

Crandall Public Library's

Center for Folklife, History & Cultural Programs

2000 Annual Report (9 pages)

by Todd DeGarmo, Director of the Center

Mission

The Center for Folklife, History & Cultural Programs at Crandall Public Library is committed to original research and documentation, special collections, cultural programs and scholarly discussion on the living and historical heritage of the region. The Center helps to serve the library's mission of outreach as the Central Reference Library of the Southern Adirondack Library System.

Staffing

Director of the Center, Todd DeGarmo is full-time, professional staff and one of four department heads. He has worked for the library since 1986, first as a consultant and later as staff folklorist. He is A.B.D. in American Studies, holds a masters in Anthropology, and has 15 years experience in research, grantsmanship, and public programming in folk arts. He is also Records Management Officer and supervisor of the custodial staff.

Librarian/Archivist II, Albert Fowler, full-time professional staff, runs the daily operation of the Center's Reading Room, and the management of the archives and special collections. He has masters degrees in library science and history with over 20 years experience in both public and academic libraries/archives around the country.

Reference Librarians, Bill Martin, Bruce Cole, Diane Jones, Teri Weston and others help to cover the Center's Reading Room when primary Center staff are not available.

Volunteers, Betty Kern and Lillian Beswick (each 2 hrs/wk all year).

Grants

This past year we received funding for our programs from the New York State Council on the Arts-Folk Arts Program (\$34,000), Friends of Crandall Public Library (\$2,700), Warren and Washington County Youth Bureaus via the Southern Adirondack Library System (\$2,475), New York State Archives and Records Administration-Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (\$2,000), New York Folklore Society Mentoring Grant (\$1,078), Museum Grant via Southern Adirondack Library System (\$600).

The North Hudson Electronic Education Empowerment Project (NHEEEP), coordinated by Hudson Falls High School, has given the Folklife Center on extended loan a computer, digital camera, scanner, and printer.

Archives & Special Collections

Holden Reference Collection:

\$6500 was budgeted from the Library's book budget new books and materials to be spent by DeGarmo in the subjects of local and regional history, genealogy, folk arts and folklife studies. In addition, Friends of Crandall Public Library provide appropriate titles from the public's donations to their book sale.

Special Acquisitions:

Empire Theatre Collection – we purchased flyers and brochures, c. 1900-1910.

Scrapbooks (5) – donated by Johnstown Public Library featuring Glens Falls and the surrounding region put together by Winifred Thomson Argersinger Gonseth, 1930s-50s.

Dolls from various regional doll makers for the Folk Art and Artist Collection.

The Reading Room:

Staffed for the public 22 hours per week (6 days a week). We had 2,395 users asking 2,003 reference questions, using 3,678 items, making 4,223 photocopies.

SARA-LGRMIF 1999-2000

Albert Fowler led a team of consultants to process collections and rare books, and continue the process of developing finding aids for our many special collections. Katherine Chansky began this work on our Folklife Collections 1986-present. Two Power Macintosh computers were upgraded.

Use of the Collections

A 1950s photograph from the Richard Dean Collection was chosen to appear on the New York State Archives Week Poster (October 8-14, 2000). Many photographs were used for 2 local history books, one on Lake George, one on Glens Falls.

Research & Documentation

Projects like *If Only They Could Talk* generate fieldwork (slides, audio tapes, notes, objects and other materials) and program files (interpretative flyers, exhibition text, videos, and other materials) that become a part of the Library's Archives.

Special Projects

If Only They Could Talk: Dolls, Stories & the Spirit of Doll Making

We hired Nancy Scheemaker (who approached us with a proposal) to investigate this subject in our region. She provided fieldwork (notes, slides, taped interviews) and program assistance (see below).

Backyards: Youth Documenting Community

DeGarmo traveled to Washington, DC with NY Folklore Society Mentoring Grant to continue planning this new ongoing program for the Folklife Center. We are envisioning multiple sites around our service area, where teens are taught the professional skills of photography and sound recording, with the resulting documentation (photos and recordings) used in exhibitions, radio production and collection building.

Warren County Tourism: Amusements, Dude Ranches, & Summer Camps

We are printing the final report on this project funded Documentary Heritage Program to survey and inventory records of local tourism businesses; co-authored by Ellen McHale, Albert Fowler and Todd DeGarmo.

