

Center for Folklife, History & Cultural Programs

We mourn the loss of our good friend and colleague Albert Fowler, the Folklife Center's first archivist. We will miss his wise counsel and always-kind presence.

Grants & Income

This past year we received new funding for our programs from the New York State Council on the Arts–Folk Arts Program (\$31,000), the New York State Archives–Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (\$17,374), the Capital District Library Council's Cataloging Grant (\$2,000), the National Endowment for the Arts' Technical Assistance Grant (\$603), BOCES Project Enrich (\$499), Public Library Association (\$476), Quebec government (\$450), New York Folklore Society (\$101).

Archives & Special Collections

208 new titles were purchased, and 784 titles were donated in the areas of local/regional history, genealogy, and folklife. Our own projects generate fieldwork & program files for the Archives, as well as more substantial additions, including student photographs (*Photograph Your World*) and essays (*Women's History Month*). A moose-&-wolves woodcarving was added to the *Folk Arts & Artists Collection*.

The Reading Room was staffed 22 hours per week (6 days a week). We had 1,819 users asking 1,291 reference questions, using 2,348 items, and making 3,932 photocopies.

We continue to catalog & preserve our special collections. A NYS Archives grant paid for archives consultants to work on the photograph collections and institutional archives. CDLC grants paid for adding serials and art collections to the catalog.

Successful Folklife Programs

DeGarmo joined colleagues from the Library of Congress, North Carolina, and New York to present a panel on *Successful Folklife Programs in Public Libraries* as guests of the Public Library Association at its spring meeting in Boston. In April he spoke of our program in the panel, *Communities and Folklife in Museums*, at the Upstate History Alliance & Museum Association of New York.

In Place: The Photographs of Neil Rappaport

The Vermont Folklife Center organized this exhibition in conjunction with the publication of their book, *Messages from a Small Town: Photographs Inside Pawlet Vermont*, by his wife and collaborator Susanne Rappaport. This exhibition ran January through April, offering the backdrop to the programs: *Gillette & Mangsen* concert/reception, gallery talk and panel discussion.

Extraordinary Women

The Library co-hosted, with the Adirondack Branch of the American Association of University Women, the 4th annual awards ceremony for the Women History Month essay contest. Nine fifth graders in 3 categories read their essays, and *Barbaire McCarthy* told Irish stories to an audience of 70.

Guess What I Collect

10 kids participated in the spring & fall training sessions to showcase their own collections in 4-week displays in the Children's Department featuring a wide range of collectibles (monkeys, paper dolls, sled dog racing, Pokemon, rocks & minerals, dragons, Broadway memorabilia, horses (2x), Russian dolls).

Photograph Your World

Todd DeGarmo taught 35 mm photography skills to 14 middle school students from 9 schools for BOCES Project Enrich for 6 weeks this spring, with their class work exhibited in May & June. In March he presented this program to Youth Services librarians of New York Library Association in Corning.

Fair Fotos: Agricultural Portraits

Clifford Oliver's local photography was exhibited June to September, and 2 films, *Broken Limbs* and *Future of Food*, were shown and discussed by guest panelists in July.

Live! At the Bandstand

The annual 4-part, Tuesday evening concert series attracted over 1,422 to City Park in July, featuring *Yale Strom & Hot Pstromi*, *Racing City Chorus*, *Red Stick Ramblers*, and *The Mammals*.

Foreign Exchanges

In August, Todd DeGarmo was a member of the US delegation to Montreal Quebec to discuss upcoming cultural exchanges. In November, he spoke with Russian librarians in Saratoga Springs about using folk arts to encourage reading at the NYLA conference, *The Reading Child in the Modern World*.

Traveling Exhibitions

The Folklife Center displayed, *Peavies, Pike Poles & Picaroons* at the Southern Adirondack Library System in 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*.

On the River

Free talks in October and November showcased stories and material culture of the upper Hudson, with *Batteaux* by David Manthey, *Log Marks* by Dick Merrill, *River Memories* by Andy Flynn, and *Swim for the River* with film director Tom Weidlinger and dulcimer musician Dan Duggan.

Hometown Holidays

In December, Frank Orsini & Don Young performed in the Library's lobby for this downtown event.