

EAST EUROPEAN FOLKLIFE CENTER

The Board

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Development Committee Chair

Kristina Vaskys, Vice President
Scholarship Committee Co-Chair
Governance Committee Chair

Noel Kropf, Secretary
Board Liaison
Technology Committee Chair
Finance Committee

Barbara Uhlemann, Treasurer
Finance Committee Chair
Scholarship Committee Co-Chair

Craig Kurumada
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Maclovia Quintana
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Lea Anne Kangas
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Program Committee
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Rachel MacFarlane
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Jenna Shear
Marketing & Development



A Note from the President

With the New Year fast approaching, 'tis the season to reflect. When I accepted an invitation to join the EEFC Board, I never imagined that I would find myself in the role of President in the midst of my academic career and new fatherhood. I am profoundly grateful for the ways this opportunity has allowed me to experience how much our community pulls together!

This year, the EEFC has seen record breaking generosity at camp auctions and through various gifts. People have been wonderfully eager to give their time and expertise: commenting on our strategic vision, advising about development strategies, and volunteering to support our outreach. I am humbled to witness the tireless work that my fellow board members, committee members, and our focused staff put into steering the EEFC ship—constantly striving to see our vibrant community flourish for years and years to come. May all of your generosity be repaid one hundredfold!

With best wishes for the season,

Alex Markovic

Scholarships

This year, the Scholarship Committee received 58 applications and awarded scholarships to 25 candidates. This was our second year using our new selection rubric, and while we continue to hone our judging criteria, we loved this year's scholarship recipients!

We would like to extend a special thank you to Barbara Babin, who has stepped down from the committee after a decade of superb service.

Susan K. Anderson

We are proud to announce the debut of the Susan K. Anderson scholarship fund for our 2020 camp season. Susan and her loved ones donated over \$38,500 to establish a fund that will provide scholarships for deserving east coast campers. Susan leaves a legacy that is equal parts diligence, go-getter, and spunk. We hope awardees are inspired by her story for years to come.

Ready to apply for a scholarship in 2020?

Applications will go live on our website in January 2020.

Applications are due as follows:

- Mendocino: March 9, 2020
- Iroquois Springs: April 15, 2020

Visit www.eefc.org/scholarships for more information.

A New Process for Board Recruitment

The desire for more transparency has been a consistent theme of community feedback. In years past, we've focused on ways to improve the regularity and quality of communication between the Board, volunteers, and our community. We established frequent blog, newsletter, and social media updates, and reworked our at-camp "Meetings with the Board" format to more personal "Office Hours" or group brainstorm sessions to encourage a spirit of collaboration.

This year, we've turned our efforts toward revising our methods for Board recruitment. Previously, we used a "self-replicating" style, where current board members approached individuals who seemed to be likely candidates for prospective Board service. Our new process is one that better represents democratic values of our community:



- When the need for a new Board member arises, we open applications so members of the community can directly apply or nominate a friend for Board service.

- Nominations and applications are vetted by a Nominating Committee. This Nominating Committee will be selected by the Board to represent a broad slice of our community in terms of age, areas of interest, and socio-economic status. The names of those

volunteering on the Nominating Committee will be publicly available on our website. If participating in such a committee interests you, please [let us know](#).

- The Nominating Committee selects finalists by consensus.
- The Board meets with the finalists for a final interview, and decisions are made by Board consensus.

When not actively supporting the board through the vetting process, the Governance Committee will help capture and document the skills and duties of individual Board members so we are maintaining competency in areas critical to the organization.

West Coast Site Search

The Site Search Committee has successfully completed its search for suitable alternatives to our current location in the Mendocino Woodlands. The committee found several beautiful venues that could support our community should the need arise.

There are no current plans to relocate. This effort was taken to assess our present-day needs and to consider the essential criteria for an appropriate West Coast site. The committee kept detailed notes, which will be available if needed in the future. As we learned from our experience on the East Coast, it can be financially disadvantageous if swift relocation should become necessary without preparation.

The members of the committee were Lise Liepman, Caroline Simmonds, Barbara Babin, Polly Ferber, Barbara Uhlemann, and Craig Kurumada.

Save the Date!

Join us for another immersive week of music, dance, and song!

Mendocino, California:

June 20-27, 2020

Iroquois Springs, New York:

August 8-15, 2020

Updates to Tuition

With the support of the community, the Board has decided to move forward with the tiered tuition structure proposed in our Strategic Vision. Based on feedback, we've have adjusted the names of each registration level and determined that those who register at the Supporter level will receive a receipt for a tax-deductible donation of \$250. Work exchange and children's fees will be unaffected for 2020.

The registration form will read as follows for full-time adults (tuition for part-time adults will be calculated similarly):

- \$950 Base – As we have done for many years, we are proud to offer discounted tuition (below actual cost of camp) to those with limited income. The remaining hard costs of your stay at camp are covered thanks to our “Supporter” campers (see below) and community fundraising efforts.
- \$1200 General – Attending at this level covers all the hard costs of your stay at camp. By paying this tuition, you help fully cover our operating costs.
- \$1450 Supporter – This level completely covers the cost of your stay at camp and pays it forward for one of our campers attending at the Base-tuition level. Thank you for helping us spread the *kefi*! You will receive a receipt for a tax-deductible donation of \$250.

Did you know? In 2019...

- Our campers hailed from 5 different countries.
- 53 children explored Balkan music, dance, and culture through our workshops.
- We dovetailed our youth and adult scholarships to enable the attendance of two pairs of a single parent and their child to our workshops.
- 109 new campers made the journey and were welcomed into our community.

A Special Thank You

The Board would like to extend its deepest gratitude to **Noel Kropf**, who will be retiring from the Board in early 2020.

Noel has served as Secretary and as a member of the Administrative, Finance, and Technology Committees. Some of his major accomplishments include training our staff, developing key database reports, and integrating our online forms with Salesforce. His incredible attention to detail, ability to clarify processes, and measured way of handling even the toughest challenges have been a wonderful asset to the Board.

After training his successor(s), Noel will continue to work on the Technology Committee, and you'll continue to see him as our faithful Listserv Manager.

Thank you, Noel! Our community is stronger with you by our side!

Have Questions or Feedback for Us?

We're always listening. Please email board@eefc.org with your thoughts and ideas.

No one knows us better than our community, and your thoughts are invaluable as we plan for the future.

Fiscal Year 2019

EEFC has an operating surplus of \$1,000 as of September 30, 2019, as compared to a budgeted deficit of just under \$11,000.

- We ended the year with assets of roughly \$196,000 compared with \$160,000 in FY18.
- We received Nest Egg (Endowment) and Crum/Kef Scholarship donations of \$936 and \$22,662, respectively.
- We also received a total of \$35,345 from a bequest from Susan Anderson and gifts from her family and friends for a new scholarship fund. Additional gifts of \$3,165 were received after the end of the fiscal year for a total of just over \$38,500.

This gives us a combined total of \$58,943 in restricted income in FY19 which is not included in the graphs showing annual operating income. On the graph for income, gifts for scholarships are included in the year in which the awards are made, not in the year in which the gifts were given. The endowment is invested in no-fee, no-load market index funds and is not included in the annual operating funds graphs.

Read the FY18 report [here](#), the FY17 report [here](#), and the FY16 report [here](#).





