

Orientation to the Virtual Meeting

Sponsored by the American Folklore Society

Tuesday, 3:00 pm–4:00 pm

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

Topics to be covered include: how the online meeting platform works, virtual meeting etiquette, and more.

We're here to take your questions.

Opening Ceremony, with a Time of Remembrance and Awards and Recognitions

Sponsored by the American Folklore Society

Tuesday, 4:00 pm–5:30 pm

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

Welcome and opening of the meeting by President Norma Cantú

Highlights of the meeting to come

Tributes to departed colleagues will be read during this time of remembrance. Only statements submitted to AFS by October 1 are included in this ceremony.

Presentation of honors, awards and prizes conferred by the American Folklore Society and AFS Fellows.

Welcome Reception

Sponsored by the American Folklore Society

Tuesday, 7:00 pm–9:00 pm

This event will not be recorded

Join the Virtual Welcome Reception Breakouts to say "hi" to old friends and meet new ones! We encourage participants to move in and out of reception breakouts to find colleagues and exercise your Zoom skills.

Breakout 1: General welcome reception with AFS President Norma Cantu and AFS Executive Board members

Breakout 2: Newcomers' welcome reception, with AFS Executive Director Jessica Turner

Breakout 3: Welcome reception for graduate students from any and all programs, with Micah Ling and Ellie Dassler

Breakout 4: Welcome for public folklore, with Naomi Sturm-Wijesinghe

Breakout 5: Welcome for BIPOC attendees, hosted by the Cultural Diversity Committee, with Minzti Martinez-Rivera

Breakout 6: Welcome for international participants, with Luisa Del Giudice

Breakout 7: Welcome for LGBTQIA members, with Meredith McGriff

Breakout 8: New Directions/Digital Folklore, with Kaitlyn Kinney

Breakout 9: Grounding Our Activism in Our Stories, with Emily Socolov and Gabriel A. Greaves

Concurrent Sessions (01)

Wednesday, 10:30 am–12:00 pm

Masoret Haya: On Haya Bar-Itzhak, the Concept of Living Tradition, and Jewish Folkloristics

Sponsored by the AFS History and Folklore Section, the AFS Jewish Folklore and Ethnology Section, the AFS Oral History Project, the Fellows of the American Folklore Society

Wednesday, 12:30 pm–2:00 pm

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

Masoret Haya is transliterated Hebrew for “Living Tradition” and is the title of a festschrift presented in summer 2020 to Dr. Haya Bar-Itzhak, an International Fellow of the American Folklore Society and Professor Emerita at the University of Haifa where she was Head of Folklore Studies and Director of its internationally renowned Israel Folktale Archives. She has also held professorships at the University of Pennsylvania, Penn State University, Indiana University, University of California-Berkeley, and the University of Michigan. She is the author and editor of more than ten books on Jewish and Israeli Folklore, and a prominent voice internationally for comparative folklore studies of living traditions. Commentators will discuss the concept of living tradition, the significance of Jewish and Israeli folklore studies in international folkloristics, Bar-Itzhak’s scholarly and organizational contributions to international folkloristics, and future directions based upon these contributions.

Living Traditions Network: Overview and Insights

Wednesday, 12:30 pm–2:00 pm

This event will not be recorded

Living Traditions Network is a multi-pronged initiative of collaborating public folklorists, cultural practitioners, and folk arts advocates. Through regular communications (emails, monthly calls, and working groups) and public facing resources (<https://www.livingtraditionsnetwork.org/>), the network is a shared space to deal with current public policy issues the field of folk and traditional arts, to build coalitions, create an actionable agenda and to create an intentional space for the diverse practitioners and workers in traditional arts. Join us in this networking session to hear about how LTN was established in 2020 in response to the pandemic and other pressing issues facing our community.

Workshop: Promoting Folklore Online: Social Media for Public Engagement

Sponsored by the American Folklore Society Media and Public Outreach Committee

Wednesday, 12:30 pm–2:00 pm

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

New to social media but interested in getting started? Already using social media but interested in using it to better promote the study of folklore? Regardless of your skill level, this workshop is for you. Bring a laptop and follow along as we discuss the basics of different social media platforms, best practices for each, and how you can use different social media platforms to get the word out about your folklore scholarship.

