

Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association
FY2021 Highlights
In Spite of COVID-19
(July 2020 – June 2021)

1. New CSHSA Board Members FY2021

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

- a. **Joey Lucerno** -Joey Lucero was born and raised in Galesburg and is currently the Box Office Assistant and Marketing Coordinator at the Orpheum Theatre. He has been an active member of the Galesburg arts community since a young age beginning as a student of the Performing Arts Academy. He toured as an actor in the CSHSA’s production of “Spink, Skabootch, and Swipes in Rootabaga County!” which played at Railroad Days and all Galesburg and area schools in 2017
- b. **Micaela Terronez** –Micaela Terronez is an Augustana College graduate with degrees in history and anthropology. She received a Masters degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Iowa, serving in library and archival positions within non-profit, public, and academic institutions for the past five years. Micaela is currently the librarian for special collections at Knox College’s Seymour Library where various Carl Sandburg-related materials and manuscripts reside. Sadly for us Micaela has accepted a new position in the Quad Cities which will prevent her from continuing in her position on the board. We wish her the very best in her new position.

2. Thank you for the service of three board members (as well as Micaela Terronez above).

- a. **Bert McElroy** who served 14 years on the CSHSA Board of Directors FY2006-FY2020. Many of those years, Bert served as an officer, secretary and vice-president. He was also a long-time and dedicated staff member at the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site, both prior to and while serving on the board. Bert provided much historical perspective on the site for newer members of the board.
- b. **Tom Foley** was another long-time member of the CSHSA Board serving for 11 years FY2009-FY2020. Tom assumed the role as coordinator of the Sandburg Songbag Concert Series in 2012 with enthusiasm and creativity. He chaired our Public Relations Committee as well. He also ably served on the two Ad Hoc committees tasked with revision of the CSHSA Constitution and By-Laws.
- c. **Pamela Fox** has been an inspirational member of the board since joining in FY2016 through May 2021. Pam will be best remembered for her work on the wildly successful *Spinks, Skabootch & Swipe in Rootabaga Country* program with the talented youth actors in the Galesburg Academy of the Arts. She also served as chair of the Education Committee during her time on the board. We wish Pam well in her retirement and new home in Bend, Oregon.

3. COVID-protocol Site Access Issues:

On March 15, 2020, the Site completely closed to visitors due to the emerging COVID-19 pandemic. The grounds were sealed off, and at certain points staff worked from home. On May 29 we reopened the grounds to the public. On July 16 the buildings reopened to small groups of visitors. For a brief period, the summer and fall returned to “normal” as visitors made their way back to the Site. We even opened an exhibition of items from the estate of Charles “Chuck” J. Bednar Jr. As of November 20, Barn, Cottage, and Visitor’s Center closed again due to the implementation of Tier 3 COVID-19 mitigations in Illinois.

4. **Board Meetings Conducted via Zoom (June 2020-April 2021)**

From June 2020 through April 2021 the CSHSA Board met monthly via Zoom Meeting software. We thank Tom Foley for hosting the first two meetings and then Emily DuGranrut who served as our Zoom meeting host on our new CSHSA Zoom account

5. **CSHSA Endowment Balance - June 30, 2021. Total \$38,407.24 (Preliminary estimates)**

Our fiscal year-end total on June 30, 2021, showed an increase of \$8,483.86 this past fiscal year. One year ago, the total was \$29,823.38. There were two principal donations totaling \$400 the endowment during FY2021. Our Endowment funds with the Galesburg Community Foundation showed an estimated 27.4% return on investment in FY2021! That's a remarkable return! Our current **Spendable Balance: \$5,492.31.**

6. **Galesburg Community Foundation Grant 2021 – \$3,500 / Selected anthology of Barbara Schock's Sandburg Hometown articles.**

In May 2021 Mike Hobbs & Rick Sayre submitted a successful GCF Turnout 2021 Grant proposal along with the assistance of Pat Kane, Joey Lucero, Tom Foley, and Barbara Schock. The proposal was for funds to support the publication of a selected anthology of Barbara Schock's Sandburg's Hometown articles. Since February 2013 the CSHSA Website has provided access to over 350 Sandburg's Hometown articles. It is hoped that a print edition will inspire students of all ages to read and explore the Galesburg of Sandburg's youth, the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

7. **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. With the COVID-19 pandemic issues finally subsiding, it is expected that the workshop will be re-scheduled in FY2022.

