

Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association

FY2024 Highlights

(July 2023 – June 2024)

- 1. We were delighted to welcome our new board member, Cianja Bone,** originally from Colorado, has recently graduated from Knox College with a degree in Creative Writing and Philosophy. Cianja has been working with the Orpheum Theatre and currently serves as Marketing and Development Manager for the Orpheum Theatre.
- 2. We also wished our IDNR Site Services Specialist II, Bryan Engelbrecht, a fond farewell, as he accepted a new position as Customer Services Specialist with the Krannert Art Center in Champaign, Illinois.** Bryan has served as Site Services Specialist II at the Carl Sandburg & Bishop Hill State Historic Site since 2017. His last day was October 31, 2023.
- 3. Scott Roman, our Historic Site's IDNR Site Superintendent** is responsible most directly with the Blackhawk State Historic Site in the Quad Cities area. In his role as Site Superintendent, he has been overseeing six IDNR historic sites for the state, including Bishop Hill State Historic Site. Scott has been serving in an ex-officio capacity on our board. His 26 years of experience with Illinois state historic sites has been invaluable.
- 4. Visit from Illinois State Senator Mike Halpin in February 2024.** Prior to the February meeting Illinois State Senator Mike Halpin joined the Directors for a visit to the Site. After giving Halpin a tour of the Site, President Pat Kane led a discussion/presentation highlighting some of the activities of the Association. In our May 2024 meeting Vice-President Don Moffitt announced that Senator Halpin's office had requested a list of needed capital improvements at the Site along with estimated costs. President Pat Kane provided the requested list and we are hopeful that we may see some much-needed state funding directed to the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site in the near future.
- 5. CSHSA Memberships vs. Donations Received by Tax Year.** Since the distinction between the funds that we receive from Memberships & those one-time donations received is sometimes a bit unclear, I thought it might be helpful to show both types of donations we have received since Tax Year 2021 in the following table:

CSHSA Membership Receipts & Other Donations Received from Members & Nonmembers by Tax Year 2021-2024				
Tax Year (Jan-Dec)	Total Memberships Received	TOTAL Memberships & Donations	Membership Funds Recd	Add'l TxYr Donations Recd
2021	113	\$ 10,250.00	\$ 7,025.00	\$ 3,225.00
2022	94	\$ 8,829.61	\$ 7,809.61	\$ 1,020.00
2023	92	\$ 11,849.12	\$ 6,530.00	\$ 5,319.12
2024 (Jan-Jun)	49	\$ 10,959.89	\$ 2,610.00	\$ 8,349.89

6. **CSHSA Endowment Balance - June 30, 2024. Total \$42,447.16.** Our fiscal year-end total on June 30, 2024, reflected an increase in value 5,172.69 this past fiscal year. We received designated donations totaling \$800 to the endowment during FY2024. Our Endowment funds with the Galesburg Community Foundation showed an estimated **+11.7% return on investment in FY2024!** Our current **Spendable Balance: \$10, 149.06.**

7. **Barbara Schock's *Sandburg Hometown: A Selected Anthology* published March 2024!**

In May 2021 CSHSA submitted a successful GCF Turnout 2021 Grant proposal for funds to support the publication of a selected anthology of Barbara Schock's "Sandburg's Hometown" original 401 articles published 2013-2022. We hoped that a print edition would 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 past three years, Rick Sayre & the late Mike Hobbs worked closely with Barbara Schock to select 145 articles within 10 chapters, along with 143 images to illustrate most of the articles. We are grateful to our layout artist, Ami Jontz (Knox College), has patiently worked with us through several revisions. Knox College librarian, Laurie Sauer, created the index for our book. Printing was contracted to Lightning Press from New Jersey. Three hundred copies were printed.

Forty-five (45) of the 300 copies of *Sandburg's Hometown* were distributed to 34 schools and libraries in Galesburg, Monmouth & Knox County by Andrew Chernin and Rick Sayre. A letter signed by President Pat Kane was included for each of these institutions.

8. ***Sandburg's Hometown's* April 27, 2024 Book Signing Event at the Site was a success.**

On Saturday, April 27, 1-3pm, we had a steady stream of visitors for the *Sandburg's Hometown* Book Signing for Barbara Schock, author, and Rick Sayre, editor. Thank you to all the board members who were able to join us! We had 29 visitors and sold 16 copies of *Sandburg's Hometown* in the two-hour period.

