

Crandall Public Library's

## Center for Folklife, History & Cultural Programs

2001 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 16 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 Folklife Center's Reading Room, and 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**, Bruce Cole, Diane Jones, Teri Weston, Katherine Chansky and others help to cover the Center's Reading Room when Center staff are not available.

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

**Consultants**, A. Patricia Long and Laura Van Guilder, for processing of photograph collections funded by the NYS Archives-LGRMIF Grant 2001-2002.

### Grants

This past year we received funding for our programs from the New York State Council on the Arts-Folk Arts Program (\$35,000), Parent Child Library Services Grant (\$21,330), New York State Archives and Records Administration-Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (\$12,089), Byron Lapham gift from sales of *Hometown Memories* (\$2,000), the Capital District Library Council Map Project Grant (\$1800), Glens Falls and Queensbury schools for programs (\$450), NY Folklore Society travel stipend (\$106). In addition, Adirondack Community College donated a microfilm reader/printer.

### Award

The Folklife Center has been awarded the 2001 Annual Archives Award for program excellence in a historical records repository by the Board of Regents and State Archives. The award commends the Center for continually improving its archival program, raising funds to create new space for its collections and to hire professional staff. It also cites the

preparation of finding aids and a searchable database of photographs to increase access to its collections, and it recognizes the Center's fine selection of outreach programs for school children and the general public.

## Archives & Special Collections

### The Reading Room:

Staffed for the public 22 hours per week (6 days a week). We had 2,190 users asking 1,814 reference questions, using 3,854 items, making 3,769 photocopies.

In addition, many photographs were used for special features in local newspapers, *Post-Star* and *Chronicle*, and for a promotional packet for revitalization of downtown Glens Falls.

### Holden Reference Collection:

\$6000 was budgeted from the Library's book budget for 211 new books and materials spent by DeGarmo in the subjects of local and regional history, genealogy, folk arts and folklife studies. In addition, Friends of Crandall Public Library provided 295 titles from the public's donations to their book sale.

### Special Acquisitions:

Heidi Cole – donated various books, papers on regional topics.

16 mm films – 24 titles of regional interest donated by the Southern Adirondack Library System.

Lake George Camp – 1920s publications and photograph album owned by George Phelps, donated by his son Jim Phelps .

### Folk Art & Artist Collection:

- Shovel Maker (carving) by Gary Rathbone of Burlington Flats
- Wood carving of a hawk and snake by Bob Godfrey of Fort Ann.
- Transylvanian gravepost (Kopjafak) by Ferenc Keresztesi of Troy.

### NYS Archives-LGRMIF 2001-2002:

Hired 2 consultants, A. Patricia Long and Laura Van Guilder, to work on preservation rehousing of our photograph collections, using consultant Susan Brome's report, *CPL Photograph Collections Recommendations for Preservation* (January 2001).

### Map Project:

Grant from the Capital District Library Council will give us \$1800 worth of consultant's time on getting our map collection on regional databases.

### Records Management:

As the Records Management Officer, DeGarmo culled 14 cubic feet of Obsolete Library Records, based on the NYS Records Retention & Disposition Schedule.

## Research & Documentation

Special Projects 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.

### **Backyards: Youth Documenting Community**

This new ongoing program works with multiple sites for teens to learn photography and sound recordings for exhibitions, radio production, and collection building.

Pilot projects in 3 communities in 3 counties of our service area: Schuylerville (Saratoga Co.), Lake George (Warren Co.), and Salem (Washington Co.).

Partnerships with 6 organizations: Schuyler Canal Visitors Center, Lake George Afterschool Program, Battenkill Conservancy-NY, and libraries in Schuylerville, Lake George, and Salem.

We have our first grant, from the Parent Child Library Services (see above).

**Indian Camps & Upstate Tourism**, an illustrated talk by Todd DeGarmo for the Speakers program sponsored by the New York State for the Humanities, continues to grow as a research topic.