Concurrent Sessions (02)

Wednesday, 2:00 pm–3:30 pm

Francis Lee Utley Memorial Panel: Race and Racism in the Practice and Study of Folklore

Sponsored by the Fellows of the American Folklore Society

Wednesday, 4:00 pm–5:15 pm

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

In light of Black Lives Matter and the crises we are experiencing, particularly the issues of racial injustice and violence, the Fellows have made a change in the usual format of the Utley plenary session lecture in order to address these concerns and connections to folklore studies. This panel will focus on race and systemic racism in our culture, in the literature and folklore we study, in our institutions, and in our society. Three Fellows of the AFS who have extensive experience and expertise in the study of African American culture and folklore will address these issues and how they impact our field of study, as well as the possibilities for meaningful and lasting change.

Candidates' Forum

Sponsored by the AFS Nominating Committee

Wednesday, 5:30 pm–6:30 pm

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

All are requested to attend this important session. Candidates for AFS President, Executive Board, and Nominating Committee will discuss their platforms.

The Ohio State University Reception

Sponsored by the The Ohio State University Center for Folklore Studies

Wednesday, 6:30 pm–7:30 pm

This event will not be recorded

Join the Center for Folklore Studies at The Ohio State University in the [Gather](#) platform for our annual reception. Register for the event using this [GoogleForm](#) in order to receive the Gather link and password. All are welcome!

Film and Q&A: "Puntos de Vida (Threads of Life)"

Wednesday, 6:30 pm–7:30 pm

"Puntos de Vida (Threads of Life)" is a 25-minute film shot by folk artist Marie-Astrid and her two 15-year-old students during their Mayan embroidery tour in the Yucatan peninsula days before the Covid-19 pandemic shutdown. Director James Hall weaves their experiences and reflections into an intimate travelogue in which the viewer joins the journey. Throughout the film we meet remarkable artist families, witness the girls' growth of confidence, and feel the depth and beauty of Mayan cultural arts and family heritage. Puntos de Vida is produced by Los Cenzontles Cultural Arts Academy, where Eugene Rodriguez serves as Executive Director.

Concurrent Sessions (03)

Wednesday, 7:30 pm–9:00 pm

Student and Young Professionals Mixer and Trivia Night

Sponsored by the Graduate Student and Young Professional Section

Wednesday, 9:00 pm–10:30 pm

This event will not be recorded

All students and young professionals welcome!

Instrumental Jam

Sponsored by the Music and Song Section

Wednesday, 9:00 pm–11:00 pm

This event will not be recorded

Come join the Music and Song Section for an instrumental jam! All skill levels are welcome. Bring your instruments, or just listen!

Vocal Jam (Song Circle)

Sponsored by the Music and Song Section

Wednesday, 9:00 pm–11:00 pm

This event will not be recorded

Come join the Music and Song Section for a song circle, singaround, or vocal jam. Bring your voice and a song or two to share, or just listen!

Concurrent Sessions (04)

Thursday, 10:30 am–12:00 pm

Folklore 2025: How to Prepare for the Future of Digital Content

Sponsored by the American Folklore Society Media and Public Outreach Committee

Thursday, 12:30 pm–2:00 pm

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

The challenges of 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic have propelled us into a paradigm where digital content creation is not just an option, but a necessity. Since the onset of the pandemic in March, organizations, agencies, and institutions across the spectrum of the public humanities have had to quickly adapt to a reality that doesn't include in-person public programming. In this workshop, Jake Rosenberg (City Lore) and T. J. Smith (Independent) introduce approaches to creating virtual content, considering emerging technologies and strategies that will be relevant for the next five years.

