2026 Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society

Schedule at a Glance

THIS IS A WORK IN PROGRESS

Contents Are Subject to Change Due to Cancellations, Additions, Event Changes

- 9/18 AFS staff are currently updating schedule information on the Detailed Schedule first; confirm day/time there or on the Conference Platform
- Because some events are still in planning stages, this document is not as complete as the Conference Platform, and won't be updated as quickly. For a fully updated program and updates in real time, use the Conference Platform

Last updated: 10/16/26 2:30 pm EST

Navigate more easily by clicking on the outline icon at the top left of the screen to "Show tabs and outlines," which displays the document outline in a sidebar.

To read abstracts, go to the Conference Platform or open the relevant google doc below and search for the presenter or title.

See also:

- Conference Platform
- Detailed Schedule (google doc)
- Abstracts of Pre-organized Sessions and Events (google doc)
- Abstracts of Individual Presentations (google doc)

On-Demand Presentations

Posters and pre-recorded presentations will be available for asynchronous access throughout the meeting and through the end of November in the On-Demand Media Library on the Conference Platform. The complete list of on-demand content appears at the Detailed Schedule.

Tuesday, 27 October 2026

Time	Location	Session Name
Daytime		
8:00–3:00	Center for Craft	Executive Board Meeting (Closed Meeting)
9:00–5:00	Grand Ballroom C (Book Room)	Exhibit Hall (load-in)

Evening		
5:00–5:30	Grand Ballrooms A and B	Opening Ceremony
5:30–6:30	Pre-function Corridor	Opening Reception Music provided by Warren Wilson College Student Ensembles
6:30–7:30	Grand Ballrooms A and B	Surviving the Storms: Helene, Western NC, and the Ethnography of Survival
8:00–9:00	Grand Ballrooms A and B	Time of Remembrance

Wednesday, 28 October 2026

Time	Location	Session Name
8:00–10:00 am/12:00 pm		
8:00–10:00		
	Berkeley	Ancestry, Ethnography, Experience, and Transmission
	Grand Ballroom A	Folklore in the Public Square: Session I
	Grand Ballroom B	Folklorists as Memoir Writers: Aches, Pains, Ethical Dilemmas and Fresh Strategies as Folklorists Retell Their Own Stories
	Victoria	Organizing Culture and Counterculture through Music
	Swannanoa	The Mundane and the Unexplainable
	Windsor Ballroom A	Narratives of Imagination and Transformation
	Windsor Ballroom B	Confronting Gendered Expectations
8:30–10:00 am, Multiple time slots		
8:30–10:00		
	Alexander	Belief, Religion, and Ritual
	Cherokee	Foodways in the Construction of Heritage: Part I
	Top of The Plaza	From Manuscript to Monograph: Understanding the Academic Book Publishing Lifecycle
9:00–10:30		
	Center for Craft 67 Broadway St, Asheville	Hands-On Learning in the College Classroom: Creativity and Care through Collaborative Teaching
	Center for Craft, Rm. 2 67 Broadway St, Asheville	Textiles Across Contexts: Gender, Knowledge, and Cultural Persistence
10:30 am–12:00 pm, Multiple time slots		

10:30–12:00		
	Cherokee	Chinese Literature: 'classic' and contemporary forms
	Berkeley	Country Music: History and Adaptation
	Grand Ballroom B	Echoes of Enchantment: Folklore, Landscape, and Material Culture in Southern Appalachia
	Windsor Ballroom A	Foodways in the Construction of Heritage: Part II
	Top of the Plaza	Living Traditions: Exploring Community Persistence Through a Multimedia Journalism Project About Folklife in Central Appalachia
	Victoria	Music, Song, and Place I: Sense of Place across Space and Time
	Alexander	Persistence through Learning: Folklore Archives and Library Instruction
	Swannanoa	Fairy Tales, Fandom, and Folk Narrative
	Windsor Ballroom B	To Protect and Defend: Complicating Strategies of Safety in Community Persistence
10:30–12:10		
	Grand Ballroom A	Folklore in the Public Square: Session II

Midday, Multiple time slots

11:00–12:00		
	Center for Craft 67 Broadway St, Asheville	Special Conversation with the African American Craft Alliance and John C. Campbell Folk School
12:15–1:15		
	Top of The Plaza	First-Time Attendees Networking and AFS-info Session
	Grand Ballroom B	Fellows Business Meeting
	Alexander	Let's Talk: Brown-Bag Lunch with the JAF Collective
	Oakland Heights	Dance and Movement Analysis Section Business Meeting
	Grand Ballroom A	Folk Belief and Religious Folklife Section Business Meeting
	Windsor Ballroom A	Folklore and Education Section Business Meeting
	Victoria	Folklore Latino Section Business Meeting

