

Crandall Public Library's

Center for Folklife, History & Cultural Programs

2003 Annual Report (8 pages)

by Todd DeGarmo, Director of the Center

Mission

The Center for Folklife, History & Cultural Programs at Crandall Public Library (CPL) 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 the Library's four department heads. He has worked for the library since 1986, first as a consultant and later (by 1990) as staff folklorist. He is A.B.D. in American Studies, holds a masters in Anthropology, and has 18 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, Katherine Chansky, Bruce Cole, and others help to cover the Center's Reading Room when Center staff are not available.

Volunteers, Lillian Beswick; Mike Moynihan.

Consultants, for specific, grant-funded projects (see below).

Grants

This past year we received outside funding for our programs from the following sources:

- **New York State Council on the Arts–Folk Arts Program**,
4th year of multi-year funding for folk arts projects \$31,500
- **NYS Archives-LGRMIF**
-to improve storage of our smaller photograph collections \$6,800
- **NYS Council on the Arts - Folk Arts Program**
for a graduate intern in Folklife Studies \$4,500
- **Leo Cox Beach Philanthropic Foundation**
towards the new exhibition, *Harnessing the Hudson* \$3,600
- **Frederick A. Gilchrist donation** in memory of Betty Gilchrist
for books and historical and genealogical documents \$2,500
- **Friends of Crandall Public Library**
for 2 new Book Boxes \$1,050
- **Capital District Library Council**
to catalog our Old Childrens Books Collection \$1,000
- **Queensbury Schools**
for our help with Adirondack Day \$150

Archives & Special Collections

The Reading Room

Staffed for the public 22 hours per week (6 days a week). We had 1904 users asking 1316 reference questions, using 2953 items, making 7990 photocopies.

Special collections have also been used by both local newspapers, for Chapman Museum exhibitions, for the upcoming published history of the Glens Falls fire department –among other projects. by a Maine Environmental Firm 1970s-80s PCB reports on the Hudson River

Holden Reference Collection:

Almost \$2500 was spent from the Library's book budget, for 139 new books and materials chosen by DeGarmo in the subjects of local and regional history, genealogy, folk arts and folklife studies. In addition, the Friends of Crandall Public Library provided 336 titles from the public's donations to the Friends book sale.

Special Acquisitions

Research projects (eg. *Backyards, Rev Lives*) generate fieldwork and program files for the Library's Archives. In addition, we added the fieldwork of graduate intern Nicole Murray on local specialty farms; we purchased photographs from Michael Noonan on Chris Gregory's stonework, and Gretchen McHugh's views of industrial sites along the Hudson River. We also acquired Dave Bixby videotaped recordings of the Adirondack Fiddlers and local pow-wows.

Photograph Collections

With \$6,800 from a NYS Archives-LGRMIF Grant 2003-2004 used for supplies and consultant Laura Van Guilder, we began to rehouse the smaller collections.

Old Children's Books Collection

Capital District Library Council has provided \$1000 to hire consultant Jennifer Ferris to finish cataloging the Old Children's Book collection.

Records Management:

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

Finding Aids for Special Collections

With the collection descriptions nearly complete for core collections, the Folklife Center staff has placed finding aids on various catalogs statewide.

Volunteers continue to work on our photograph collections and vertical files.

Document Doctor

We co-hosted this workshop with the NYS Archives to advise people on the preservation their paper-based family collections.

Public Programs

Women of the Adirondacks: Woodcut Portraits by Cheryl Mirer

Exhibition in Folklife Gallery until January 31.

First stop of a six library tour through July 2003. The artist is a recipient of the 2002 Warren County Individual Artist Grant, funded by the NYS Council on the Arts and administered by LARAC.

Traveling exhibition to the Southern Adirondack Library System offices in Saratoga Springs, NY, November 3 to the end of the year.

Taiwanese Celebration

In cooperation with the World Awareness Children's Museum:

Book Box: *Chinese Cultures*, 2 collections of 25 children books for classroom loan and use within the Museum's new exhibition.