**Amusement, Summer Camps & Dude Ranches**, by Ellen McHale, Albert Fowler, and Todd DeGarmo, has been widely distributed this past year and continues to generate interest in the topic.

## Public Programs

### **Turkish Folk Music & International Children's Art**

(3 artists, 1 session, 75 participants)

Turgay Erturk & Friends performed in CPL Auditorium on Tuesday, January 23 at 7 pm following the reception (catered by Mamoun's Mideast Cafe) for the World Awareness Children's Museum's All Country Show at 6 pm in the Friends Gallery.

### **Papercrafts**

(3 presenters • 8 sessions • 2 sites • 168 participants)

Participatory workshops for children during winter recess:

#### Kites

with Matt Shea on Tuesday, February 20

Bancroft Library, Salem

10:15-11:15 am

18 participants

Crandall Public Library

1-2 pm

21 participants

2:30-3:30 pm

15 participants

#### Origami

with Dan Busha on Wednesday, February 21

Bancroft Library, Salem

10:15-11:15 am

25 participants

Crandall Public Library

1-2 pm

24 participants

2:30 -3:30 pm

29 participants

**Secret Keepers**

with Paula Krieg on Thursday, February 22

Crandall Public Library

1-2 pm

22 participants

2:30-3:30 pm

14 participants

**Notes:**

• **Publicity:**

Press releases to weekly/daily newspapers, radio, TV.

Flyers produced inhouse and placed on library desks.

Flyers distributed to 4-5-6 grades at Salem Central School.

**Let It Shine: Black Women Freedom Fighters**

(1 artist • 4 sessions • 256 participants/reception & workshops only)

Original oil paintings by artist Steven Alcorn (Cambridge, Washington Co, NY) for the award winning (Coretta Scott King Honor Book) children's book by the same name.

- Exhibition in Folklife Gallery, February 1 - June 30, 2001

- Reception for the artist

with music by Barry Hyman on March 7      50 attendees

- Self-guided tour with teacher-produced worksheet

March 2      Glens Falls 7th graders      45 participants

- Gallery Talks with Steven Alcorn

April 6      Queensbury 5th graders      53 participants

Glens Falls 2nd graders      20 participants

May 4      Glens Falls 8th graders      40 participants

Queensbury 4th graders      48 participants

- Publicity: color publicity postcard; features in Post-Star (February 11, May 28, June 25) including a Post-Star Scene cover (February 15), Schenectady's Sunday Gazette (May 15)

**Adirondack Music & Stories**

(1 presenter • 7 sessions • 222 participants)

Bill Smith, storyteller and balladeer, two times during the year:

1. Friday, June 1, 2001

Queensbury 3rd Grade annual Adirondack Environmental Day

9:20 am      26 participants      12:50 pm      25 participants

10:10 am      25 participants      1:40 pm      23 participants

11:00 am      24 participants      2:40 pm      27 participants

**Notes:**

We distributed 300 Bill Smith and 300 Dick Richards bookmarks with resource list.

Publicity: School flyer, Post-Star article June 3.

2. Friday, September 16  
7 pm CPL Auditorium 72 participants (with 9-11 service in City Park)  
**Notes:**  
Bookmarks with resource list of Bill Smith's books, tapes, CDs.  
Publicity: press release, bookmarks to press and as handouts on library desks.

### **Live! At the Bandstand**

(33 artists, 4 sessions, 1455 participants)

Live music and dance in City Park Tuesdays 7 to 8:30 pm in City Park:

#### John Rossbach & Chestnut Grove

Bluegrass music with guest Andrew Van Norstrand (13 year old fiddler)

Tuesday, July 10, 2001

5 artists + 400 participants

#### Bobba Culpa

Dance music of Eastern Europe

Tuesday, July 17, 2001

7 artists + 235 participants

#### Kuumba Dance & Drum

African & African-American

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

15 artists + 320 participants

#### Tony's Polka Band

Polish family polka music

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

6 artists + 500 participants

#### **Notes:**

##### • **Publicity:**

Press releases to weekly/daily newspapers, radio, TV

Printed flyer on library desks, sent to media, and bulk mailed to targeted audiences.