A Conversation with John Roberts

Sponsored by the AFS Oral History Project, the Fellows of the American Folklore Society

Thursday, 12:30 pm–2:00 pm

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

As a new installment in the AFS "Collecting Memories" Oral History Project, we invite John Roberts to reflect on his life in the field. A former president of the American Folklore Society and a former Deputy Chairman of

the National Endowment for the Humanities, John Roberts has served as Dean of Arts and Humanities and Professor of English at the Ohio State University and as Dean of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at University of Houston. He has also served as Chair of the Department of African American and African Studies at Ohio State, president of the Association of African and African American Folklorists from 1989 to 1997, and Associate Professor of Folklore and Director of the African American Studies Program at University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Roberts has published in the fields of folklore, literature, and African American Studies, especially the place of African American folklore in the history of American folklore scholarship. His important works on African American folklore include *From Trickster to Badman: The Black Folk Hero in Slavery and Freedom* and *From Hucklebuck to Hip-Hop: Social Dance in the African American Community in Philadelphia*. He is a Fellow of the AFS.

Concurrent Sessions (05)

Thursday, 2:00 pm–3:30 pm

NEA: Reinvesting in Folk and Traditional Arts

Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts

Thursday, 4:00 pm–4:30 pm

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

NEA Chair Mary Anne Carter joins us to make a special announcement about a new initiative in folk and traditional arts. Following Carter's remarks, NEA Folk and Traditional Arts staff will lead a Q&A about the new initiative.

Festival of Ideas: A Call to Action

Thursday, 4:30 pm–6:00 pm

This event will not be recorded

This year's Festival of Ideas: A Call to Action addresses the direct needs of our communities, both within and beyond the field of Folklore. In this two-hour virtual gathering we will explore seven topics, building on the compiled notes from the 2019 Festival of Ideas while supporting the mantle of the many community-driven responses to recent events.

Each breakout room will be convened by a facilitator who will support note-taking, time keeping, and guide participants between four 25-minute Zoom-room sessions (Session 1, 4:35-5:00; Session 2, 5:00-5:25; Session 3, 5:25-5:50; Session 4, 5:50-6:15).

Breakout Topics:

Applied Anti-Racism Practices and Policies (led by Chris Mulé)

Conflict Transformation: Folklore as the Beloved Community (led by Greg Adams)

Managing Collaborations Ethically & Effectively (led by Rory Turner)

Cultural Work in a Liberated and Decolonized Future (led by Karen "Queen Nur" Abdul Malik)

Folklore Education as a Multi-generational Practice in the Classroom and in Communities (Lamont Jack Pearley)

Public and Academic Folklore: How do We Collaborate? (led by John Fenn)

Rethinking and Recentring Mentorship: Lineage, Legacy, & History (led by Thomas Grant Richardson)

Story Circle: What Must Be Done Now – Folklife Festivals, Community Commitments, and Re-Envisioned Futures

Sponsored by the Smithsonian Folklife Festival

Thursday, 7:00 pm–7:45 pm

In the age of COVID-19, widespread demands for transformative social justice, and urgent calls for environmental sustainability, do folklife festivals matter? Can they help communities shape a largely ill-defined “new normal”? How are festival producers addressing immediate organizational challenges while safeguarding long-held commitments to the communities they serve? How are festival leaders using this moment to (re)envision the future of their work?

Go to the [Smithsonian Folklife Festival](#) to RSVP for a wide-ranging conversation about the impact of the “fierce urgency of now” on folklife festivals with **Maribel Alvarez**, Tucson Meet Yourself Program Director; **Kelli Faryar**, Northwest Folklife Executive Artistic Director; and **Amy Grossmann**, North Carolina Folk Festival President and CEO. **Sabrina Lynn Motley**, Smithsonian Folklife Festival Director, moderates.

Indiana University Alumni Reception

Sponsored by the Indiana University Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology

Thursday, 7:00 pm–8:30 pm

This event will not be recorded

Catch up with fellow alumni, former and current professors, and staff from the department. All are welcome!

