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**HOLIDAY FOLK FAIR *INTERNATIONAL*  
TO ADD FOUR TO VOLUNTEER HALL OF FAME**

**MILWAUKEE, WI** – Four long serving individuals will be added to the Holiday Folk Fair *International* Volunteer Hall of Fame during the 74<sup>th</sup> annual event, which will be held Fri., Nov. 17 – Sun., Nov. 19, 2017, at the State Fair Park Exposition Center at in West Allis, Wis.

The following people will be recognized during the event's opening ceremony at 5 p.m. on Fri., Nov. 17:

**Pat** and **Ray Ciocarelli** have been extensively involved with Swiss/Swiss American ethnic organizations and have served as Holiday Folk Fair *International* volunteers for more than 25 years. The former Director of the Swiss Turners, Ray coordinated the Swiss food booth at Holiday Folk Fair *International*. He currently serves as the Swiss American Society authorized representative. Pat has been a long-time coordinator of the cultural exhibit at Holiday Folk Fair *International* and currently serves as the Treasurer of the Swiss Ladies. As an active member of the cultural group for more than 40 years, Pat has served as vice president, coordinated cultural programs, and organized the *Edelweiss* newsletter. Presently, she helps manage the membership list.

Serbia native **Bob Milkovich** arrived in the United States at 26 and has been a Holiday Folk Fair *International* volunteer for more than 30 years. Milkovich served as the Artistic Director of Oplenac Serbian Folk Dance Group at Serbian St. Java from 1961 to 1968, and as the Artistic Director of Sumadija Serbian Folk Dance Ensemble between 1968 and 1988. He was also a member of Holiday Folk Fair *International's* executive committee and served as a chairman of several special programs. For his participation with Holiday Folk Fair *International*, Milkovich earned the International Institute of Wisconsin's World Citizen Award. Milkovich also was chairman of entertainment in Old Pabst Park from 1969 to the early 1990s, also serving as the group's first vice chairman and second vice chairman for two years each.

**Jean Wroblewski** is highly involved in the Polish community and has served as a Holiday Folk Fair *International* volunteer for more than 20 years. Since 1995, she has been an active member of Polanki, a Polish women's culture club in Milwaukee. Her involvement has allowed

her to chair and co-chair events sponsored by Polanki, including the Holiday Folk Fair *International* food booth and marketplace, the Soup Festival, and the Pierogi Dinner. Additionally, she leads the sale of Polish folk art merchandise and Boleslawiec ceramics, the iconic pottery made in Poland, at the Holiday Folk Fair *International* marketplace, Polish Fest, Polish Center of Wisconsin, and other regional festivals and cultural events. Wroblewski is also a member of other Polish organizations, including the Polish Heritage Alliance, Inc. and the Polish Heritage Club of Wisconsin in Madison. She is also a Captain of the Civil Air Patrol (Auxiliary of the United States Air Force) WI Wing. Throughout her career at Veterans Health Administration, she took on leadership roles to support local and national events for veterans. Recently, she received the Wisconsin Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Outstanding Dietician of the Year Award.

A program of the International Institute of Wisconsin, Holiday Folk Fair *International*, America's premiere multi-cultural festival, celebrates the heritage of the people living in southeastern Wisconsin. This year's theme, "Celebrate the Culture of Welcome," will allow Fair-goers the opportunity to learn the traditions and symbolism of cultures as it relates to welcoming individuals and how it is incorporated into music, food, dance, arts, and crafts.

Special attractions in 2017 include invited international performers and artisans, including those from the Bahamas and Indonesia; the "Images of Liberty" and the "Capture the Spirit of Ramadan" photographic exhibits; the Artisan Corner sponsored by Debra Stefl, featuring guest artists from Alaska and Uzbekistan; the Dirty Kettle Native American interactive display; the Kohl's Color Wheels display; the Wisconsin Woodturners; a bonsai exhibit; and the annual Naturalization Ceremony on Fri., Nov. 17, at 2:30 p.m.

The three-day event features the All Nations Theater sponsored by Fields Auto Group, with traditional music and dance; the World Café offering traditional dishes; the International Stage where young people perform their ethnic dances; the Tanzhauz (Music Pavilion) presented by Leaf Filter, where attendees dance and sing along with a variety of musical styling's; the Coffee House, sponsored by Renewal by Andersen, where patrons enjoy a beverage and baked goods while listening to talented musicians; Heritage Lane sponsored by Weather Tight, with unique traditions and customs through interactive exhibits; the International Bazaar sponsored by Bath Fitter, where cultural artifacts create a unique shopping experience; and the Callen Construction Chef's Stage featuring local chefs preparing traditional cuisine, including youth representatives of the American Culinary Federation Chefs of Milwaukee, Inc.

Hours on Fri., Nov. 17 are 2 p.m. – 10 p.m.; 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. on Sat., Nov. 18; and 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. on Sun., Nov. 19.

Advance tickets will be sold for \$10 each, with family four-packs for \$36, and available for purchase on-line at [www.folkfair.org](http://www.folkfair.org). Admission at the gate will be \$12 for adults; \$8 for children ages 6 to 12; children under the age of five will be admitted at no charge. Those 62 and over will be admitted for \$10, and all military personnel with a military ID card will be admitted free.

For more information on the 2017 Holiday Folk Fair *International*, visit [www.folkfair.org](http://www.folkfair.org) or call the International Institute of Wisconsin at 414-225-6225.

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