	Paparazzi	Independents Section Networking
	Private Dining Room	Medieval and Early Modern Section Business Meeting
	Swannanoa	Mediterranean Section Business Meeting
	Windsor Ballroom B	Public Programs Section Business Meeting
	Cherokee	Transnational Asia/Pacific Section Business Meeting
	Berkeley	UNC Info Session

1:30–3:00/3:30/6:00 pm, Multiple time slots

1:30–2:30		
	Center for Craft 67 Broadway St, Asheville	Identity and Popular Culture
1:30–3:00		
	Swannanoa	Belief and Negotiation
	Berkeley	[Book Discussion] Authors Meet Critics: Ann K. Ferrell and Diane E. Goldstein's The Soul of a Folklorist: Historical Moments, Political Representation, and the Weight of Social Responsibility
	Grand Ballroom A	Care as Community Persistence: Healing and Repair in Ethnographic Fieldwork—Part I
	Top of The Plaza	Comics-Based Research and Ethnographic Cartooning
	Windsor Ballroom B	Traditions of Resilience and Resistance
	Cherokee	Eat, Drink, and Be Merry: Adapting, Reinterpreting, and Diasporic Foodways
	Victoria	Music, Song, and Place II: Place-Making, Community, and Shared Identity
1:30–3:30		
	Alexander	Culture, Land, and Literacy
	Grand Ballroom B	Vanishing Histories: "Archives of Survival"
	Windsor Ballroom A	Walking Together: Lessons from a National Traditional Arts Funding Program

2:45–6:30 pm, Multiple time slots		
2:45–3:45		
	Center for Craft 67 Broadway St, Asheville	Craft and Economics
3:30–6:30		
	Offsite location, transportation necessary	Folklore and Museums Section Visit to The Folk Art Center & Happy Hour
4:00–5:00		
	Center for Craft 67 Broadway St, Asheville	Center for Craft Sponsored Book Launch Event
4:00–5:30		
	Berkeley	A Folkwise Project Retrospective
	Grand Ballroom A	Care as Community Persistence: Healing and Repair in Ethnographic Fieldwork—Part II
	Windsor Ballroom B	Frames of Blackness: A Painting, A Challenge, and the Exposures of the Outsider's Gaze
	Alexander	Moral Economies, Markets, and Community Persistence
	Cherokee	From Natural Disruption to Nurturing Communities: Legacies of Medieval Floods and Early Modern Foodways
	Victoria	Negotiating Gender
	Windsor Ballroom A	Rehearsing with Care: Embodied Transmission and What Dance Produces
	Swannanoa	Tradition and Its Uses: Religion, Pop Culture, and Cultural Authority in Contemporary South Korea
4:00–6:00		
	Grand Ballroom B	Archival Futures: Community Persistence and Primary Sources
Evening, Multiple time slots		

Wednesday: AFS26 Schedule at a Glance

5:30–8:30		Marshall, NC: Ballad Swap at the Old Marshall Jail, excursion. *Shuttles will leave the hotel at 4:00 for those wishing to explore Marshall and at 5:30 for those going straight to the ballad swap.*
5:00–6:00	Center for Craft 67 Broadway St, Asheville	Community Persistence: Reckoning with Change, Imagining Futures
6:00–7:00	Pre-function Corridor	Leonard Norman Primiano Reception
6:00–8:00	Top of The Plaza	CDC Chardi Kala Radical Optimism
7:00–8:30	Grand Ballroom A	Don Yoder Lecture in Folk Belief and Religious Folklife *This keynote is cancelled following Joseph Sciorra's sudden passing and will be replaced with tribute remarks by his colleagues. We deeply appreciate your understanding as we honor his memory.*
7:00–9:00	Berkeley	Dancing Together: Embodiment, Learning, and Community
8:30–9:30	Cherokee	Mid-Atlantic Folklife Section Business Meeting
8:30–9:30	Alexander	Women's Section Business Meeting
9:00–10:30		
	Grand Ballroom B	Joint Reception Between Penn State, USU, and UNC
	Windsor Ballroom B	Ohio State University Reception
	Top of The Plaza	Indiana University Reception
9:00–11:59		
	Swannanoa	Song Circle (Vocal Jam)
	Victoria	Instrumental Jam

