

**The Children's Museum Family
Folk Art Festival
July 17, 2010**

According to the U.S. Dept. of State, Utica is a "prototypical American city with more than 200 years of history." Prior to the incorporation of Utica as a village in 1798, the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois), hunted and lived in the region.

Most of Utica's first residents were English and Welsh, followed by immigrants from Ireland who built the Erie Canal in 1817-1825. African-Americans came to live in Utica before the city was incorporated in 1832.

From 1830-1915 Jewish, Polish, Italian, German and Syro-Lebanese immigrants arrived in waves. They were followed by refugees from Ukraine who settled here during WWII.

After the Vietnam War, refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos arrived, followed by Russian immigrants. Since 2000, the Latino population in Utica jumped 12 percent, with Utica now home to immigrants from countries such as Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, making up 6% of the city's total population of 60,000.

Over the last decade, Bosnian refugees from Eastern Europe have come to live in Utica to escape the war in the former Yugoslavia, and they now comprise 10% of Utica's population. Most recent refugees are Karen and Arkanese from Myanmar Republic (formerly Burma).

With the additional arrival of immigrants from Afghanistan, Burma, Congo, Iran, Iraq, Sudan and the former Soviet Union, Utica now has the fourth largest per capita concentration of refugees in the United States, from 30 foreign countries, with 31 different languages spoken in the public schools.

**Saturday, July 17, 2010
10:00am - 2:00pm**

This year's schedule:

10:00am-11:00am MAH Band & Dancers traditional Bosnian music

11:00am-12:00noon, the La Banda Rossa traditional Italian music

12:00noon to 1:00pm repeat of the MAH Band & Dancers

1:00pm to 2:00pm the AIM [Africa in Motion] Troup with Contemporary Dancing.

From 10:00am to 1:00pm, the following folk artists will be demonstrating their crafts at tables:

Native Americans Ron Patterson, lacrosse stick making; Ada Jacques, Haudenosaunee pottery; Candace Watson, male/female headdress; Birdy Burdick, cornhusk doll making; and Bosnian Needleworkers.

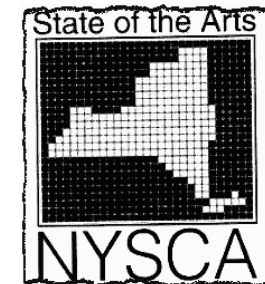
Program Credits:

**Lisa Overholser, NYS Folklorist
Marlene Brown, Children's Museum Executive Director
Funding provided by The New York State Council on the Arts**



**Saturday, JULY 17th:
10:00-1:00pm
2010 Family Folk
Arts Festival at the
Children's Museum**

**Sponsored by
The NYS Council
on the Arts**



Folklorist: Lisa Overholser

**The Children's Museum
311 Main Street, Utica, NY 13501
Tel: 315-724-6129
Email: marlenebrown@roadrunner.com**

Saturday, July 17, 2010
Children's Museum Folk Artists

10:00am to 2:00pm

The MAH Bosnian band is made up of Haris Bajric and two siblings. They perform Bosnian folk music, representing the largest of Utica's newest immigrant groups. One of the musical styles they will be playing is a *kolo*, a popular style of music that is also a dance style. It is an upbeat style that is performed at ceremonies and parties of all kinds. Young Bosnian dancers will join in the music, and the MAH Band's mother, Emina Bajric, will be demonstrating Bosnian needlework.

La Banda Rossa is an Italian musical organization which performs at concerts, church festivals, and parades. When Italian immigrants came to America, they brought with them a love a music and a devotion to their patron saints. A small group of musicians started gathering at the Sons of Italy Hall in Utica NY to play and enjoy their music. In 1905, they were asked to perform at local feasts. They play everything from overtures, Italian opera selections, their signature Royal Italian March to Broadway show tunes, operetta music and American marches. Director and conductor Arlene Iagnocco became the first female conductor in 1992. Songs they will be performing include Italian favorites like "O Sole Mio" and "Funiculi Funicula".

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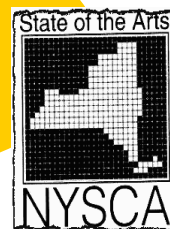
The 2010 Family Folk Arts Festival highlights four cultural groups found in central New York and the Mohawk Valley.

Folk Arts are traditional arts, learned as part of a community, whose members share a common ethnic heritage, religion or region. Not separate from daily life, they're shaped by shared aesthetics; passed on informally from generation to generation.

Over the past years, the Children's Museum has highlighted a variety of cultural groups who reside in our region, each year spotlighting some of our original, oldest and newest cultures.

This year we present artistic traditions of the *Haudenosaunee* (Native Americans); traditional music of the *Italian* community; traditional folk art and music of the *Bosnian* community; and folk art of a local AIM [*Africa* in Motion] dance troupe.

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Africa in Motion (AIM) is a Cultural Organization Student Club at Utica College, Utica NY. Currently, AIM consists of 12 students who perform at U. C. and in the community. Members choreograph and perform dances intended to reflect the evolution of dance style, as well as a variety of cultural influences. Dances reflect African and Latin rhythms and steps, and include jazz, modern, swing, reggae and hip hop. AIM members hope to educate audiences about dance as a form of cultural expression, illustrating the evolution of African/African/ American culture. AIM members demonstrating their choreographies and dance steps include: Tyler McCrae, Arsenio Stembidge, Jasmine Cordew, Jacqueline Ramos, Shaela Amaya, Shacquana Washington, Patricia Grant.

Native Americans: Birdy Burdick (Oneida) will demonstrate cornhusk doll-making, a traditional Haudenosaunee art. Cornhusk dolls are made from husks, the green leaves surrounding the ear of corn. Sometimes they are decorated with intricate clothing.

Ron Patterson (Oneida), will demonstrate the art of lacrosse stick making. To craft a stick, a hickory log is split into 8-12 pieces lengthwise, then shaped, dried, steamed, and dried again over a period of more than a year. The basket is made from rawhide and leather.

Kandice Watson (Oneida) Shako:wi Center Outreach, will make traditional Haudenosaunee headdresses, typically worn in ceremonies and competitive dances. *Kastowehs*, worn by males, are a type of feathered hat. Crowns, worn by females, resemble tiaras.

Ada Jacques (Onondaga) will be demonstrating the making of Haudenosaunee pottery and clay sculpture. Iroquois pottery is known for incorporating elaborate and decorative shapes and designs from earth's clay.