

Center for Folklife, History & Cultural Programs

Grants & Income

This past year we received new funding for our programs from the New York State Council on the Arts–Folk Arts Program (\$26,400), the New York State Archives–Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (\$12,440), the Capital District Library Council’s Cataloging Grant (\$2,000), the National Endowment for the Arts’ Technical Assistance Grant (\$1,500), Documentary Heritage Program via the New York Folklore Society (\$1,000), BOCES Project Enrich (\$424), Queensbury School (\$150).

Archives & Special Collections

115 new titles were purchased, and 235 titles were donated in the areas of local and regional history, genealogy, and folklife. Our own projects generate fieldwork & program files for the Library Archives, as well as more substantial additions, including student photographs (*Photograph Your World*), student essays (*Women’s History Month*), and memories/memorabilia (*Summer Camp Memories*). Flour sack textiles, and a wooden toy logging truck were also added to the *Folk Arts & Artists Collection*.

The Reading Room was staffed 22 hours per week (6 days a week). We had 1,706 users asking 1,344 reference questions, using 2,469 items, and making 3,243 photocopies. Of interest are the number of ways our Special Collections were used for special projects this year, including exhibits at both the Chapman Museum and Hyde Collection; the City of Glens Falls’ facade improvement program, film documentaries on Stoddard by WMHT-TV and the Hudson by an independent California film maker; and histories of Lake George, Christ Church United Methodist, log marks on the Hudson, and Adirondack women.

We continue to process & preserve our special collections. A NYS Archives grant paid for archives consultants to work on the preservation and cataloging of our photograph collections. A CDLC grant paid for adding permanent serials to the catalog. A DHP grant via New York Folklore Society is helping to catalog our extensive Folklife Collections (1986-present).

Guess What I Collect

20 kids from 7 communities participated in January, April and September training sessions to showcase their own collections in 2 or 3-week displays in the Children’s Department featuring a wide range of collectibles (Wizard of Oz, rocks & minerals, super heroes, Harry Potter, trucks, coins, Pokemon, marbles, nutcrackers, whistles, knights & dragons, baseball cards, comic books, Legos, pencils, snow globes, hats).

Photograph Your World

Todd DeGarmo taught 35 mm photography skills to 15 middle school students from 9 schools for BOCES Project Enrich for 6 weeks this spring. The Fall 2004 class work was exhibited in February and the Spring 2005 class work during May & June.

Pokingbrook Morris Dancers

The troupe performed winter dances for some 58 guests at our reception for the International Youth Art Show of the World Awareness Children's Museum, and our own *Photograph Your World* exhibit.

Dreaming Cows

Betty LaDuke’s photographs, drawings and paintings inspired by Heifer International Uganda/Rwanda tour in 2003 were on display in March & April, offering the backdrop to several programs: *Nepal & Tibet* by Roger Ellis, *Ecuador* by Jan & Dave Rowell, and a very successful *Read to Feed Day*, working with the Children’s Department to present a petting zoo, games, stories, computer activities.

Indian Baskets

In April, Todd DeGarmo presented plans for future programming with our Indian Basket Collection at the NYS Folk Arts Roundtable, and for the Greenfield Historical Society. He also met with basket makers in Bar Harbor, Maine, and received funding to consult with Pomo basket experts in California.

Extraordinary Women

The Library co-hosted, with the Adirondack Branch of the American Association of University Women, the 3rd annual awards ceremony for the Women History Month fifth grade essay contest winners. Inspired by our *Extraordinary Women Book Box*, 8 students in 3 categories (from 226 essays, 14 classrooms, 5 school districts) read their essays, and *Dry Bones* provided music, to an audience of 80.

Senior Learning

In April, Todd DeGarmo joined Adirondack Community College's Senior Lecture Series to present *Vernacular Architecture in Northeastern New York* to 100 senior students.

Adirondack Music

Dan Berggren sang for 165 third graders in six sessions at Queensbury's Adirondack Day in June.

Live! At the Bandstand

The annual 4-part Tuesday evening concert series attracted over 1,635 to City Park in July, featuring *The McKrells* (Irish), *Great Bear Trio* (String), *Chestnut Trio* (Bluegrass) and *Figiel Brothers* (Polka).

Crandall Displays

Crandall's building history was told in photos and drawings in the upstairs gallery during October/November, and with the renovation model, drawings and handouts in the lobby during the fall.

Traveling Exhibitions

The Folklife Center has loaned 3 exhibitions this year: *Paper Arts* (selections) for *Cut & Paste Folk Art & Paper* by the Arts Center (Troy), *Adirondack Women: Woodcut Portraits* to Traditional Arts in Upstate New York (Canton) and *Folklife Programs* to Southern Adirondack Library System (Saratoga Springs).

Book Boxes

These collections of books travel to classrooms, home schools and other organizations throughout the year (*Chinese Cultures, India, Backyards, 1776, Navajo, Slavery, Foodways, Dolls, Japan, Keepsakes & Memories, Migration, Extraordinary Women, Iroquois, Rainforest Cultures*).

Summer Camp Memories

This exhibition featured two early 20th century camp collections (Gahada & Lake George) along with an invitation to the public to submit their own memorabilia for display, September through December.

Live! At Crandall

Adirondack storyteller Bill Smith and champion fiddler Don Woodcock performed to an enthusiastic audience of 100 in November, recorded live for a concert CD to be released next year.