Thursday, 29 October 2026

Time	Location	Session Name
7:15–8:30	Top of The Plaza	Breakfast with A Fellow
8:00–10:00 am		
	Grand Ballroom A	Arts, Culture, Politics, and Folklore Studies: Sessions In Honor Of Bill Ivey I
	Grand Ballroom B	Inaugural Lectures by New Associate Professors
	Windsor Ballroom A	Incorporating Folklore Techniques in the Classroom
	Cherokee	More Than Material: Objects and Meaning
	Victoria	Performing Identity
	Windsor Ballroom B	Vernacular Authority
	Alexander	Where Place, Belief, and Ritual Converge: Making Meaning Amid Global Disruption
8:30–10:30 am, Multiple time slots		
8:30–10:00	Swannanoa	Documenting Occupational Folklife During a Public Health Crisis: the COVID-19 American History Project
8:30–10:00	Berkeley	Placemaking, Tradition, and Community Persistence
9:00–10:30	Center for Craft 67 Broadway St, Asheville	Place and Memory
10:30–12:00 am		
	Victoria	Archival Dialogues: Intimate Persistence, Gestural Futures, and Sonic Liberation
	Cherokee	Belief and Challenging Continuity
	Top of The Plaza	“But What DO You Do All Day?”–A Reality-Based Forum on Contemporary Public Folklore Work
	Grand Ballroom A	Continuing Cherokee Traditions within the EBCI Community

	Berkeley	LGBTQIA2S Community and Placemaking in Appalachia
	Windsor Ballroom A	North Carolinian Black Folklorists, Past and Present
	Windsor Ballroom B	Reckoning with Witches: Transforming Women's Weird Ways
	Alexander	Rethinking AI and Folklore
	Swannanoa	The Folklore of Democracy: Tradition and Democratic Culture after January 6th
Midday		
11:00–12:00	Center for Craft 67 Broadway St, Asheville	Individual and Community Politics/Intervention
12:15–1:15	Grand Ballroom B	AFS Business Meeting
1:30–2:30/3:00/3:30 pm, Multiple time slots		
1:30–2:30	Center for Craft 67 Broadway St, Asheville	Craft, Education, and Social Reform
1:30–3:00		
	Offsite, Walkable	Folklore + Veteran's Network Lunch
	Windsor Ballroom A	Exemplarity in American Religious Movements: (In)attention and Mediation
	Windsor Ballroom B	Looking Back/Looking Forward: Play as a Vessel of Culture Change
	Victoria	Music, Song and Place III: Folksongs and the Reframing of Community Persistence
1:30–3:30		
	Alexander	Ghosts, Cryptids, Ostension—Oh, my!
	Berkeley	Counternarratives and Ethnography
	Swannanoa	Digital Challenges and Digital Communities I
	Grand Ballroom B	Ecology / Environment
	Cherokee	Sense of Place
	Grand Ballroom A	Settled Spaces, Unsettled Spirits: Folklore, Land, and Queer Spectrality in Randall Kenan's Fiction

2:30–5:30 pm, Multiple time slots		
2:30–4:00	Center for Craft 67 Broadway St, Asheville	Making Conversation Across Time: Complexities of Craft, Place, and Tradition in Appalachia
3:45–4:45	Top of The Plaza	LGBTQ+ Affinity Group Meetup
4:00–5:30		
	Cherokee	African American History, Persistence and Presence in Verbal, Material, and Musical Traditions
	Berkeley	Digital Challenges and Digital Communities II
	Grand Ballroom A	Documenting Intergenerational Community Persistence in Texas
	Windsor Ballroom B	Embodying Gender
	Alexander	Living Rituals and Belief In Appalachia
	Grand Ballroom B	Memorialization and Embodiment through Material and Community Care
	Swannanoa	Narrative and/in Place
	Windsor Ballroom A	OK, She Really Said That: What We've Learned From Katey Borland
4:00–6:00	Oakland Heights	Local Learning Board (Closed Meeting)
4:15–5:30	Center for Craft 67 Broadway St, Asheville	Center for Craft and AFS Keynote
Evening, Multiple time slots		
5:30–7:00	Center for Craft 67 Broadway St, Asheville	Reception, Center for Craft
5:30–7:30	Location TBD	Black Appalachian Storytellers Event
6:00–7:00	Cherokee	Book Talk: Norma E. Cantú, Fiestas in Laredo: Matachines, Quinceañeras, and George Washington's Birthday (2024)
6:45–7:30	Grand Ballrooms A and B	Reception Music by Warren Wilson College Student Ensembles
7:30–8:30		AFS Awards

8:30–9:30	Grand Ballrooms A and B	Presidential Invited Lecture
9:00–11:59		
	Victoria	Instrumental Jam
	Swannanoa	Song Circle (Vocal Jam)
9:30–10:30	Top of the Plaza	Memorial for Rosan Jordan