8. **Hometown Hundreds – F&M Bank – “Luck of the draw” - \$200 received in FY2021**

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!

9. **Sandburg Songbag Concerts sidelined by COVID19.**

Due to protocols necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, there were no Sandburg Songbag Concerts scheduled during FY2021 (July 2020-June 2021) . **Erin Glasnovich** is coordinating the FY2022 Sandburg Songbag Concerts which may be starting as soon as July 11, 2021. We will be continuing the Second Sunday Sandburg Concerts beginning at 2pm.

10. **CSHSA to sponsor \$500 Annual Scholarship for Carl Sandburg College students.**

The Board agreed to promote our association's educational mission with Carl Sandburg College. The CSC Financial Aid staff will identify and award a student who would benefit from our scholarship assistance. The first scholarship will be disbursed in 2022!

11. April 2020 Sandburg Educators Workshop still to be rescheduled.

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.

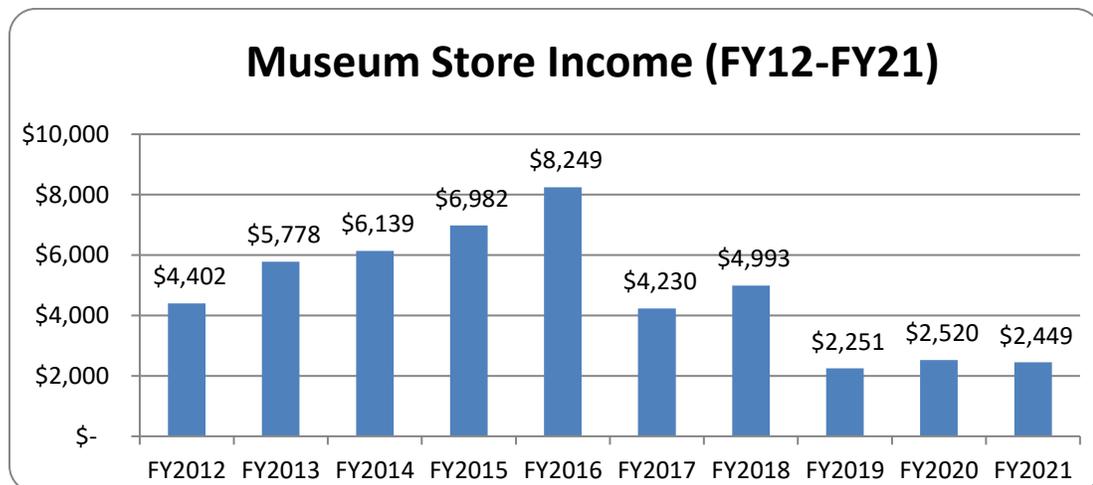
12. A Zoom presentation on Carl Sandburg by Lawrence Webb, emeritus professor, Anderson College (SC), was originally scheduled for March 2021, but has been rescheduled for July 27, 2021, at 6:30pm. Professor Webb is also a new member of the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association.

13. SCHEDULED EVENTS CANCELED due to COVID-19 limitations

- a. **April 2020 – June 2021 – Second Sunday Sandburg Songbag Concerts**
- b. **Annual Penny Parade** with students representing area public schools. A tradition started in 1961, the annual Penny Parade sponsored by the Association within the area public schools. Hopefully our annual Penny Parade will be able to continue in 2022.
- c. **Sandburg Days Festival 2021.**
- d. **May 2021 – Garden Cleanup** sponsored by the Knox County Master Gardeners. While the semi-annual Garden Cleanup has not been held, the KC Master Gardeners began working (once again) on the grounds in May 2021

14. Museum Store Sales FY2021

- a. After the reduced hours and subsequent closure between March 2020 – November 2020 due to COVID-19. Beginning in November
- b. In spite of the COVID closure and reduced schedule that restarted in November 2020 the FY2021 Museum Store sales remained comparable to sales from FY2019 & FY2020.
- c. Our inventory is adequate to meet most of our needs at this point.
- d. We have sold most of our supply of new reprint copies of *The Complete Poems of Carl Sandburg* (c 1970 Rev & Enlarged Edition) provided by Eastern National. They are no longer available in print now. I have acquired six out-of-print copies of the 1950 & 1970 edition and are now on sale in the Museum Store.
- e. Will be adding Tote Bags to our Museum Store merchandise items in July! Designs are currently under consideration.



