

From 1999 Crandall Public Library Annual Report

## Center for Folklife, History & Cultural Programs

Todd DeGarmo, Director of Folklife Center

### **Navajo Exploration**

Collaborating with the Hyde Collection Art Museum, we offered programs from September through December with over 2,500 participants:

1. A Rainbow at Night, the art of Navajo children, curated by Bruce Hucko.
2. Spinning Tales, Weaving Hope, 5 live storytelling sessions with 4 Sweetland Storytellers.
3. Three of 5 lectures at the Library: My Family's Stories by Sunny Dooley; Woven By the Grandmothers by D.Y. Begay; A Rainbow at Night by Bruce Hucko.
4. Artists-in-Residence - 3 weeks of Navajo artists for a total of 49 sessions at 11 sites: storyteller Sunny Dooley, weaver D.Y. Begay, "art coach" Bruce Hucko.
5. Navajo: Kids Explore Traditional Arts & Lifeways, workbook by Todd DeGarmo & Amy Decker.
6. Navajo Book Box, 25 books for classroom loan.

### **Archives & Special Collections**

\$6,500 was spent on new titles, and approximately 350 titles were donated in the areas of local/regional history, genealogy, and folklife. Thanks to the Friends, we purchased the Carl Atiyeh Photograph Collection, some 40,000 negatives, circa 1960-1985.

The Reading Room was staffed 22 hours per week (6 days a week). We had 2,657 users (a 4.6% increase from 1998), asking 2,619 reference questions, using 4,895 items, and making 5,897 photocopies. Loans from the special collections have been provided to the Hyde Collection and Chapman Museum.

### **Documentation**

Projects like *Dolls and Doll makers* and *Navajo* generate fieldwork (slides, audio tapes, notes, objects and other materials) and program files (interpretative flyers, exhibition text, videos, and other materials) that become a permanent part of the Special Collections.

### **New York Folklore Society**

As president of the Board, Todd DeGarmo oversaw the successful search and hiring of its second full-time director and an office move to Schenectady.

### **Feather Fans & Ribbons**

The Chinese Dance Troupe of Albany celebrated the opening of the International Youth Art Exhibition with a crowd of 125.

### **Photo & Memorabilia Album**

Paul Beardell Kriege encouraged 43 people to save their memories with a family bookmaking workshop in January.

### **Warren County History Roundtable**

This past year, Albert Fowler helped found this informal gathering of local historians

### **Displays**

We helped develop and travel 2 new exhibitions: *Musical Memories of the Adirondacks* at the Adirondack Mountain Club; *Roughing It at the Lake* (Indian Camps section) for the Chapman Museum. Our *Peaveys, Pike Poles, and Pickaroons* traveled to the Warren County Youth Fair. Besides *Rainbow at Night*, we displayed our own *Folk Art from the Trees*, and Library of Congress's *American Folklife*. Mini-displays included African thorn carving, fish taxidermy, a chainsaw-carved bear, *Washington County Wool Tour*, and Fred Hill's *Meg's Snow Cycle*.

### **Alley Tour of Saratoga Springs**

Ted Corbett, architectural historian, provided a walking tour for the New York Folklore Society meeting in September

### **Local Roots**

In March, 221 participants enjoyed 3 live programs promoting the Chapman Museum's ethnic exhibition: Alfredo Lombardi's *Italian Folk Music on Guitar*, Batt and Maura Burns' *Tales and Music from Ireland*, Bernie Ouimet's *Franco-American Songs & Stories*.

### **Presentations**

Todd DeGarmo presented a variety of lectures throughout the year: *Folklife Resources on the Internet* with Mark Roberts for American Library Association/Public Library Association conference, New Orleans; *Folklife Center Resources* for SALS; *Indian Camps* for Association of Public Historians, Chapman Museum, Adirondack Discovery/Diamond Point; *Family Folklore* for Bridging the Years writers conference, BOCES Adirondack Conference, Sanford Ridge United Methodist Church; *Maya Celebration* for NYS Folk Arts Roundtable; Collaborative Partnerships for Three Systems Public Services meeting.

### **Grants**

This past year we received funding for our programs from the New York State Council on the Arts-Folk Arts Program (\$29,680); the State Archives and Records Administration Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (\$11,072); Leo Cox Beach Philanthropic Foundation (\$8,200); Friends of Crandall Public Library (\$5,200), Warren and Washington County Youth Bureaus via the Southern Adirondack Library System (\$2,250).