Reception (our 4th year) for an exhibition of international children's art in the Library's Friends Gallery, catered by Chinatown.

Live Concert, in CPL Auditorium, Wednesday, February 5, featuring a Lion Dance by the students of *Hopgar Kung Fu* of Glens Falls and folk songs sung by the *Taiwanese Chorus of Albany*.

70 participants.

Family Stories, Family Sagas

Exhibition produced by the Vermont Folklife Center, on display in the Folklife Gallery, February 1 to April 30, 2003

Publicity

- press releases: exhibition overview; program series; oral history workshop
- newspaper features: *Schenectady Gazette* and the *Post-Star*.
- radio interview: WNYV, Poultney, VT, 2/27/2003 9:30-10 am
- banner on library
- book marks (inhouse)
- printed flyer, bulkmailed and for patron pickup

School Visits - a collaboration with CPL's Children's Department and the World Awareness Children's Museum with groups spending a portion of their visit using the listening devices to explore the *Family Stories* exhibition:

Hudson Falls 3rd graders:

Tuesday, February 25	10-10:30 am	25 participants
	11-11:30 am	32 participants
Wednesday, February 26	10-10:30 am	25 participants
	11-11:30 am	25 participants
Friday, February 28	10-10:30 am	25 participants
	11-11:30 am	25 participants
Wednesday, March 5	10-10:30 am	30 participants
	11-11:30 am	25 participants
Total		157 participant

Community Dance with Peter, Paul & George
co-sponsored by the Children's Department during the school's winter vacation
Tuesday, February 18 10:30-11:30 am 55 participants
1-2 pm 40 participants
Total 95 participants

Reception: *All in Our Adirondack Family*,
exhibition organized by the Friends of CPL
Thursday, March 6, 6-8 pm in Friends Gallery, **est. 60 participants**

Live! Storytelling series

Thursday evenings 7 to 8:30 pm in the Folklife Center:

March 13	Colleen Cleveland	17 participants
March 20	Willem Lange	45 participants
March 27	Tom Weakley	28 participants
April 3	Bill Smith	60 participants
April 10	Catherine Charron	86 participants*

***Extraordinary Women & the AAUW**

As a part of the April 10 storytelling event, we co-hosted, along with the Adirondack Branch of the American Association of University Women awards ceremony for their Women History Month Contest winners (6 fifth graders) using our new *Extraordinary Women Book Box*.

Workshop Series:

- April 9 *What to Do With Those Oral Histories*
by Gregory Sharrow of the Vermont Folklife Center
cosponsored by the NY Folklore Society
30 participants
- April 12 *Preserving Family Scrapbooks*
with Albert Fowler & Katherine Chansky (CPL staff)
cosponsored by the Reference Department
11 participants
- April 19 *Sharing Family Stories* (rescheduled-snowstorm)
with Albert Fowler & Katherine Chansky (CPL staff)
cosponsored by the Reference Department
4 participants

Archives Intern

Robert McFadden, school of library science, SUNY-Albany

Folklife Intern

Nicole Murray, graduate student from Western Kentucky University, was our paid intern from May 15 to July 31, funded by a special grant from the New York State Council on the Arts-Folk Arts Program and the New York Folklore Society

Open Road

New exhibition in the Folklife Gallery, May 2003, from the Library of Congress.

American Folklife (exhibition)

Library of Congress exhibition in the Folklife Gallery, opened May.

Queensbury 3rd Grade Adirondack Day

The Folklife Center hosted storyteller Catherine Charron, who told Quebecois stories to third graders over 6 sessions at the Queensbury Schools' Adirondack Day on May 30th. **171 participants**

Live! At the Bandstand

Tuesday evening concert series in City Park, 7 to 8:30 pm
with funding from the NYSCA-Folk Arts Program

- July 8 Jodee James - Welsh music audience=175
 - July 15 Tom Evans Blues Band audience=320
 - July 22 Mundo Nuevo - latin american music audience=365
 - July 29 Polka Rascals audience=450
- Total 1,310**

Sound of Stone

Exhibition in the Folklife Gallery

September 15, 2003 to November 30, 2004

Michael Noonan's photographs of Christopher Gregory's stonework and the ancient stones of Ireland, and Gregory's mortarless keystone arch.