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.

- [Summer 2021](#)
- [Spring 2021](#)
- [Winter 2020-2021](#)
- [Fall 2020](#)

16. Maintenance & Repair

- a. **Permanent Outdoor Lighting additions and repairs were done by Galesburg’s Mechanical Services Inc (MSI)** along the front of the Visitors Center and the Birthplace Cottage as well as the area along the sidewalks between the Visitors Center and the Barn.
- b. **Site repairs identified 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 be donated by the family of CSHSA board member & former Illinois legislator, Don Moffitt.

18. CSHSA Memberships FY2021

Memberships 2021 Received – (Jan 1-June 30, 2021) **90 memberships & \$4,895 in dues received in 2021 are both membership highs for the past decade.** Thanks to 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 2021 MEMBERSHIPS (as of 30-June-2021)							
Total \$\$		\$ 2,790	\$ 3,150	\$ 3,665	\$ 3,930	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,895
CSHSA Memberships		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Jan-Jun 2021
TOTAL		70	68	83	75	90	90
Gift	\$ 10			9	-	-	-
Senior	\$ 10	21	24	29	24	31	27
Individual	\$ 20	20	16	17	18	22	23
Family	\$ 40	17	13	9	12	11	12
Donor	\$ 100	10	12	15	16	20	23
Sponsor	\$ 250	2	3	4	3	5	5
Patron	\$ 500				1	1*	
Benefactor	\$ 1,000				1*	1**	
*Mark & Celia Godsil Family Fund Songbag grant funds not included in Membership Dues received, yet included as Patron Membership.							
**July 2020 - Barbara Schock donated \$5000 towards the site lighting project. Schock is also a Donor Level Member...Not included in Calendar Year 2020 Membership Totals.							

19. [CSHSA Website / Facebook](#) – FY2021

- a. The 361st *Sandburg's Hometown* article was posted June 21, 2021! Thirty-seven (37) Sandburg's Hometown articles written by **Barbara Schock** were added to our website July 2020 – June 2021 and posted on the CSHSA Facebook page as well as on the "Remember in Galesburg When" Facebook page. Total Sandburg's Hometown articles posted: February 4, 2013 through June 2021: **362 article posts**. Thank you, **Barbara Schock!!**
- b. We greatly appreciate the additional assistance and contributions of our State Historic Site's IDNR staff members, **Bryan Engelbrecht** and **Tom Wallenfeldt**, as administrators on our CSHSA Facebook page! During National Poetry Month, April 2021, Bryan published a daily Sandburg poem on our Facebook page which was well received!

20. Email Information Requests - Board member assistance – In FY2020 & FY2021 past and current Board members and our Site IDNR staff have actively assisted with answering email queries with Sandburg-related questions. These questions have ranged from the Yale University Library, a series of questions from former Swedish Ambassador to the United Nations, as well as Dr. Lawrence Webb, who is working on a book on Sandburg. Questions have been shared with Galesburg area librarians, the University of Illinois Library and our knowledgeable CSHSA member, Tomas Junglander, in Sweden. Many thanks to our past and current board members and the Site staff members who have collaborated with us to provide thoughtful assistance to these interesting and challenging queries. We feel we have been developing a good network of Sandburg enthusiasts and supporters for the work of our organization.

21. In Grateful Appreciation of the enduring efforts of our IDNR Site Services Specialist II, **Bryan Engelbrecht, and Tom Wallenfeldt**, part-time site interpreter, for their efforts to staff both the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site and the Bishop Hill State Historic Site in Bishop Hill, Illinois. 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)
September 12, 2021