Sandburg's Hometown & our Book Signing event were further promoted by a radio interview with Barbara and Rick with WGIL-News arranged by Jay Redfern & conducted by Will Stevenson on Thursday, April 25, 2024 between 8-9am. **Listen Online:** [New book features essays on Galesburg, Carl Sandburg – WGIL 93.7 FM – 1400 AM](#)

9. **Local Business Contributions in 2024**

a. **Sandburg Sangria – Hidden Hills Vineyard and Winery donation to CSHSA.**

In June 2024 CSHSA received its second generous donation of \$847 from a newly crafted Sangria named for the Carl Sandburg Birthplace with \$1 for each bottle sold to be contributed to CSHSA. We thank the Hidden Hills Vineyards & Winery for their continuing support for the site through their Sandburg Sangria sales!

b. **Hometown Hundreds – F&M Bank – \$200 received in FY2024 drawings.**

We thank our local F&M Bank's support for local nonprofit organizations through their Hometown Hundreds program. The Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association has received two \$100 awards in the weekly drawings in the past year. Since participating in the Hometown Hundreds drawings in 2018, CSHSA has been selected 14 times for a total of \$1,400 in awards over the past seven years.

10. Tuscarora Club of Galesburg Presentation, April 2024. President Pat Kane made a presentation on Carl Sandburg and the Association to appreciative members of the Tuscarora Club of Galesburg in April 2024.

11. Bradley University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute group visit Site, June 6th 2024. Board Members joined Tommy Wallenfeldt to welcome a group of 20+ "students" participating in Bradley University's OLLI course on Carl Sandburg. Illinois folk musician Barry Cloyd was persuaded to entertain the group in the Barn, as well!

12. 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 continue to support the Master Gardeners annually with a donation of \$300 for landscaping supplies.

13. Sandburg Songbag Concerts FY2024.

Songbag Concert coordinator **Erin Glasnovich** and her Songbag Committee recruited and scheduled a wonderful variety of performers through FY2024 beginning July 2023 through June 2024. The Second Sunday Sandburg Concerts begin at 2pm. The Songbag Concerts have once again been generously supported by a \$1,200 grant from the Mark & Celia Godsil Family Fund of the Galesburg Community Foundation.

Sandburg Songbag Concerts FY2024

- Sun, July 9, 2023 – Carol Jean & Jera, Galesburg, IL
- Sun, Aug 13, 2023 – Devin & Scott E., Galesburg, IL
- Sun, Sept 10, 2023 – Tom Irwin, Springfield, IL
- Sun, Oct 8, 2023 – Mark Dvorak, Brookfield, IL
- Sun, Mar 10, 2024 – Bell & Field, Kewanee, IL
- Sun, Apr 14, 2024 – Cactus Lee, Austin, TX
- Sun, May 12, 2024 – Carrie Sue & the Wood Burners, Urbana, IL
- Sun, June 9, 2024 – Sarah & the Underground, Peoria, IL

Sandburg Songbag Concerts FY2025 Scheduled

- Sun, July 14, 2024 – King Neptune, Macomb, IL
- Sun, Aug 11, 2024 – Sunshine Regiacorte & Casey Foubert, Galesburg, IL
- Sun, Sept 8, 2024 – Carol Jean & Jera, Galesburg, IL
- Sun, Oct 13, 2024 – Lojo Russo, Quad Cities, IA
- Sun, Nov 10, 2024 – TBA

14. CSHSA continues its pledge to support the construction of Galesburg's new public library building.

CSHSA Board has now donated \$3,000 of its pledged \$5,000 over five years towards the construction of the new public library on East Main Street in Galesburg! And it is grand! Members of the Board attended the festive April 11, 2024, donors' reception prior to the official opening on May 11, 2024! We are honored to be a small part of this wonderful new public library in our community!

15. Kailey Villanueva awarded CSHSA's Annual Sandburg Prize Scholarship for the 2023-2024 Academic Year at Carl Sandburg College.

Villanueva is a freshman from Monmouth studying to be a journalist at Carl Sandburg College. She earned a spot on the Dean's List this past Spring 2024 semester. The CSHSA Board has sponsored a \$500 scholarship to the Carl Sandburg College student scholarship fund to be awarded to a deserving student. The CSC Financial Aid staff identifies and awards a student who would benefit from our annual scholarship.

16. CSHSA Acquisition of Adjoining Property at 345 E. THIRD ST!

In July 2023 the CSHSA board completed the acquisition of the adjoining property to the east of the Birthplace Cottage. Discussions as to the future use of the property are still ongoing. We have applied for and received a property tax exemption for the property beginning with 2023 property taxes that would have been paid in 2024.