Film Screening and Discussion: Saving Tomorrow’s History, Today: The Importance of Documenting Living Traditional Art

Thursday, 7:30 pm–8:45 pm

View "Saving Tomorrow’s History, Today: The Importance of Documenting a ‘Living’ Traditional Art," a 50-minute documentary tribute to the value of fieldwork with interviews with Old-Time and Appalachian musicians in the U.S., then discuss it with the filmmaker.

Session (03-02 rescheduled)

Thursday, 7:30 pm–9:00 pm

This event will not be recorded

Vocal Jam (Song Circle)

Sponsored by the Music and Song Section

Thursday, 9:00 pm–10:30 pm

This event will not be recorded

Come join the Music and Song Section for a song circle, singaround, or vocal jam. Bring your voice and a song or two to share, or just listen!

NDiF Karaoke Happy Hour

Sponsored by the New Directions in Folklore Section

Thursday, 9:00 pm–10:30 pm

This event will not be recorded

All are welcome.

Instrumental Jam

Sponsored by the Music and Song Section

Thursday, 9:00 pm–11:00 pm

This event will not be recorded

Come join the Music and Song Section for an instrumental jam! All skill levels are welcome. Bring your instruments, or just listen!

Cancelled: U.S. Presidential Debate Watch Party and Discussion

Sponsored by the Politics, the Folklore, the and Social Justice Section

Thursday, 9:00 pm–11:00 pm

This event will not be recorded

It was a nice idea, but the debate itself has been cancelled. We're leaving this note here for those of you who planned around this event.

Folklorists in the Kitchen

Thursday, 9:00 pm–10:30 pm

Since the US Presidential Debate was cancelled, let's use that time to gather in Zoom from the kitchen and feed our souls. You can cook a favorite recipe or just join for the conviviality. If you want to share recipes in advance, please post to the the AFS Facebook page, or bring a recipe to share with the gathering. We can swap food stories and toast to good health in a session focused on physical, professional, and emotional nourishment.

Concurrent Sessions (06)

Friday, 10:30 am–12:00 pm

Session (06-03 rescheduled)

Friday, 12:30 pm–1:30 pm

This event will not be recorded

A Conversation with Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett

Sponsored by the AFS Oral History Project, the Fellows of the American Folklore Society

Friday, 12:30 pm–2:00 pm

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

Continuing the ongoing AFS Oral History Project, we have invited Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett to reflect with us on her life and work. Dr. Kirshenblatt-Gimblett is University Professor Emerita and Professor Emerita of Performance Studies at New York University, and Chief Curator of the Core Exhibition at POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews. A former president of the American Folklore Society, Dr. Kirshenblatt-Gimblett has for decades charted new terrain for theory and practice in the fields of folklore, anthropology, food studies, museum studies, Jewish culture and history, world heritage and cultural economics, and human development

from childhood to old age. The recipient of many awards, including the Guggenheim Fellowship, grants from the ACLS, NEA, NEH, and Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, she has served on advisory boards of internationally renowned public and academic institutions, the editorial boards of many distinguished journals, and has authored pathbreaking books and articles engaging lively debates about the production of heritage, limits of multiculturalism, social efficacy of the arts, the circulation of value in the life world, and performing museologies. Her books include *Destination Culture: Tourism, Museums, and Heritage; Image before My Eyes: A Photographic History of Jewish Life in Poland, 1864–1939* (with Lucjan Dobroszycki); and *They Called Me Mayer July: Painted Memories of a Jewish Childhood in Poland Before the Holocaust* (with Mayer Kirshenblatt). She is a Fellow of the AFS.

Meet the Editors: Demystifying the Journal Publishing Process

Friday, 12:30 pm–2:00 pm

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

The editors of the *Journal of American Folklore*, *Journal of Folklore Research*, and *Western Folklore* are hosting this session to demystify the process of publishing in a folklore journal. Participants will have the opportunity to meet some of the editors working behind the scenes for an informal conversation. We will discuss the foci and missions of each journal, when to consider submitting, how to prepare a manuscript for submission, what happens after you submit, and what happens after acceptance. We invite students, junior scholars/professionals, and anyone who would benefit from learning about the process. We especially encourage colleagues of color and/or those working in anti-racist and decolonial areas of study to join in the discussion.

