

Crandall Public Library's
Center for Folklife, History & Cultural Programs
2009 Annual Report (5 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 Folklife Center helps to serve the library's mission of outreach as the Central Reference Library of the Southern Adirondack Library System.

Staffing

Folklife Center Director, Todd DeGarmo is full-time, professional staff, a member of the Library's Management Team. 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 degree in Anthropology, has coursework and training in archives management, and has 25 years experience in research, grantsmanship, and public programming in folk arts.

Archivist/Librarian I, Erica Wolfe Burke, full-time professional staff, runs the daily operation of the Folklife Center's Research Room, and manages the archives and special collections. She has masters degree in Library Science, with experience in archives management.

Volunteers

- 440 total volunteer hours by 15 volunteers (see below)
- Josh Henderson, Nate Putnam, Maureen Dye, Tiffany Livernmore, Deb Sgambelluri, Elizabeth Johnson, Gwen Oveson, Beatrice Salem, Bill Steffan, Mitzi Miller, Zoe Muller, Emily Frank, Donna Leonard & Hospital Guild.

Consultants

- 359 total consultant hours by 4 consultants under 3 different grants (see below)
- Cindy Maguire, Caitlin Johnson, Nancy Scheemaker, Deb Sgambelluri.

Grants & Income

- New York State Council on the Arts–Folk Arts Programs - general support for folk arts projects, \$39,400.
- Capital District Library Council - grant to re-catalog cookbooks, folklore, etc, \$2,500.
- Finch Paper - donation towards logging films program, \$250.
- NY Folklore Society Mentoring Program - consultant for live concerts sound system, \$647.
- Queensbury Schools - for our help with Adirondack Day, \$150.
- Glens Falls Hospital Guild - to buy archival materials for special collections, \$100.

Spaces - Renovations & Equipment

Folklife Gallery

- New built-in exhibition cases in hallway.
- New portable display system for gallery & traveling exhibitions (NYSCA-Folk Arts).
- Remove & adjust extra track lights.

Research Room

- Library catalog available for patrons.
- Computer with finding aids to special collections available for patrons.
- Reorganize audiovisual stations, catalog, & finding aids.
- Hanging system installed for maps and artwork.

Archival Storage Room

- Portable de-humidifiers used during the summer months.
- New tile floor installed over plywood base (CPL Capital Fund).

File Storage Room

- New shelving added to hold Library's inactive records (CPL Capital Fund).

Community Room

- Portable sound equipment for live concerts (NY Folklore Society & NYSCA-Folk Arts).

Folklife Offices & Workroom

- upgrade FC Director's MacIntosh computer system (NYSCA-Folk Arts).
- new computer, scanner and printer for Archivist.
- old laptop for consultants and volunteer.
- old laptop, turntable, & software system to digitalize record albums.

Archives & Special Collections

The Albert W. Fowler Research Room

In 2009 we had 3,688 patrons, during 1,288 open hours, using 5,834 items.

The Folklife Center is open to researchers Monday through Friday, 10 am to noon, 1 to 4 pm,

Tuesday evenings 5 to 8 pm, occasional Saturdays (i.e. Friends Book Sales and other special events)

and by appointment.

New Collections

Holden Reference Collection: 709 books and published materials were added (new purchases & donations) in the subjects of local and regional history, genealogy, folk arts and folklife studies.

Other materials added:

- Tom Ryan original watercolors (Jan)
- David Casey's books & papers on Irish families & local history (Jan)
- John C. Mannix Magician's Library (Jan)
- Erica Wolfe Burke's *Christmas Nativity Puppets* (Jan)
- Janice Whipple's donation of *Pines in Snow*, a watercolor by S. Hamilton (Jan)
- Charles R. Wood portrait (July)

- Glens Falls Hospital Guild Records, 12 cu ft (Aug)
- High school yearbooks, misc titles (Sept)
- Fran & Irv Shapiro Folk Music Collection, 15 linear ft (Sept)

Collection Loans

Henry Ferguson's oil painting, *Bridge over the Hudson at Glens Falls*, (Art Collections) to Tang Museum at Skidmore College's exhibition, *Lives of the Hudson*.

Johnsburg UMW Tied Quilt (Folk Art Collections) to Adirondack Museum's exhibition, *Common Threads: 150 Years of Adirondack Quilts & Comforters*, in Blue Mountain Lake, and then traveling to Lake Placid.

Photographs & broadsides to the Chapman Museum's exhibition, *All Cordially Invited*.

Collection Management

- Library's Institutional Archives reassessed & reorganized.
- Obsolete Library Records: 11 cubic feet destroyed.
- Holden Reference Collection: assigning new catalog numbers (650 titles); making rare book boxes.
- Serials: oversize bound & loose newspapers boxed & inventoried; other serials moved & reorganized.
- Maps: oversize maps boxed.
- Broadside Collection: new folders and inventoried.
- Manuscript Collections: collection descriptions written for smaller collections (LGRMIF grant).
- Files (GF, Queensbury, Bio, Regional): clippings and ephemera added; preservation work.
- Shapiro Folk Music Library: creating research files on the musicians represented in this collection.

Public Programs

Folk Arts All Around Us

January through September: exhibition in the Folklife Gallery, featuring folk art, photographs and other materials from our Folklife Collections, curated by DeGarmo.

