

# Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association

## FY2022 Highlights [Draft]

### (July 2021 – June 2022)

#### 1. New CSHSA Board Member FY2022

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

- a. **Melissa Bednar** -Melissa Bednar is the granddaughter of founding Carl Sandburg Association board member, Juanita Bednar, who was instrumental in the restoration and period furnishing of the Sandburg Birthplace Cottage in the mid-1940s. Melissa is the daughter of former CSHSA board member & president, Chuck Bednar. While Melissa was raised in Oak Park, Illinois, the city of Galesburg, Carl Sandburg and the Historic Site have been an important part of her life. We are pleased she has made Galesburg her home now and delighted to have Melissa and her family legacy join us on the CSHSA board.

2. **COVID-protocol Site restrictions have been relaxed** as of March 2022. The number of visitors has gradually increased at the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site as people begin to feel more comfortable traveling. Our Museum Store sales reflect the increase in visitors at the site.

#### 3. Board Meetings Conducted via Zoom (July 2021 - Mar 2022)

From June 2020 through February 2022 the CSHSA Board met monthly via Zoom Meeting software. We thank Emily DuGranrut who served as our Zoom meeting host on our CSHSA Zoom account. In-person meetings of the board began anew in March 2022. While we continue to have issues with COVID exposures, we are grateful to be able to return to live meetings at the site.

#### 4. CSHSA Endowment Balance - June 30, 2022. Total \$33,561.96

Our fiscal year-end total on June 30, 2022, reflected the downturn in the world economy with a decrease of \$4,949.25 this past fiscal year. One year ago, the total was \$38,791.16. There was one principal donation totaling \$300 deposited into the endowment during FY2022. Our Endowment funds with the Galesburg Community Foundation showed an estimated **-13.5% return on investment in FY2022** compared to the +28.7% return enjoyed in FY2021! Our current **Spendable Balance: \$6,969.55**.

#### 5. Galesburg Community Foundation Grant 2022 – \$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 389 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.

Over the course of the year, Rick Sayre & Mike Hobbs worked closely with Barbara Schock to select 145 articles within 10 chapters, along with 143 images to illustrate most of the articles. While there are still a few permissions to secure for a few of the images we hope to use, the manuscript was submitted to our local Knox College layout artist, Ami Jontz, in May 2022. We are anxious to see what Ami does with the manuscript we

have provided. Indexing will be done by Knox College librarian, Laurie Sauer. We anticipate a publication date in late 2022. Many thanks to Mike Hobbs who also contributed \$1,000 towards the project.

**6. Hometown Hundreds – F&M Bank – “Luck of the draw” - \$200 received in FY2022**

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 in Jan & May 2022. Since participating in the Hometown Hundreds drawings in 2018, CSHSA has been selected 10 times for a total of \$2,000 in awards over the past five years. We are looking forward to submitting our entries when we are next eligible in late November 2022!

**7. Sandburg Songbag Concerts sidelined by COVID19 through 2021 begins anew in March 2022. Concert performers have been recruited for the remainder of 2022!**

Due to protocols necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, there were no Sandburg Songbag Concerts scheduled during the first 8 months of FY2022 (July 2021-February 2022). However, beginning in early 2022 Songbag Concert coordinator **Erin Glasnovich** began recruiting and scheduling performers who started in March 2022 with performers scheduled through November 2022. The Second Sunday Sandburg Concerts begin at 2pm.

**[Sandburg Songbag Concerts 2022](#)**

- Sun., March 13, 2022 – Glory Days Garage Band
- Sat., April 9, 2022 -- Open Mic Sandburg Songbag Edition, at the Box
- Sun, May 8, 2022 – John Heasley & Jerry Schroeder
- Sun, June 12, 2022 – Marc Jansson
- Sun, July 10, 2022 – Angela Meyer
- Sun, Aug 14, 2022 – David G. Smith
- Sun, Sep 11, 2022 – Ken Waldman
- Sun, Oct 9, 2022 – Dance Hall Doves
- Sun Nov 13, 2022 – Charlie Hayes

**8. CSHSA pledges to help build a new public library building for Galesburg.**

This Spring 2022 CSHSA Board voted to pledge \$5,000 over five years towards the construction of a new public library on East Main Street in Galesburg! Our first annual payment of \$1,000 was submitted this past May 2022. Galesburg’s new public library’s Children’s Collection will have a Rootabaga Stories design theme. We’d like to think Carl Sandburg would be pleased!

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

The Board has donated \$500 to Carl Sandburg College student scholarship fund to be awarded to a deserving student for the 2022-2023 academic year. The CSC Financial Aid staff will identify and award a student who would benefit from our scholarship assistance.