Concurrent Sessions (07)

Friday, 2:00 pm–3:30 pm

On Race and Racism: Breakout Sessions for Further Conversation following the Utley Panel

Sponsored by the AFS Cultural Diversity Committee

Friday, 4:00 pm–5:30 pm

This event will not be recorded

This is a participatory discussion of the ideas presented in the Utley plenary panel, sponsored and facilitated by the Cultural Diversity Committee. This is a participatory discussion of the ideas presented in the Utley plenary panel, sponsored and facilitated by the Cultural Diversity Committee. This session will not be recorded, so please join the live discussion to extend the conversation.

Phillips Barry Lecture

Sponsored by the Music and Song Section

Friday, 6:00 pm–7:30 pm

This event will not be recorded

Dom Flemons, a GRAMMY Award winner, two-time EMMY nominee, and 2019 WAMMIE Award winner, is originally from Phoenix, Arizona. In 2005, Flemons co-founded the GRAMMY award-winning group, the Carolina Chocolate Drops. He left the group to pursue his solo career in 2014. Today he is known as "The American Songster," since his repertoire of music covers over 100 years of American folklore, ballads, and tunes. Flemons is a music scholar, historian, and record collector, as well as a multi-instrumentalist who plays

banjo, guitar, harmonica, jug, percussion, quills, and rhythm bones. In 2018, Flemons released an album titled Dom Flemons Presents Black Cowboys on Smithsonian Folkways and received a GRAMMY Nomination for Best Folk Album at the 61st GRAMMY Awards. This recording is part of the African American Legacy Recordings series, co-produced with the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. For the Barry lecture, Flemons will be interviewed by Steve Winick about his career and his use of traditional music from archival sources. Steve is the editor at the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress and co-convenor of the Music and Song Section of the American Folklore Society, and has been helping Dom do research in the Library of Congress for over a decade.

African American Traditional Music Practitioners, History and The Black Experience

Sponsored by the AFS Cultural Diversity Committee, the African American Folklore Section

Friday, 7:30 pm–9:00 pm

This event will not be recorded

This panel combines performance with a discussion of the social context, daily life, and the Black experience of today's practitioners of Blues music. Following the panel, each panelist will perform their blues for the audience.

WKU Folk Studies Alumni Happy Hour

Sponsored by the Western Kentucky University Folk Studies Program

Friday, 9:00 pm–10:30 pm

This event will not be recorded

The Folk Studies Program at Western Kentucky University (WKU) invites all WKU Folk Studies alumni attending the AFS Annual Meeting to this Zoom Happy Hour. Keeping the tradition of our Annual Alumni Advisory Dinner alive in a modified form, we will socialize, share the latest updates and news from the program, and talk about building long term strategies that continue to keep our alumni network strong. Bring your own drinks! We look forward to seeing you there!

Mediterranean Studies Section Virtual Courtyard

Sponsored by the Mediterranean Studies Section

Friday, 9:00 pm–10:30 pm

This event will not be recorded

Members and friends of the Mediterranean Studies Section will meet in a virtual “courtyard” to reconnect and chat in a friendly and collegial gathering.

Instrumental Jam

Sponsored by the Music and Song Section

Friday, 9:00 pm–11:00 pm

This event will not be recorded

Come join the Music and Song Section for an instrumental jam! All skill levels are welcome. Bring your instruments, or just listen!

Vocal Jam (Song Circle)

Sponsored by the Music and Song Section

Friday, 9:00 pm–11:00 pm

This event will not be recorded

Come join the Music and Song Section for a song circle, singaround, or vocal jam. Bring your voice and a song or two to share, or just listen!

Concurrent Sessions (08)

Saturday, 10:30 am–12:00 pm

How to Get Involved in AFS

Saturday, 12:30 pm–2:00 pm

This event will not be recorded

Discuss ways you can get more involved in AFS, including committees, programs and activities, in this casual mentoring session with current AFS president Norma Cantú and Wanda Addison and Marilyn White, AFS presidential candidates (2022-23).