Friday, 30 October 2026

Time	Location	Session Name
8:00–10:00 am		
	Alexander	After the Storm: Climate Crisis, Authenticity, and the Power of Community Persistence in N. Carolina
	Swannanoa	Appalachian Voices of Witness
	Grand Ballroom A	Arts, Culture, Politics, and Folklore Studies: Sessions In Honor Of Bill Ivey II
	Windsor Ballroom A	Belief in Digital Communities: Agentic AI, Intelligent Algorithms, and the Monster Memes of Networked Cultures
	Victoria	Embodied Persistence: Collective Practice, Performative Knowledge, and Cultural Heritage in Transnational Perspective
	Berkeley	Navigating Institutional Structures
	Windsor Ballroom B	Reconsidering Ethnographic Practices and Contemporary Interpretations
	Cherokee	Sonic Geographies
8:30–10:00 am		
	Grand Ballroom B	Bicycles, Huskies, and Firefighters: Occupational Lore Field Report
	Top of The Plaza	From Resisterhood to Persisterhood : Women's Activist Folklore in the Age of Trump
10:30 am–12:00 pm		
	Top of The Plaza	2026 Gathering at the Intersections of Folklore, Climate Change, and the Environment
	Windsor Ballroom B	[Book Discussion] Author Meets Critics: Jeanmarie Rouhier-Willoughby's "Sacred Springs in the Camps: Gulag Memory, Legend, and Place"
	Cherokee	Fairy Tales, Fairy Lore, and Unspeakable Disruptions to Community
	Swannanoa	Folkloric Elements in the Structure of Digital Narratives
	Alexander	Gender, Performance, and Persistence

	Grand Ballroom A	In Search of Monsters: Intersectional Approaches to Monstrosity
	Windsor Ballroom A	Latinidades: An Offering on Reflexivity, Research, and the Creative Process
	Berkeley	Regional Queer Archives and Vernaculars: Counterstorytelling in Appalachia
	Grand Ballroom B	Report from the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies
	Victoria	Youth in the Present Tense: Play, Memory, and Agency in Folklore

Midday

12:15–1:15	Grand Ballroom A	American Folklife Center Foodways Publication Reception
12:15–1:15	Paparazzi	Mediamakers Gathering: Folklore in Film, Audio, and Digital Media
12:15–1:15	Alexander	SIEF Reception and Info Session
12:15–1:15	Offsite: meet at Conference Registration	Graduate Student and Young Professionals Networking Lunch (hosted by GSYP Section)

1:30–2:15/3:00/6:00 pm, Multiple time slots

1:30–2:15	Top of The Plaza	Screen Door Queers: A Podcasting and Documentary Project in Central Appalachia
1:30–3:00		
	Cherokee	Belief and Narrative
	Grand Ballroom B	Children's Folkstories and Games in Pakistan, the United States, and Tanzania
	Swannanoa	Folk Music and Popular Media
	Windsor Ballroom A	Intergenerational Placemaking From A Citizen Historian Perspective
	Alexander	Joy and Resistance: Exploring Celebration as a Strategy for Mitigating Oppression
	Berkeley	Technologies of Belief: Protection, Memory, and Self-cultivation in Contemporary Life
	Grand Ballroom A	The American Folklife Center at 50
	Victoria	[Book Discussion] Author Conversation: When Ethnography Inspires Fiction To Reveal Injustices

	Windsor Ballroom B	Digital, Discourse, Databases
1:30–6:15	Four Points by Sheraton, Walkable	Film Screenings
3:30–4:45		
	Grand Ballroom B	Asheville's Chai Pani Restaurant: Indian Food, Artistry, and Community Building
	Windsor Ballroom B	Phillips Barry Lecture: Métis Music: From Erasure and (Mis)Recognition to Story, Visiting, Relationship, and Co-Creation
Evening, Multiple time slots		
5:00–6:00	Windsor Ballroom A	Appalachian Music Traditions and Community in Watauga County, NC
5:00–6:00	Alexander	Quilting the Archive: Black Appalachian Inheritances in Photos, Sounds, and Stories
5:00–6:00	Grand Ballroom A	Utley Lecture: Folklore as a Practicing Profession, Public Practice as an Academic Companion
6:30–7:30	Pre-function Corridor	Public Programs Reception
6:00–7:30	Grand Ballroom B	Fellows and Graduate Student Reception (closed event)
6:30–8:00	Four Points by Sheraton, Walkable	Hallow's Eve in Appalachia: Traditional Folklore to Modern Pagan Practice
7:30–9:00	Grand Ballroom A	Daniel Crowley Storytelling Concert: Stories to Meet This Moment: Performance and Conversation with Sheila Arnold and Adam Booth, Facilitated by Kiran Singh Sirah
8:00--9:30	Location TBD	Conjure and Folk Magic Social Hour
9:00–10:00	Pre-function Corridor	Closing Reception
9:00–11:59	Victoria	Instrumental Jam
9:00–11:59	Swannanoa	Song Circle (Vocal Jam)
9:30–11:30	Four Points by Sheraton, Walkable	Closing Party and Square Dance

Saturday, 31 October 2026

Time	Location	Session Name
9:00–1:00	Warren Wilson College, Transportation necessary	Warren Wilson College Excursion
1:00–7:00	Cataloochee Valley, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Transportation necessary	Great Smoky Mountains National Park Cultural and Natural Heritage Tour: Cataloochee Valley