Advertisement in *Folk Times*.

Articles in *Post-Star, Chronicle*.

- Collaborations with LARAC for the use of their building for the artist's green room and with the City of Glens Falls for use of the bandstand and park employee for setup.

- New reusable publicity banners on the bandstand throughout July.

- Sandwich boards for sidewalks on days of the performances.

### **Nature Explored: A Youthful Vision**

(1 group show • 60 participants/reception only)

An exhibition of photographs, drawings, plaster casts and haiku poetry by the students of the Elementary Outings Club of Glens Falls City Schools. Curated by Lisa Catalfamo.

- Exhibition in Folklife Gallery, July 16 to September 12, 2001.
- Reception Monday July 30, 6 to 7 pm with guest musician, Tomoya Yamada and 60 participants.
- Publicity: postcard; features in Post-Star (August 20).

## **Musical Mosaic**

**(1 artist • 25 participants/forum only)**

Alan Lomax in Italy, Spain, West Indies, American South  
Field Photography & Recordings 1952-62.

An exhibition of black & white photographs, listening station with patron-selected musical tracks, display of published works of John and Alan Lomax, including the Rounder Record's Alan Lomax Collection. Free, informational 4-page flyer provided.

- Exhibition in the Folklife Gallery, September 24, 2001 to January 15, 2002.
- Reception in the Folklife Gallery, for the concert, Jay Ungar & Molly Mason Family Band, on October 25 with xxx participants.
- Free Forum (Preserving & Presenting)  
featuring special guests from the Alan Lomax Archives discussing:
  - Alan Lomax's fieldwork recordings & photography
  - sound preservation & digital production
  - public database access
  - licensing & royalties
  - genealogy for finding musicians' descendants

Wednesday, November 28, 2001, 9 am to 1 pm  
Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library cosponsored by the New York  
Folklore Society and the Southern Adirondack Library System.

25 participants representing museums, libraries, arts centers, and other  
organizations from Buffalo, Syracuse, Plattsburgh, Schenectady,  
Middlebury, VT.

- Inspiring other Library events:
  - October 10: Roy Hurd & Frank Orsini (concert)
  - October 25: Jay Ungar & Molly Mason Family Band (concert)
  - November 6: O Brother, Where Art Thou? (film)
- Publicity: postcard, informational flyer, articles in the Glens Falls *Post-Star* (Sept 13, Oct 18), Albany *Times Union* (Oct 11), Plattsburgh *Press-Republican* (Dec 2).

## **Book Boxes**

**(24 book boxes or 720 books circulated • 24 sites x 20 students = 480 participants)**

These are boxes of books and other materials organized by topic that teachers can borrow from the Folklife Center for classroom use grades K-7, a month at a time. Six collections were available all year, with the new addition of *India*., developed by Todd DeGarmo, director of the Folklife Center and Pam Frazier, head of the Childrens Department:

- India: People & Culture

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

**Other Displays:**

At the news of the death of Vaughn Ward, friend and colleague, we set up two display cases in the Library's main reading room highlighting her work in the Adirondack North Country.

We provided a free-standing display of scenes from 1950s-60s Storytown (now Great Escape) in celebration of the Library honoring of Charles Wood for his \$1 million donation to the Children's Department.

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

Toy Barn by Sandy Lourie, West Rupert, Vermont.

Fish Taxidermy by Carl Brainard, Warrensburg, Warren County

Brownie, the Chainsaw carved bear by Bob Sutliff, Hudson Falls, Washington Co.

Knitting & Wool to promote the Washington Co. Wool Tour.

Navajo Marriage Dolls (to promote Navajo Book Box).

Wooden Mechanical Toys by Chris Morley, Ballston Spa, Saratoga Springs.

Kindred Roots (painted sticks) by Dorothy Hempel, Salem, Washington County.

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.

**Presentations by folklorist Todd DeGarmo:**

February 3: *Non-profit Expo Booth* with other department heads at Aviation Mall.

