



West Virginia Folklife Program announces Folklife Hotline

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Charleston— Are you a traditional musician? Gospel singer? Bluegrass picker? Maybe your neighbor makes traditional stuffed grape leaves, the best beans and cornbread, or roti from their grandparents' recipe. Perhaps you know of a community elder whose stories should be documented. The West Virginia Folklife Program's new hotline, reached toll free at 1(844)618-3747, is an outlet where West Virginians can share information about local traditional artists, craftspeople, musicians, cooks, or elders, or contribute a traditional song, story, or other piece of folklore or community tradition.

In this first year of the West Virginia Folklife Program, a project of the West Virginia Humanities Council, state folklorist Emily Hilliard is conducting oral histories and fieldwork across the state in order to assess and document current folklife activity in West Virginia. "Folklife traditions are community-based creative expressions," Hilliard said. "Those can include traditional music and dance, foodways, material culture, faith-based expressions, occupational lore, and more." This folklife survey relies heavily on community input and the folklife hotline is one way that residents can easily share the traditions that are meaningful to them. Callers may simply leave a brief message with the information they would like to share, and if necessary, Hilliard will follow-up for more details.

The West Virginia Folklife Program is a project of the West Virginia Humanities Council and is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts Folk & Traditional Arts Program. West Virginia Folklife is dedicated to the documentation, preservation, presentation, and support of West Virginia's vibrant cultural heritage and living traditions.

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The West Virginia Humanities Council is a nonprofit corporation governed by a board of directors whose members are drawn from all parts of West Virginia. It is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, supported by the NEH, the State of West Virginia, and by contributions from the private sector. The purposes of the West Virginia Humanities Council are educational, and its mission is to support a vigorous program in the humanities statewide in West Virginia.