



25th Lowell Folk Festival

25th LOWELL FOLK FESTIVAL TO TAKE PLACE JULY 29-31, 2011

Vassilios Giavis donates an original art work

(Lowell, Mass.) – Noted Lowell artist Vassilios Giavis at the Brush Art Gallery and Studios will donate an original painting to Lowell National Historical Park in remembrance of former superintendent Chrysandra “Sandy” Walter, who passed away this year. During the festival opening on Friday, July 29th, Mr. Giavis will present the park superintendent, Michael Creasey, with his work “Suffolk Mill.”

Sandy Walter was instrumental in bring the National Folk festival to Lowell in 1987. Following its three year run in Lowell, the National Folk Festival departed for another city. In its wake, the Lowell Folk Festival was born to continue the tradition of superior traditional music performance and craft exhibition. For 25 years, the Lowell Folk Festival has been the standard of music festivals throughout the nation.

Artist Vassilios Giavis was commissioned to create a series of paintings on the “mill girls” theme in 1993. One image included the two mill girls of the 1890’s. Sandy Walter and local business and cultural leader, Pat Crane served as the models for the subjects in the painting. Wearing traditional period dress, the painting depicts the two women in front of looms in the Suffolk Mill Turbine Exhibit in the Wannalancit Mill complex. A heartfelt poem by deceased park ranger, Ray Harding is etched into the panting in recognition of all mill girls who toiled untold hours in the mills

Seamus Connelly, Sandy’s husband and partner in life will be present to recognize the vision of Sandy as well as partake in the presentation of the artwork to the park. Numerous friends and former employees will be on hand in support Sandy’s legacy and efforts to bring the park and the Lowell Folk Festival into existence.

The Lowell Folk Festival is presented by Lowell National Historical Park, Lowell Festival Foundation, the National Council for the Traditional Arts, the City of Lowell, and the Greater Merrimack Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau.

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