Indian Camps & Upstate Tourism

We have a curriculum kit pending, funded by the State Archives and Records Administration, based on local research by Todd DeGarmo with help of an advisory group including Mary Zwolinsky, Nancy Scheemaker, and area teachers.

Public Programs

Gospel Music & International Children's Art

(15 artists, 1 session, 130 participants)

Mount Olive Baptist Church Male Chorus, Albany, NY with guest curator Mary Zwolinsky performed in CPL Auditorium on Tuesday, February 1 at 7 pm following the reception for the World Awareness Children's Museum's All Country Show at 6 pm in the Friends Gallery.

Solomon Northup for the Chapman Museum Program

(4 presenters, 3 sessions, 126 participants)

a. Lecture Series

Wednesday nights at 7 pm in CPL Auditorium

Chapman:

(1) March 8: Rediscovering Solomon Northup
by Dr. Clifford Brown, Union College
25 participants

(2) March 15: Local Efforts to Free Solomon Northup
by Paul McCarty & Eileen Hannay, Old Fort Museum
39 participants

Folklife:

(3) March 22: Grandma Martha's Stories of 19th Century Women
by Shirley McFerson
62 participants

b. Slavery Book Box - a loan of 37 books to classrooms:

- Chapman Historical Museum, Northup exhibition.
- North Colonie School 5th-6th grades.
- Putnam School 4-5-6th grades.

Upclose & Unplugged

(5 presenters • 6 sessions • 391 participants)

Live music on 2 Fridays for school groups and a free evening concert:

Kitchen Ceili (New England/Irish Music) -George Wilson, Dora Hast, Stan Scott
Friday, April 7

9 am	Warrensburg 3rd Grade in Folklife Center	40 participants
10:30 am	Folklife Center	14 participants
7 pm	CPL Auditorium	107 participants

John Rossbach (Bluegrass)

Friday, April 14

10:30 am	Cambridge 5th Grade	30 participants
1:15 pm	Salem 3rd-4th Grade	45 participants
7 pm	CPL Auditorium	155 participants*

(*standing room only; turned away 50 more)

Power of Objects

(2 presenters • 2 sessions • 45 participants making 36 dolls)

Two programs funded by Southern Adirondack Library System with a museum grant:

Doll Sculptures by Caroline Hooke
hosted by guest curator, Nancy Scheemaker

Hadley-Luzerne Library
Thursday, April 27, 2000 @ 4:30 pm
2 presenters • 1 session • 32 participants making 18 dolls

Fort Edward Library
Saturday, May 13, 2000 @ 10:30 am
2 presenters • 1 session • 13 participants making 8 dolls

Adirondack Tall Tales

(2 presenters • 6 sessions • 179 participants)

We hosted Daddy Dick Richards at the Queensbury 3rd Grade all day Friday, June 2, for their annual Adirondack Environmental Day:

8:45 am	Setup
9:20 am	28 participants
10:10 am	29 participants
11:00 am	31 participants
11:45 am	Lunch & 29 participants
12:50 pm	30 participants
1:40 pm	32 participants

We also videotaped each session and distributed bookmarks to 300 students.

Oral History Workshop

(1 presenter • 1 session • 12 participants)

On Friday, June 9, 10 am to noon in the Folklife Center, Todd DeGarmo presented an overview of oral history interviewing (covering preparations, the interview, and afterward). Representatives from the Johnsbury Historical Society, the Chapman Museum, NHEEEP and Black Crow Network were present.

Live! At the Bandstand

(2 presenters, 40 artists, 4 sessions, 1475 participants)

Live music and dance in City Park Tuesdays 7 pm:

Hye Yeraz Band with Habiba

Armenian Music & Middle Eastern Dance

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

5 artists + 300 participants

Kleiner Klezmer Orchestra

Eastern European Jewish Dance Music

Tuesday, July 18, 2000

6 artists + 350 participants

Mount Olive Male Chorus

Gospel From Mount Olive Baptist Church

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

16 artists + 400 participants

Alex Torres and the Latin Kings

Merengue, Salsa, Cha-Cha, Mambo

Tuesday, August 1, 2000

13 artists + 425 participants (with threat of rain)

Notes:

- Bookmarks and Printed flyer on library desks, sent to weekly/daily newspapers, radio/TV, and bulk mailed to targeted audiences.
- Part of 3 articles on summer events in downtown Glens Falls.
- Advertisement in *Folk Times*.
- Collaboration with LARAC (use of building) and City of Glens Falls (bandstand).
- Guest folklorist presenters Mary Zwolinsky (Arts Center) and Ellen McHale (NYFS).
- Thank you letter from James E. Clark, Jr., Assistant to the Mayor/Budget Coordinator

Book Boxes

a. Six collections are currently available for classroom loan:

- Navajo: Weaving, Stories & Lifeways
- Slavery & the Underground Railroad
- Foodways: A Multicultural Sampler
- Dolls: Favorite Stories
- Japan: Our Asian Neighbor
- Migration & Immigration

If Only They Could Talk: Dolls, Stories & the Spirit of Doll Making

- Exhibition in Folklife Gallery, October 1 - December 31, 2000
-written comments from viewers (35)
- Reception for the new exhibition on October 4 • 45 attendees
- Lecture Series (Wednesdays, 7 pm)
 - October 4 Benefit Dolls: Making Dolls for the Community
by Agnes Sura • 20 attendees
 - October 11 Care of Antique Dolls
by Andrea Salkowe • 19 attendees
 - October 18 A History of Cloth Dolls
by Linda Edward • 19 attendees
- Gallery Visit with Story
 - October 27 - Glens Falls - Kensington
exhibit tour (Todd DeGarmo) & story (Frieda Toth)
3rd Graders: 9:30 am 20 participants
10:30 am 23 participants
- Workshops by local dollmakers in area schools
(with additional funding by the County Youth Bureaus via SALS)
 - November 9 - Cambridge
Nancy Scheemaker and Agnes Sura
4th grade 45 participants
4th grade 45 participants
 - November 27 - Cambridge
Nancy Scheemaker and Carolyne Hooke
5th grade 28 participants
Note: Thank you notes and reports
 - November 28 - Salem
Todd DeGarmo and Carolyne Hooke
5th grade 28 participants
3rd grade 40 participants
Note: Self-motivated doll making on December 1
 - December 4 - Johnsbury
Nancy Scheemaker and Carolyne Hooke
5th grade 33 participants
3rd grade 33 participants
Note: Thank you note and photographs
 - December 7 - Chestertown Library
Nancy Scheemaker and Carolyne Hooke
Homeschoolers 12 participants
 - December 11 - Greenwich (Easton Library)
Nancy Scheemaker and Carolyne Hooke
3rd grade 25 participants
 - January 25 - Lake George

Afterschool 6th graders 20 participants

- Book Box for classrooms called *Dolls: Favorite Stories*
- Publicity: postcard; exhibit catalog; features in Post-Star (Sept 28), Schenectady's Sunday Gazette (Oct 15)

Exhibitions

We developed several exhibitions this year in cooperation with area institutions:

Musical Memories of the Adirondacks - developed at the request of the Adirondack Mountain Club, Lake George in 1999. First showing at CPL January 2000.

Peaveys, Pike Poles, and Pickaroons – subtitled, *Moving Logs from Stump to Mill in the Adirondacks*, a travelling display of photographs and Adirondack folk music lyrics developed in cooperation with officials from the Warrensburg office of Department of Environmental Conservation, travelling to Warren County Youth Fair, Warrensburg (August)

Folk Art from the Trees – continued on display in the Folklife Gallery to showcase various folk artists and their work, containing objects, photographs, biographical information. New additions including Birch Bark work of Thomas Mowatt, and Red Tail Hawk carving by Bob Godfrey.

Hello! from Saga City Japan (new), homemade posters from elementary students introducing their neighborhoods to their sister city, Glens Falls.

If Only They Could Talk: Dolls, Stories & the Spirit of Doll Making
(October 2000 - January 2001)

In addition we place small displays around the Library in our "Folklife Cubes":

African Thorn Carving from IACA

Fish Taxidermy

Brownie, the Chainsaw carved bear

Knitting & Wool to promote the Washington Co. Wool Tour, Spring 1999

Meg's Snow Cycle constructed of found objects by Fred Hill

The Folklife Center also takes care of other, non-folklife art and displays:

Fine Art: paintings, prints and photographs from the Special Collections.

Sister Cities: Saga City Japan & Glens Falls: display case of gifts, art, plaques

Folklorist Presentations

by Todd DeGarmo:

May 10: Folklife Center's Place within the proposed Library Expansion, NYS Folk Arts Roundtable, Syracuse.