## 10. ACQUISITION OF ADJOINING PROPERTY AT 345 E. THIRD ST!

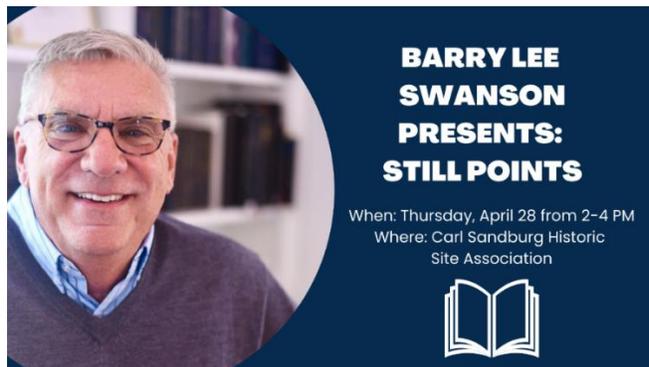
The most exciting development we are now able to share with our membership is the CSHSA board's recent acquisition of the adjoining property to the east of the Birthplace Cottage. The property became available following the demolition of the rental home on the property that had suffered a fire making it uninhabitable. The property owner chose to demolish the property and has sold it to the Association for approximately \$5,000. As of mid-July 2022, we are finalizing the acquisition and are planning to transfer ownership to the city of Galesburg to provide off-road parking for our guests. A huge thank you for the efforts of President Pat Kane & Vice-President Don Moffitt for their perseverance on this opportunity. The Board will also be covering the cost of replacing the wooden fence that once separated the two properties.

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

Our Education Committee had engaged the assistance of two workshop leaders for this event intended for area educators: Dr. Kevin Roberts, Monmouth College and Illinois musician, Chris Vallillo. Both have agreed to provide their services whenever it is reasonable to reschedule the event.

## 12. A Successful Book Signing and Program with Barry Swanson.

Former President of CSHSA, Barry Swanson, returned to Galesburg, Thursday, April 28, 2022, 2-4pm for a book signing event at the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site sponsored by CSHSA. Barry's book, **Still Points**, has recently been published. We counted **37 visitors** to the Site during the event. Fourteen of his books (6 hardcover & 8 paperback) were sold. The Museum Store still has a few more copies of **Still Points** in hardcover (\$29.95) & paperback (\$18.95) for sale.



## 13. SCHEDULED EVENTS CANCELED due to COVID-19 limitations

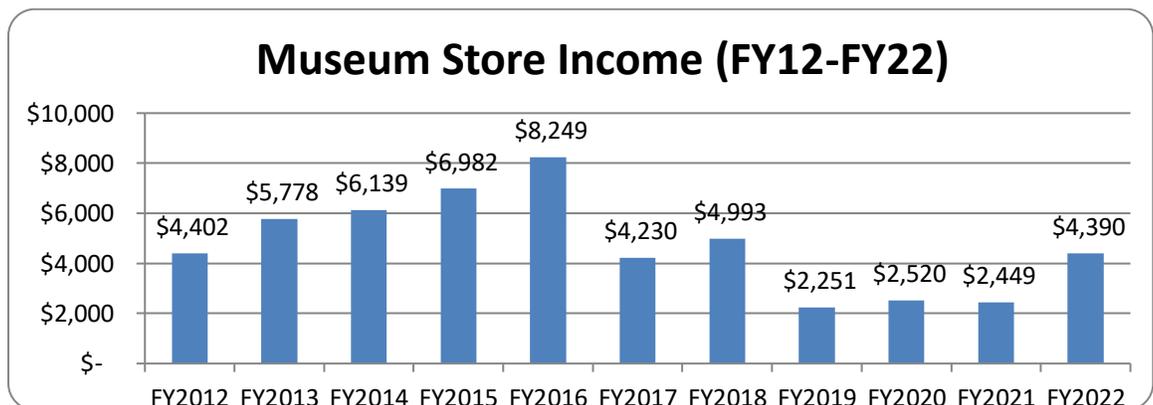
- a. **July 2021 – February 2022 – Second Sunday Sandburg Songbag Concerts**
- b. **Annual Penny Parade Fund Raiser** with students representing area public schools. A tradition started in 1961, the annual Penny Parade sponsored by the Association within the area public schools. We plan to continue our Penny Parade Fund Raiser in April 2023.

#### 14. Museum Store Sales FY2022

- a. The relaxation of COVID protocol precautions have resulted in an increase in visitors to the Site and an 80% increase in Museum Store Sales with **\$4,390 in FY2022**.
- b. 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. We continue to seek out-of-print copies of the 1950 & 1970 edition along with many other out-of-print titles that are now on sale in the Museum Store.
- c. **Tote Bags Added.** In August 2021, for the first time, we have added Tote Bags to our Museum Store merchandise items. Sixty new tote bags using two designs (30 each) have been designed, ordered & received from Harmony Designs (PA).
  - i. **Tote Bag #1** uses the watercolor painting of the Sandburg birthplace cottage on display in the Visitors Center by Sandra MacArthur.
  - ii. **Tote Bag #n 2** uses the image of Dusty Scott's *Reflection* (acrylic) with Sandburg and his birthplace cottage.