Reception, xxxxday, September 25, 6-8 pm, catered by Susan Quillio

Est. Audience: 40

Film, *The Stone Carvers* in Folklife Center, October 23, 7 pm

Audience: 50

Performance, *Stories from Ireland* by Batt Burns, November 13, 7 to 8:30 pm

Audience: 62

Crandall Fest Events

Document Doctor, cosponsored by the NYS Archives in Folklife Center.

Sound of Stone exhibition in Folklife Gallery.

Photo exhibit of Library activities & 20 years of Folk Arts in Friends Gallery.

Total Audience = 1200

Harnessing the Hudson

Exhibition in the Folklife Gallery

December 1, 2003 to January 31, 2004

Individual Artist Grant recipient Gretchen McHugh's 2003 photographs, with historic photos of the upper Hudson River (from the Chapman Museum, Fort Edward Historical Society, Corinth Museum, and CPL)

Reception, Tuesday, December 9, 6-8 pm

with music by Frank Orsini & xx

catered by Susan Quillio

Est. Audience: xx

Performance, *Millhand Maggie*, by Kathleen Gill, sharing family stories of work in the Cohoes mills, Folklife Center, Thursday, January 8, 7 to 8:30 pm

Audience: 37

Performance, *Working Waters*, by George Ward, music of the Hudson River and NYS canal system, Folklife Center, Thursday, January 15, 7 to 8:30 pm

Audience: xx

Exhibition Cubes

Special rotating display of regional folk art and artists:

Reference area (3 display cases):

ice fishing, Adirondack packbaskets (Jack Leadley); wooden mechanical toys (Chris Morley), fishing flies (Marc Francato); woolens (DePauls); Navajo marriage dolls

Children's Department (1 display case):

shovel maker (Gary Rathbone); chainsaw carved bear (Bob Sutliff); snowshoes (Ray Greene)

Downstairs/900s

toy barn (Sandy Lourie), balsam pillows by various artists; bird with snake carving (Bob Sutliff)

Book Boxes

To date, ten collections have been researched and developed by the Folklife Center in consultation with the Childrens Department. They are available for month-long classroom loan:

Chinese Cultures (new) - developed for the Taiwan exhibition of the World Awareness Children's Museum

Extraordinary Women (new) - developed for the 5th grade essay contest offered by the Adirondack branch of the American Association of University Women

- Navajo: Weaving, Stories & Lifeways
- Slavery & the Underground Railroad
- Foodways: A Multicultural Sampler
- India: People & Culture
- Dolls: Favorite Stories
- Japan: Our Asian Neighbor
- Migration & Immigration
- 1776: Life during the American Revolution

Presentations by archivist Albert Fowler:

- October: Introduction to Genealogy (with Katherine Chansky) presented during Archives Week at CPL with **17 participants**.

Presentations by folklorist Todd DeGarmo:

March 3: *Indian Camps & Upstate Tourism* illustrated talk presented at the Galloway Preservation Society, to an **audience of 40**.

April 15: *Indian Camps & Upstate Tourism* illustrated talk presented at the Greenfield Historical Society, to an **audience of 26**.

August 14: "Life Within: Vernacular Architecture in Northeastern New York" at *Built to Use, Not to Last: Temporary Structures and the Use of Space in Community Life*, a NY Folklore Society Forum held at the Mabee Farm, Rotterdam Junction, NY.

October 9: Internships in NYS at the American Folklore Society annual conference, Albuquerque, NM.

Additional Marketing

1. **Ethnographic Thesaurus**

Completed a questionnaire about our folklife collections to help guide the development of an ethnographic thesaurus, developed with an National Endowment for the Humanities grant to the American Folklore Society in collaboration with the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and George Mason University.