July 3 - August 3: Skidmore college course American Studies 102 (DeGarmo on his own time as visiting faculty, during second summer session, Monday-Friday, 8:30-10:10 am in Saratoga Springs).

October 21: Indian Camps & Upstate Tourism, Heritage Hunters, Saratoga Springs Public Library. This talk is one of 122 chosen to be a part of New York Council for the Humanities' 2000-2002 series.

November 16: "Life Within: Vernacular Architecture in NE New York" for the session, *Intersections: Folklore, Oral History, and Historic Preservation Studies*, at the conference, Researching New York 2000: Perspectives on Empire State History, University at Albany.

November 17: Ribbon cutting for NYFolklore Society's new gallery, Schenectady.

Management Activities

As a department head and member of the Library's Management Team, DeGarmo has additional duties:

- attend monthly Board meetings and present Folklife Center report.
- attend Board Committee meetings.
- attend weekly Management Team meetings.
- supervise Building Staff (2).
- Acting Head Custodian when David Colt out on sick leave.
- participate in Library expansion planning, ie. meetings/activities with Nolan Lushington, library planner.
- participant in Web design discussions with Web consultant.

Additional Professional Activities

Participation (DeGarmo)

- board president, New York Folklore Society.
- member of the Advisory Committee, Capital District Library Council - Documentary Heritage Program.
- member of the planning committee, American Folklore Society's 2002 Annual Conference in Rochester, NY.
- co-host, Arts, History and Tourism session for Management seminars sponsored by Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce, January 5
- hosted local Museum Educators Alliance meeting in Folklife Center, April 3.
- attendee, Employee Assistance Program workshops, *Yoga for Stress Management* (May 4) and *Intervention Skills for Supervisors* (May 24).
- attendee, individual training from Hudson Falls computer specialist Shelly Cromwell for the new NHEEP-funded PC in the Folklife Center, May 1.
- attendee, NY Folk Arts Roundtable workshops on audio recording and photography in Syracuse, May 11.
- representative for CPL (on his own time) at the *Chronicle's 20th Anniversary* cruise on Lake George May 17.

- representative for CPL at a hearing for this state budget initiative, *Rediscovering NYS History and Culture*, Colonie, September 13.
- attendee, Southern Adirondack Library System 3-day workshop on digital cameras and web pages at Sagamore, Great Camp, September 20-22.
- attendee, grant writing workshop, NYS Library Preservation and Conservation of Library Materials, Colonie, September 25.
- attendee, New York Folklore Society Forum on Heritage and Cultural Tourism at the Arts Center, Troy, October 5.
- attendee, Hudson River - American Heritage River, Fort Edward, November 9.
- member of the Art Initiative Review Panel for Washington County to redistribute \$21,000 from NYSCA's Decentralization at LARAC, November 18.
- participant, Lake Champlain/Lake George Waterfront Revitalization meeting of Lake George Communities, Bolton Landing, November 30.

Participation (Fowler):

- founding member, Warren County History Roundtable.
- attendee, Upstate New York Archives Conference at SUNY Albany, June 15-16.
- attendee, BOCES Adirondack Conference at Sagamore, Raquette Lake, NY, October 10-12.
- attendee, Adirondack region meeting of the Environmental History of NYS, sponsored by the NYS Archives in our Folklife Center, Oct 26.

Publicity

Besides the publicity we receive for our programs, the Folklife Center was featured in several publications this year:

- 2000 Directory of Repositories - updated our listing in this regional publication by CDLC (Capital District Library Council).
- Folklife Resources/South Carolina - updated our files at the Folklife Resource Center at the McKissick Museum, University of South Carolina.
- American Folklife Center - a report was submitted on the needs and conditions of our folklife audio recordings for the AFC, Library of Congress.
- Skidmore Career Services - an updated listing was sent to the Internship Program at Skidmore College.
- Arts Expo - Todd DeGarmo took a turn with department heads staffing the CPL table at LARAC's Arts Expo hosted by the Hyde Saturday, October 14.
- Glens Falls Business Journal - DeGarmo was interviewed about Folklife Center on October 12 for an article due in the December 2000 issue.
- Voices - the Folklife Center has an Ad and a notice in the premiere issue of NYFS's new magazine, Fall/Winter 2000 issue.