- d. Also, in June 2022, we reprinted 500 Sandburg Birthplace Cottage watercolor notecards by artist, Sandra MacArthur, for sale in the Museum Store.



**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 2022](#)
- [Spring 2022](#)
- [Winter 2021-2022](#)
- [Fall 2021](#)

**16. Maintenance & Repair**

- a. **Site repairs identified by IDNR staff** have been requested and some of these recently been scheduled. Much-needed repairs have recently been made to the Visitors Center entrance.
- b. **Trees designated for removal have been identified by IDNR conservation staff.** It is anticipated that the trees will be removed in the upcoming months and that these trees will be replaced.

**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 FY2022**

**Memberships 2022 Received** – (Jan 1-June 30, 2022) **82 memberships & \$5,640 in dues received in the first six months of 2022 including 13 new members.** Our Jan-Dec 2021 totals of 113 members and \$7,025 were both membership highs for the past decade. Many of the 34 new memberships that we received in 2021 were from Facebook’s Giving Tuesday online donations and we anticipate many of those may be limited to one-time donations. We may not total the record amount of 113 members that we received in 2021, however based on Paypal recurring membership payments scheduled through the end of 2022, we have a very good chance of exceeding the \$7,025 membership dues total received in 2021. 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.

<b>CSHSA MEMBERSHIPS (as of June 30, 2022)</b>								
Total \$\$		\$ 2,790	\$3,150	\$ 3,665	\$3,930	\$ 4,500	<b>\$7,025</b>	<b>\$5,640</b>
CSHSA Memberships		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Gift</b>	\$ 10			9			3	3
<b>Senior</b>	\$ 10	21	24	29	24	31	31	18
<b>Individual</b>	\$ 20	20	16	17	18	22	27	14
<b>Family</b>	\$ 40	17	13	9	12	11	16	24
<b>Donor</b>	\$ 100	10	12	15	16	20	26	14
<b>Sponsor</b>	\$ 250	2	3	4	3	5	7	6
<b>Patron</b>	\$ 500				1	1*		
<b>Benefactor</b>	\$ 1,000				1*	**	3*	1
*1) Mark & Celia Godsil Family Fund Songbag grant funds not included in Membership Dues received, yet included as Patron & Benefactor Membership 2019-2021. 2) Donor member Mike Hobbs’ additional \$1,000 matching donation towards the GCF Turnout Grant 2021 qualifies as Benefactor in 2021 Membership Year. Grant-related funds are not included in Membership Totals. **Barbara Schock \$5,000 donation - Outdoor Lighting Proj FY2021 also not included above.								

19. [CSHSA Website / Facebook](#) – FY2022

- a. The 389th *Sandburg's Hometown* article was posted June 30, 2022! Twenty-eight (28) Sandburg's Hometown articles written by **Barbara Schock** were added to our website July 2021 – June 2022 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 30, 2022: **389 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 2022, Bryan published a daily Sandburg poems from "Slabs of the Sunburnt West" upon its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of its publication. These Facebook posts and those shared on the Remember in Galesburg When Facebook group page were well received!

20. **Continuing Support from Master Gardeners!** We are extremely grateful for the dedication of our local chapter of the University of Illinois Master Gardeners who work the Site AND are CSHSA members...Jamie Yemm, Sylvianne Stites, Gail Coffman, and Pat Kane. We also supported their work with a \$250 donation for materials to be used at the Site.

21. **Email Information Requests** – Current and past Board members assistance with research questions from email and phone queries has continued in FY2022. In recent years Board members and our Site IDNR staff have actively assisted with answering email queries with Sandburg-related questions. Some of these questions are related to authors in the process of writing and publishing books on Sandburg:

- a. **Dr. Lawrence Webb**, Anderson, South Carolina, retired professor of journalism at Anderson College (SC), has recently published his book: *Carl Sandburg: Poet, Politician & Prophet* (1922).
- b. **Dr. John Quinley**, Hendersonville, North Carolina, a retired history professor and long-time docent at the Carl Sandburg National Historic Site in Flat Rock, NC, will be publishing his biography later this summer or early fall.
- c. And, finally, former UN Ambassador from Sweden, **Pierre Schori**, is hoping to publish his own book on Sandburg in the near future.

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.

22. **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.

23. Link to [FY2022 Annual Statistical & Financial Reports on Dropbox](#)

Respectfully submitted,  
Rick Sayre  
Board of Directors (Treasurer)  
August 9, 2022