Virtual Round Table: Tea Time with Fellows

Sponsored by the Fellows of the American Folklore Society

Saturday, 12:30 pm–2:00 pm

This event will not be recorded

For pre-registered participants only. Senior folklorists will meet in small break-out groups with pre-registered students, talking about a designated topic, as well as students' questions and interests. The Fellows participating in this year's round table, and their topics, are:

Diana N'Diaye: Writing folklore as auto-ethnography

Regina Bendix: Where folklore has taken me, and where it might take you

Olivia Cadaval: Collaborative reciprocal strategies for doing research and fieldwork with and for community scholars

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett: What folklorists can offer to Museums

Audio Play and Talkback: ALT's Salt Water People

Sponsored by the American Lore Theater

Saturday, 12:30 pm–2:00 pm

American Lore Theater's mission is to "actively seek out and exhibiting programming in collaboration with a diverse range of American communities and tradition-bearers, and courageously repair, restore and remix unwritten stories drawn from the diverse and fantastic world of American folklore." In this session, you can listen to *Salt Water People*, an original play based on the real folklore of East Hampton's Bonacker fishermen, then participate in a discussion with the playwright/ALT executive director about the project.

Happy Hour: Chicana/o and Folklore Latino, Latinoamericano, y Caribeño Sections

Sponsored by the Chicano and Chicana Section, the Folklore Latino, the Latinoamericano, the y Caribeño Section

Saturday, 1:00 pm–2:00 pm

This event will not be recorded

The Chicana/o Folklore Section and Folklore Latino, Latinoamericano, and Caribeño Section invite you to join us in a Virtual Happy Hour to celebrate our shared accomplishments and our current and future projects. Although this year we will not be meeting in person, we still want to connect with you. Join us!

Concurrent Sessions (09)

Saturday, 2:00 pm–3:30 pm

AFS Business Meeting

Sponsored by the American Folklore Society

Saturday, 4:00 pm–5:00 pm

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

Executive Director's State of the Society Address 2021 Annual Meeting theme announcement Old business
New business

Presidential Invited Panel: Connecting Beyond the Binaries: Our Histories and Our Present

Sponsored by the American Folklore Society

Saturday, 5:30 pm–6:30 pm

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

This year's President's Plenary Panel engages us in a "plática," a chat, focusing on how the study and celebration of our traditions can heal and help us move forward. Our diverse cultural expressions and our rich cultural knowledge, in other words, our folklife, our traditions--be it in music, poetry, or material culture--are the key to solving problems facing our country, and indeed the world. We must recognize and honor them.

Music and Dance Social with Urban Artistry, Inc.

Sponsored by the American Folklore Society

Saturday, 7:00 pm–10:00 pm

This event will not be recorded

Breakout 1: Virtual Dance Party, led by Junious Brickhouse and friends

Join for a virtual dance party--you can dance in your living room or just listen and watch. Pandemic pods and families welcome.

Breakout 2: Conversation Hall--A Closing Reception for Conversation

Reception breakout rooms for conversation--enjoy the last minutes of networking at the AFS 2020 Annual Meeting!

Open Mic Night

Sponsored by the Creative Writing and Storytelling Section

Saturday, 7:30 pm–9:00 pm

This event will not be recorded

Come share your own creative writing and storytelling at our Open Mic Night! We invite meeting attendees to come share poems, stories, essays, and other works of artistic verbal communication. Please bring up to six-minutes' worth of material and your love of language.

Vocal Jam (Song Circle)

Sponsored by the Music and Song Section

Saturday, 9:00 pm–11:00 pm

This event will not be recorded

Come join the Music and Song Section for a song circle, singaround, or vocal jam. Bring your voice and a song or two to share, or just listen!

Instrumental Jam

Sponsored by the Music and Song Section

Saturday, 9:00 pm–11:00 pm

This event will not be recorded

Come join the Music and Song Section for an instrumental jam! All skill levels are welcome. Bring your instruments, or just listen!