



Name: Theresa Weaver-Basye
Title: Curator of Education
Phone: 712-279-6174

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Program features traditional folk music

Photographs and a performance of familiar tunes such as “Old Joe Clark” and “Pretty Polly” will be featured at the **Tuesday Twilight Talk: Appalachian folk songs and the history of the mountain dulcimer** on Tuesday, October 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sioux City Public Museum.

Dr. Gail Dooley, chair of the Music Department at Morningside College, grew up in and around the southern Appalachian Mountains and has been familiar with these musical traditions her entire life. She will perform traditional American fiddle and dance tunes as well as Appalachian ballads and songs that immigrants from the British Isles brought with them to the Southern Appalachians. The audience will have an opportunity to sing-along on some songs.

“I love sharing the traditions of my southern Appalachians heritage with the people of my adopted home in the Midwest,” Dooley says.

Appalachian folk music, which is passed down from one generation to another orally, usually tells dramatic stories or poetic songs, often about love, she notes.

Yvonne Hazlett, a music teacher at the Siouxland Community Christian School, will be playing the playing recorder, hammered dulcimer, and guitar with Dooley during the performance.

Dooley has been a member of the Morningside College faculty since 1995. She received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and her doctorate from Florida State University in Tallahassee. Dooley has performed dulcimer programs at Morningside College, Western Iowa Tech Community College, Wayne State College (NE), the National Music Museum (Vermillion, SD), and Hastings College (NE).

Housed in the historic John Peirce Mansion at 2901 Jackson Street, the Sioux City Public Museum offers monthly Tuesday Twilight Talk programs featuring topics of regional historic interest. For more information, call the Sioux City Public Museum at 712-279-6174 or visit www.siouxcitymuseum.org. Admission is free.