Asefa

March 5: live concert following 2 receptions (World Awareness Children's Museum All Country Show in the Friends Gallery and Folk Arts All Around Us in the Folklife Gallery), 96 participants.

Professional Music Workshop

March 14: workshop by NY Folklore Society in Community Room, 10 participants.

Old Songs' The Visitors

March 26: live concert in the Community Room

- 1:00 pm dress rehearsal for Minerva, Newcomb & Bolton schools, 25 participants
- 3:30 pm show for Glens Falls Schools After School Program, 110 participants
- 7:00 pm show for general audience, 180 participants

Extraordinary Women

April 29: 7th annual Women History Awards for winners of fifth grade essay contest who used our *Extraordinary Women Book Box*, with musical performance by Nancy Walker, co-hosted by the Folklife Center and the Adirondack Branch of the American Association of University Women, 130 participants.

Queensbury 3rd Grade Adirondack Day

May 29: provided musician Dan Berggren to perform 6 sessions for a total of 150 third graders.

Workshops on Special Collections in the Folklife Center

March 9: Adirondack Community College local history class, 15 participants.

June 8: Teens in Archives, 8 participants

July 18: Heritage Hunters of Saratoga, hosted by Erica Wolfe Burke, 20 participants

July 20: Northeastern New York Genealogical Society, hosted by Erica Wolfe Burke, 15 participants

Nov 18: Intro to the Folklife Center, by Erica Wolfe Burke for Homeschoolers, 16 participants.

Nov 24: Keepsakes & Memories, by Todd DeGarmo for Homeschoolers, 18 participants.

I Would Be Delighted to Go, If I May Take Mrs. Meyer with Me

July through Sept: exhibition of a 4-generation doll collection curated by Erica Wolfe Burke in the Folklife Gallery's hallway with a reception July 16 (Glens Falls Third Thursday Art Walk), 25 participants.

Guess What I Collect

July 21 & December 30: workshops for kids to showcase their own collections in the Library;

2-4 week displays; purchased a new exhibition case for the Children's Department.

All Cordially Invited

Co-host the Chapman Museum's programs associated with their exhibition, *All Cordially Invited*:

- May 7: lecture, *Vaudeville* by Robert Thompson in the Community Room, 57 participants.
- Oct 1: lecture, *Old Time Circus* by Dave Carlyon in Community Room, 50 participants.

Hometown USA

Sept 26: Erica Wolfe Burke presented the slide show, *Hometown USA* to the Glens Falls class of 1949, 60th Reunion, Queensbury Hotel, 65 participants.

Saratoga Native American Festival

Oct 3-4: display booth at SPAC, Saratoga Springs, about local Indian Camps, research by DeGarmo.

Great River of the Mountains

October 2009 through May 2010: exhibition in Folklife Gallery curated by Todd DeGarmo. with the following events:

- Oct 8: Opening reception & lecture by Lucey Bowen, 20 participants.
- Oct 15: live concert, North River, North Woods, by Berggren & Kirk, 99 participants.
- Oct 22: live concert, Adirondack Tunes & Tales, by Smith & Woodcock, 123 participants.
- Oct 27: Mountain Lakes PBS filming of Lucey Bowen & *Great River* to be aired 2010.
- Oct 29: lecture, Old Adirondack Logging Films by Dick Nason, 91 participants.

Basics of Archives

Nov 13: workshop (10 am to 4 pm) presented by Susan D'Entremont, CDLC-DHP, 25 participants.

From Our Collections

Ongoing program to showcase our Special Collections in small displays around the Library:

- Puerto Rican mask in exhibition cube near 2nd floor elevator
- Rodeo Saddle in exhibition cube in Holden Meeting Room
- Henry & Betsy Crandall portraits in the Crandall Meeting Room
- Winslow Homer prints in the Holden Meeting Room.
- Christmas Nativity Puppets in Research Room

Book Boxes

To date, 12 collections have been researched and developed by the Folklife Center in consultation with the Children's Department. They are available for month-long classroom loan:

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

Additional Professional Activities

Erica Wolfe Burke

- March: attend CDLC digital workshop on copyright.
- April 9: attend reception for City Historian's new book, *Listening In*.
- June 4-6: present the paper, *Researching the Feeder Canal: Part of Glens Falls' Invisible History* at the Conference on NYS History, Plattsburgh, NY.
- July 18: attend reception for exhibit, *Lives of the Hudson*, Tang Museum, Skidmore College.
- Sept 19: attend genealogy conference, Life in the Past Lane VI, Williamstown, MA
- October: attend Heritage Hunters of Saratoga annual meeting.

Todd DeGarmo

- member of the Advisory Committee, Capital District Library Council - Documentary Heritage Program.
- member of the Heritage Hall Committee, City of Glens Falls.
- April 9: host CDLC-DHP Advisory Committee meeting & tour.
- April 19: advise Guilderland Library on creation & management of an archives.
- April 20: advise Lake George on its historical collections.
- April 23: advise Saratoga Springs on its historical collections.
- April 23: attend reception for Chapman Museum's exhibition, *All Cordially Invited*.
- May 13-15: participate in *Web 2.0/Social Web for Cultural Organizations*, at the NYS Folk Arts Roundtable, Skaneateles, NY.
- Aug 20: meeting on digital collections & exhibitions at Vermont Folklife Center, Middlebury, VT.
- October 28: attend lecture, Malta Heritage Association.