were pleased to welcome three new members to our board this past fiscal year:

- 1) **Nicholas Regiacorte** – Associate Professor of English, Directory of Creative Writing, Knox College
- 2) **Emily DuGranrut** – Archives Librarian, Galesburg Public Library
- 3) **Erin Glasnovich** – Director of Orpheum Theatre and Galesburg Performer

2. Thank you for the service of two board members & our site supervisor

- a. **Gayle Stewart** who has faithfully served two three-year terms on the CSHSA Board of Directors FY2012-FY2018. Gayle had served as a dedicated chair of the Membership Committee and an active member of the Education Committee during her tenure with the board. We wish Gayle the best as she and her husband will be spending most of their retirement in Florida.
- b. **Ann Mueller** has been an enthusiastic member of the board since FY2015 through August 2018 as she and her husband, Ron, will be moving to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, in retirement.
- c. **Martha Downey** retired at the end of 2019 having served as Site Superintendent for the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site since 2009 when the site was added to Martha's already busy life as site superintendent of the Bishop Hill State Historic Site. In spite of these additional responsibilities, Martha became a cheerful, thoughtful, dedicated and faithful steward for our site. Happy Retirement, Martha.

3. Sad Farewell to Former Board Members. It was with great sorrow and appreciation that we bade a final farewell to former board member, **Stanford Shover**:

- a. **Stanford Shover** (d. December 17, 2019). Stanford Shover, age 92, former board member of the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association. Stan was passionate about all things Carl Sandburg. Much of the success of the Penny Parades in the last decade can be attributed to the seeds he sowed within the Abingdon community to support the Sandburg State Historic Site. Thank you, Stan, for a life well-lived.

4. CSHSA By-Laws Revisions – August 2019

CSHSA President **Pat Kane** appointed an ad hoc By-Laws Committee to review the current Association By-Laws (last revised - August 2013). The Committee addressed a few necessary changes as well as updating the Gift Acceptance Policy and formally establishing an Executive Committee for the Board. The By-Laws were submitted for approval by the General Membership at our Annual Membership Meeting on August 13, 2019.

- a. [CSHSA By-Laws Comparison 2019vs2013.docx](#)
- b. [CSHSA By-Laws 2013 Proposed-Revisions 20190813.pdf](#)
- c. [CSHSA By-Laws rev 2013-approved 20130709.pdf](#)
- d.

5. CSHSA Endowment Balance - June 30, 2020. **Total \$29,823** (June 30, 2019 - \$29,440)

Our Endowment funds with the Galesburg Community Foundation returned an estimated 5.3% return on investment in FY20! There were no principal donations to the endowment during FY2020. Our current **Spendable Balance: \$4,107.44**.

6.

7. Galesburg Community Foundation Grant FY2020 – Mark & Celia Godsil Family Fund

Thanks to the grant presentation of Ann Mueller, Rex Cherrington & Mike Hobbs to the Galesburg Community Foundation, the Association was awarded an additional \$700 to partially subsidize the 2020 Sandburg Songbag Concert Series. The 2020 Sandburg Songbag Concerts are possible thanks to this grant from the **Mark & Celia Godsil Family Fund**, a Donor Advised Fund of Galesburg Community Foundation.

8. Other Grant Applications Submitted

- a. **An Illinois Arts Council** grant was successful in underwriting \$320 of the expenses for Chris Vallillo’s participation in our Carl Sandburg Educators Workshop originally scheduled for April 2020.
- b. **Choral Dynamics Beneficiary Advertising Partnership Program.** President Pat Kane submitted an application for the CSHSA Board to sell advertising for the upcoming Spring 2020 Choral Dynamics performances. No response received, but the performance was also canceled due to COVID-19.

9. Hometown Hundreds – F&M Bank – “Luck of the draw” - \$200 received in FY2020

Thanks to our local F&M Bank’s support for local nonprofit organizations through their Hometown Hundreds program, entries for the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association secured the maximum two \$100 awards in the weekly drawings between late November & November 2020. We are looking forward to submitting our entries when we are next eligible in late November 2019!

10. Sandburg Readings Board Retreat - January 14, 2020.

President Pat Kane invited the board to her house for a delightful evening of Sandburg readings by all the board members present. The board invited Barbara Schock and surprised her with a special moment of appreciation upon her incredible 300+ Sandburg Hometown articles posted on our CSHSA website since February 2013. It was a special evening enjoyed by all.