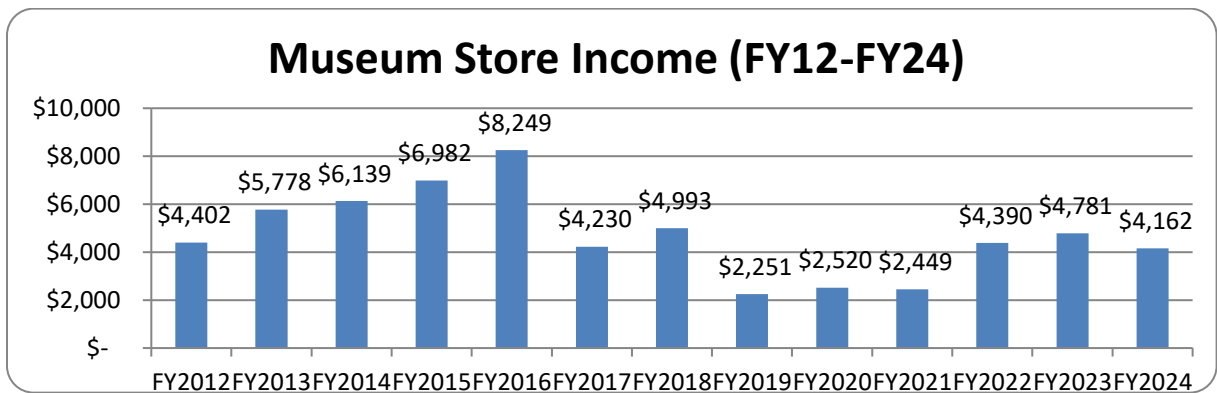
17. [Inklings & Idlings – Spring 2024](#) – We have managed to publish one issue of *Inklings & Idlings* in this fiscal year through the combined efforts of Cianja Bone, Rex Cherrington and Rick Sayre. Many thanks to Rex Cherrington & John Quinley for the main articles.

18. [CSHSA Website](#) / [Facebook](#) – FY2024

- a. We are very pleased that retired historian, Dr. John Quinley of Hendersonville, North Carolina, has been providing monthly articles on Sandburg exclusively for our website under the series title of ***Letters from a Sandburg Docent***. **John Quinley** is the author of *Discovering Carl Sandburg: The Eclectic Life of an American Icon* and is a former docent at the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site in Flat Rock, North Carolina.
- b. We greatly appreciate the additional assistance and contributions of our State Historic Site's IDNR staff member, **Tommy Wallenfeldt**, as an administrator on our CSHSA Facebook page! These CSHSA Facebook posts and the posts shared on the *Remember in Galesburg When* Facebook group page were well received!

19. Museum Store Sales FY2024 / IDNR Vendor agreement update

- a. **Museum Store Sales & Expenses FY2024.** We saw a 13% decrease in FY2024 sales (\$4,162) vs. FY2023 (\$4,781). We also showed a net loss of -\$226 for our FY2024 Museum Store operations vs FY2023 (+\$1,689). Museum Store Expenses were higher in FY2024 (\$4,387) vs FY2023 (\$3,089). We can likely attribute the decrease in sales to increasingly inconsistent hours of operation for the Site due to the lack of staffing. With the resignation of full-time IDNR staff member, Bryan Engelbrecht, on October 31, 2023, the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site was left with only one part-time staff member, Tommy Wallenfeldt, and no back-up staff. As a result, the Site has had to close more often than in recent years due to reduction of staff.
- b. **Out-of-Print Offerings.** We continue to seek out-of-print copies of the many published books by and about Carl Sandburg. Tommy Wallenfeldt has reported many Sandburg fans who are impressed and pleased to find the number of out-of-print titles that are now on sale in the Museum Store.
- c. **IDNR Vendor Agreement.** Since the move of Illinois State Historic Sites to a new division of State Museums within IDNR there have been no further discussions on a Vendor Agreement to comply with the state regulations for the other IDNR sites that maintain a museum store or concessions operations. We expect there will be many issues to be worked through with the new division, including the question of concession agreements for small voluntary operations like ours.



20. Museum Store transitions from Elavon to Square!

In January 2024 we replaced our long-time Elavon credit card processing agreement with Square due to the rising cost of Elavon's monthly fees. We can report that in the first six months of 2024, following our implementation of Square, our total Square fees for 51 credit card transactions were \$46.67 vs. \$422.50 in the same 6-month period in 2023 with Elavon.

CSHSA Credit Card Fees Comparison		
Company	Elavon	Square
Year	2023	2024
Months	Jan-June	Jan-June
No of CC Transactions	36	51
Total Credit Card Sales	\$ 2,053.38	\$1,588.23
Total Credit Card Fees	422.50	\$ 46.67

The Square Terminal is a very versatile mobile wifi device and account updates and transactions can even be completed from my laptop. Transactions are immediately emailed to our sales@sandburg.org account and the funds are deposited at the end of each day to our checking account. All of our items have been added to the Square database with pricing (for new items), images, and number of items in stock allowing for a real-time inventory. An online store option is automatically created for us to freely try out when we're ready. In the meantime, we can create individual item payment links for online purchases.

In our Square account new or unique items can be added on the fly by the operator. It also allows us to use the terminal for cash transactions at no charge! Sometime in the future we hope to implement an option for Membership Payments via Square.

21. In Grateful Appreciation of the enduring efforts of our IDNR Site Interpretive Coordinator, **Tommy Wallenfeldt**, for his efforts to staff the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site, as well as our Site Superintendent, **Scott Roman**. We appreciate both of these Illinois state employees' steadfast dedication and commitment to the site during challenging times.

22. Link to [FY2024 Annual Statistical & Financial Reports on Dropbox](#)

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Sayre - CSHSATreasurer & Board Member (DRAFT 9/9/2024)