2. **InternCenter/Liberal Arts Career NetWORK Group**

Updated our Folklife Center listing in a nationwide database of internship and summer job opportunities used by 24 selective liberal arts colleges and universities.

3. **NYSCA Individual Artist Grant**

Wrote letters of support to artists Shirley McFerson and Cherly Mirer for this LARAC administrated program.

4. **American Folklife Center**

We updated our listing in the publication, *A Teachers Guide to Folklife Resources for K-12 Classrooms*, also available online: www.loc.gov/folklife/teachers.htm.

We also sent a packet of our publications to be made available in the Folklife Reading Room, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress

5. **Public Programs Newsletter of the American Folklore Society**

We submitted a report of our activities through March 2003.

Additional Professional Activities

Albert Fowler

founding member, Warren County History Roundtable

attendee, *Family History at the Speed of Light*,
2002 GenTech conference in Boston, January 24-26.

Todd DeGarmo

- past-president of the Board, New York Folklore Society
- member of the Advisory Committee, Capital District Library Council - Documentary Heritage Program.
- member of the Library's Expansion Committee, consisting of members of the board, staff, and 3 charter communities.
- advisor to the Lake Champlain/Lake George Waterfront Revitalization and has also helped research subjects for interpretative signage in Hague and Lake George.
- January 16: panel member, Individual Artist Grant, administered by the Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council.
- January 27: attendee, NYSCA workshop on new procedures, in Troy.

- February 7: workshop attendee, Documenting Industrial History, hosted by the Chapman Historical Museum, Glens Falls
- February 24, invited guest, Adirondack Cultural Heritage, Minnowbrook, Blue Mountain Lake, NY.
- March 18: NYS Arts Day, sponsored by NY Folklore Society, in Albany.
- May 7-9: participant, *New York State Folk Arts Roundtable*, Syracuse.
- May 17: attendee, NYS Archives Conference, Skidmore College
- June 27: library representative (with Albert Fowler), Chapman Museum, invitation-only reception for its newly renovated archives and reading room.
- July 11: library representative, LARAC, City of Glens Falls and other non-profits meeting on new sound system for the bandstand in City Park.
- July 15: library representative, New York Council for the Humanities, new grant guidelines at Albany mtg.
- September 19: library representative, *Beyond Access to Opportunity*, day-long meeting presented by the NYS Council on the Arts at the Albany Public Library.
- October 16-20: attendee, American Folklore Society and New York Folklore Society's annual meetings, Rochester, NY.
- November 14: panel member (of 6), NYSCA Individual Artists Grants for Warren & Washington Counties, administered locally by LARAC, Glens Falls

Consultancies (DeGarmo's own time):

World Awareness Childrens Museum, consultant for long term planning with Heather Nielson, Leon Waller (Brooklyn Childrens Museum), Edward Ted Lind (Albany Institute), May 3.

Maine Arts Commission, panel member for Traditional Arts Apprenticeships, along with Keith Ludden (Maine), Winnie Lambrecht (RI), and Millie Rahn (MA), Augusta, Maine, May 22-23.

Skidmore College, visiting Lecturer for *American Studies 102* during the accelerated 5-week summer term 2002.

Adirondack Museum, member of the Advisory Committee to a new research, exhibition, and programming initiative, *Working on the Railroad*, to tell the story of the men and women who built and ran the train infrastructure of the Adirondacks. Other members including Varick Chittenden of TAUNY, Betsy Fowell of Adirondack Life, Martha Foley of North Country Public Radio, Amy Godine/independent scholar and author, July.

Geneva Historical Society, one of four tourism scholars (along with Peggy Shaffer, Cindy Aron, Carol Kammen) to help plan for Tourism in the Finger Lakes, a regional series of exhibitions in western New York, paid for by a National Endowment for the Humanities planning grant , Sept 28-29.