11. Sandburg Songbag Concerts: August 2019 – March 2020 . New Time beginning March 2020: Second Sundays 2-4pm.

All July-Nov 2019 & Mar 2020 Concerts were well-attended with appreciative audiences. And then COVID-19 happened ... and all subsequent concerts (April thru June 2020 & beyond) were necessarily cancelled for everyone’s health. The Sandburg Songbag Concerts have been coordinated by **Tom Foley** since 2011. Concerts includes Board Member Hosts and Community Readers!

a. Fall 2019 & Spring 2020 Concerts

- i. July 14, 2019 -- David Berntson
 - ii. August 11, 2019 – Andy Crawford & Harry Tonchev
 - iii. September 8, 2019 – Barry Cloyd
 - iv. October 13, 2019 – Sally Weisenburg & Don Berbaum
 - v. November 19, 2019 – Turlson Hope Scott Trio
 - vi. March 8, 2020 -- Hammer & Pick Folk Ensemble
- THE FOLLOWING CONCERTS WERE CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS*
- vii. April 5, 2020 – Semanya McCord
 - viii. May 17, 2020 – Briar Road
 - ix. June 14, 2020 – Turas

- b. The 2019 Sandburg Songbag Concerts are possible thanks to a grant from the **Mark & Celia Godsil Family Fund**, a Donor Advised Fund of Galesburg Community Foundation and the Community Impact Fund at Galesburg Community Foundation.
- c. We also appreciate the generous gift of CSHSA members, **Judy & Ron Greek**, serving as hosts and providing snacks for all our Sandburg Songbag Concerts.

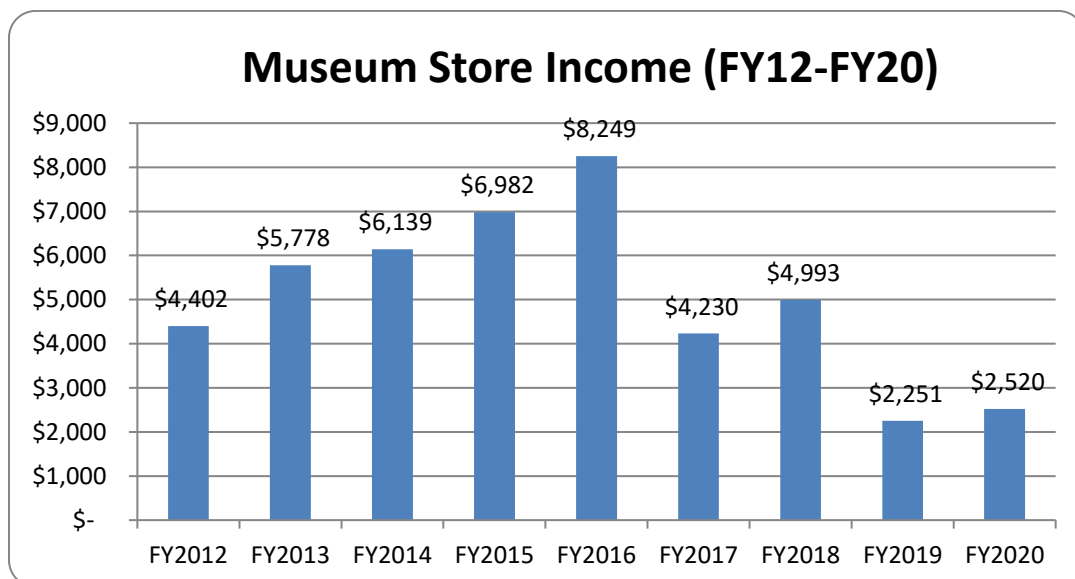
12. April 2020 Sandburg Educators Workshop POSTPONED. Our Education Committee had engaged the assistance of three workshop leaders for this event intended for area educators: Dr. Kevin Roberts, Monmouth College, Dr. Sharon Trotter-Martin, Carl Sandburg College and Illinois musician, Chris Vallillo. All three of our workshop leaders have agreed to provide their services whenever it is reasonable to reschedule the event.

13. SCHEDULED EVENTS CANCELED due to COVID-19 limitations

- a. **April -June 2020 – Second Sunday Sandburg Songbag Concerts**
- b. **April 2020** – Fourth grade field trips scheduled with area public schools coordinated by the Education Committee.
- c. **April 30, 2020 – Annual Penny Parade** with students representing area public schools scheduled for April 25, 2020 A tradition started in 1961, the annual Penny Parade sponsored by the Association within the area public schools.
- d. **April 24-26, 2020 -- Sandburg Days Festival 2020.** Coordinated by the Sandburg Festival Committee, chaired by Tom Foley.
- e. **May 2020** – Garden Cleanup sponsored by the Knox County Master Gardeners.