February 7: *Indian Camps & Upstate Tourism* (NYCH Speakers Series) for Lake George Library.

February 13: *Backyards: Youth Documenting Community*, for the Schuylerville Seniors.

March 10: *Indian Camps & Upstate Tourism* (NYCH Speakers Series) Roxbury Arts Group.

April 4: *Adirondack Regional Career Fair* with Pam Frazier (Children's Department), Glens Falls High School.

May 9: *Backyards: Youth Documentation Project*, at NYS Folk Arts Roundtable, Syracuse, NY.

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

December 5: *Indian Camps & Upstate Tourism* (NYCH Speakers Series) for Albany Institute of History & Art, Albany, NY.

### **Presentations by archivist Albert Fowler**

May 5: *Family Research at the Folklife Center*, for the Northeastern New York Genealogical Society Conference, Lake George, NY.

August 18: *Resources at the Folklife Center*, for Heritage Hunters.

## 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 of three.
- participate in Library expansion planning, ie. meetings/activities with Nolan Lushington, library planner.
- board designated Records Management Officer

## Additional Professional Activities

### **Todd DeGarmo**

#### **Ongoing:**

- board president, New York Folklore Society.
- member of the Advisory Committee, Capital District Library Council - Documentary Heritage Program.
- member of the advisory groups for the Lake Champlain/Lake George Waterfront Revitalization and Scenic Byways groups (2000-2001).
- member of the planning committee, American Folklore Society's 2002 Annual Conference in Rochester, NY.

#### **One-time:**

- January 9: advisory committee/exhibitions, Brookside Museum, Ballston Spa.
- February 13: attendee, *Interpersonal Skills*, Adirondack Regional Chambers of Commerce-Small Business Council, Lake George.
- February 15: attendee, *Preservation of Scrapbooks*, Guilderland Library.
- March 2-4: attendee, *Collaborative Ethnography and the Folklorist's Tool Kit*, at MAAF/FITS Folklorist Retreat, Tilghman, MD.
- April 5: advisor, NYSCA Decentralization Grant application review for Washington County requests, at Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council (LARAC), Glens Falls.
- April 7: attendee, *Preserving a Place of the Heart*, conference of the Battenkill Conservancy-NY, Greenwich.



- April 26: attendee, *Field Recordings in Archives: Preservation and Related Issues*, NY Folklore Forum, at the Association for Cultural Equity at Hunter College, New York.
- May 28: attendee (own time), *Old Chatham Sheep Herding Festival*, Chatham.
- May 9-11: participant, *NYS Folk Arts Roundtable*, Syracuse.
- June 9-10: attendee (own time), *Cambridge Balloon Festival*, Cambridge.
- June 17: attendee (own time), *Riverfest*, hosted by the Arts Center, Troy.
- July 13: visitor, *Family Stories*, exhibition at the Vermont Folklife Center, Middlebury, VT.
- July 20: audience (own time), *Fiddlers Weekend*, Hubbard Hall, Cambridge.
- August 1: attendee, *Folk Arts Peer Session* at the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, New York.
- August 14: audience, *La Fiesta*, festival of racetrack traditions.
- October 22: attendee, grant workshop for *Preservation and Conservation of Library Materials*, Colonie Library.
- November 15-16: attendee, *Living Lore: The Legacy of Benjamin A. Botkin*, Library of Congress, Washington, DC.
- December 16: participant (own time) *A Celebration of the Life of Vaughn Ward*, Glenridge Grange, Scotia.

**Albert Fowler:**

**Ongoing:**

- founding member, Warren County History Roundtable, meetings (January 27, March 27, June 9, October 2). Planning and preparation for survey of historical documentary collections in Warren County.

**One-time:**

- May 11: attendee, New York Genealogical and Biographical Society Conference, Saratoga Springs, NY.
- Home study course in Genealogy, National Genealogical Society.
- Consultant, on his own time, for Washington County Historian, Adirondack Mountain Club Archives Committee, and Silver Bay Association.