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APINYA JORDAN RETURNS AS HOLIDAY FOLK FAIR *INTERNATIONAL* CHAIRPERSON

MILWAUKEE – Organizers of the 73rd annual Holiday Folk Fair *International*, America’s premiere multi-cultural festival, to be held Fri., Nov. 18 – Sun., Nov. 20, 2016, at the State Fair Park Exposition Center in West Allis, Wis. announced that Apinya Jordan will return as chairperson of the 2016 event.

Serving for the second consecutive year, Jordan is a native of Thailand who came to the United States in 1990 as an exchange student living in Rockford, Ill. Her first experience came later that year when her AFS group visited Milwaukee for Holiday Folk Fair.

Jordan returned to Thailand and completed her education. A son from her host family in Rockford traveled to Thailand to teach English in 1996 and the two reconnected, getting married the following year. She and her husband returned to the United States in 2000 and they settled in Milwaukee. Jordan joined the Thai American Association of Milwaukee, participating in the 2002 Folk Fair. She has returned annually since as a dancer and assisting the Thai group with its cultural display.

Jordan has written a book, “I Was There at Folk Fair,” which details how the event has positively impacted her life. “I really appreciate what Holiday Folk Fair represents, as it’s a chance for me to celebrate being Thai, while giving other people the chance to celebrate where they come from,” she said. “Even though we all come from different places, we form a great community.”

A program of the International Institute of Wisconsin, Holiday Folk Fair *International* celebrates the cultural heritage of the people living in southeastern Wisconsin. This year’s theme, “Celebrate the Culture of Water,” will allow Fair-goers the opportunity to learn the ways in which water and its symbolism is incorporated into the music, food, dance, arts, and crafts of Holiday Folk Fair.

Special attractions in 2016 include invited international performers and artisans, including the Schlitzlerländer Trachten- und Volkstanzkreis musical group from Schlitz, Germany, a World Heritage Japanese photographic exhibit, the Sisters Cities International 2016 Young Artist and Authors Showcase, The United States Department of State “*Faces of Diplomacy*” exhibit, the Artisan corner sponsored by Debra Stefl and Katherine Kral, Financial Advisors with Morgan Stanley, the Kohl’s Color Wheels display, the Wisconsin Woodturners, and a bonsai exhibit.

The three-day event features the All Nations Theater with traditional music and dance, the World Café offering traditional dishes, the International Stage where young people perform their ethnic

dances, the Tanzhaus (Music Pavilion) where attendees dance and sing along with a variety of musical styling's, the Coffee House where patrons enjoy a beverage and baked goods while listening to talented musicians, Heritage Lane, presented by Weather Tight Corporation, with unique traditions and customs through interactive exhibits, the International Bazaar, sponsored by Leaf Filter, where cultural artifacts create a unique shopping experience, and the Callen Construction Chef's Stage featuring local chefs preparing traditional cuisine.

Hours on Fri., Nov. 18 are 2 p.m. – 10 p.m.; 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. on Sat., Nov. 19; and 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. on Sun., Nov. 20.

Advance tickets will be sold for \$10 each, with family four-packs for \$36, and available for purchase on-line at 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 2016 Holiday Folk Fair *International*, visit www.folkfair.org or call the International Institute of Wisconsin at 414-225-6225.

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Editor's Note: Attached is a photo of Apinya Jordan, 2016 Holiday Folk Fair *International* Chairperson.