14. Museum Store Sales FY2020

- a. After the reduced hours and subsequent closure between July and October 2019, we were encouraged by a return to normalcy for our Museum Store sales. And then COVID-19 happened closing access to the Visitors Center from mid-March through the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2020.
- b. In spite of the closure the FY2020 Museum Store sales actually surpassed the FY2019 sales, albeit ever-so-slightly. FY2020 Sales: \$2,520 vs FY2019 Sales: \$2,251.
- c. Over 60 out-of-print books were ordered and placed on sale in the Museum Store during the Spring 2020.



15. Inklings & Idlings – Editor **J. Michael Hobbs** published four more excellent quarterly newsletters with a wide variety of contributors. Thank you, Mike, for the time and energy spent to recruit authors for consistently wonderful and interesting articles. We are proud of the quality newsletter you produce for the Association.

16. Maintenance & Repair by Board volunteers

- a. **Outdoor Lighting bids** are being solicited from area contractors to add permanent lighting to the area between the Visitors Center and the Barn. After numerous contacts by Bryan Engelbrecht this Spring we have now received three bids.
- b. **Site repairs by IDNR staff** have been requested and some of these recently been scheduled. Repairs scheduled include the replacement of the Birthplace Cottage porch and steps.

17. Memorial Bench to be located near the Sandburg statue in the Public Square will donated by the family of CSHSA board member & former Illinois legislator, Don Moffitt.

18. Two Area State Legislators visit with Board. The Board had the pleasure of hosting two of our area legislators this past year for visits with our board which provided us an opportunity to advocate for an increased level of state support the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site. State legislator, Dan Swanson, & state senator, Norene Hammond, spent an evening with the board.

19. Semi-annual Fall & Spring Garden Clean-up – October 2, 2019.

Led by the **Knox County Master Gardeners**. CSHSA members participated in the cleanup activities along with a number of wonderful volunteers! The Spring 2020 event was canceled due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

20. CSHSA Memberships FY2020

Memberships 2020 Received – (through July 7, 2020) **86 memberships & \$4,420 in dues received in 2020 are both membership highs.** Thanks to all of our continuing and new members for their ongoing financial support. [Note: Our total memberships and membership statistics run on a calendar year (Jan-Dec) basis.

CSHSA MEMBERSHIPS (as of 7-July-2020)						
Total \$\$		\$ 2,790	\$ 3,150	\$ 3,665	\$ 3,930	\$ 4,420
CSHSA Memberships		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
TOTAL		70	68	83	75	86
Gift	\$ 10			9	0	0
Senior	\$ 10	21	24	29	24	29
Individual	\$ 20	20	16	17	18	21
Family	\$ 40	17	13	9	12	10
Donor	\$ 100	10	12	15	16	20
Sponsor	\$ 250	2	3	4	3	5
Patron	\$ 500				1	1*
Benefactor	\$ 1,000				1*	

*Mark & Celia Godsil Family Fund Songbag grant funds not included in Membership Dues received, yet included as Patron Membership.

21. CSHSA Website / Facebook – FY2020

- a. The 324th ***Sandburg’s Hometown*** article was posted June 22, 2020! Forty (40) Sandburg’s Hometown articles written by **Barbara Schock** were added to our website July 2019 – June 2020 and posted on the CSHSA Facebook page as well as on the “Remember in Galesburg” Facebook page. Total Sandburg’s Hometown articles posted: February 4, 2013 through June 2020: **324 article posts**. Thank you, **Barbara Schock!!**
- b. We greatly appreciate the additional assistance and contributions of **Bryan Engelbrecht**, Bishop Hill staff member, as an administrator on our CSHSA Facebook page!

22. Tours & Email Requests - Board member assistance – In FY2020 Board members assisted with Site tours on & have also actively assisted with answering several email queries with Sandburg-related questions, most recently questions this past few months from the Yale University Library & a series of questions from former Swedish Ambassador to the United Nations. Questions have been shared with Galesburg area librarians, the University of Illinois Library and our knowledgeable CSHSA member, Tomas Junglander, in Sweden.

23. In Grateful Appreciation of the enduring efforts of our Site Superintendent **Martha Downey**, Site Services Specialist II, **Bryan Engelbrecht**, and **Tommy Wallenfeldt**, part-time site interpreter, for their efforts to staff both the Bishop Hill State Historic Site and the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site. We appreciate their dedication and their commitment to both sites during this difficult time with COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Sayre
Board of Directors (Treasurer)
August 12, 2020