

The Folklife Center Annual Report 2014

Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY 12801

Todd DeGarmo, Founding Director of The Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library

Erica Wolfe Burke, Archivist/Librarian - 5 pages

Grants & Income

1. New York State Council on the Arts - Folk Arts - award of \$33,000 (2014, year 2 of 2) for the programs of the regional and county folk arts program, The Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library.
2. Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust - award of \$4,979 to fund the workshop series, *Do Tell: Learning to Perform Personal Stories*, a free workshop series led by storytellers/educators Margaret French & Betty Cassidy at three sites (Glens Falls, Salem, Indian Lake).
3. Friends of Crandall Public Library - award of \$8,800 towards *Live! Folklife Concert* and *Summerland Music* series in 2014.
4. Leo Cox Beach Philanthropic Foundation
 - a. \$4,000 towards live programming associated with the new Folklife Gallery exhibition, *Celebrating Women's Creative Hands & Spirits*;
 - b. \$5,800 for the professional conservation treatment and framing of a 1860 Smith Map of New York;
 - c. \$13,000 to purchase a slightly used, concert grade Yamaha piano from Artist Pianos in Albany for the annual Summerland Music series and other events in the Community Room;
 - d. \$2,600 to support *Portraits*, a series of small video documentaries on local traditions and artists suitable for social media.
5. Capital District Library Council - \$2,500 to catalog the Folklife Collections.
6. Gift in honor of the Caffry Family - \$500.

Interns, Volunteers, Consultants

1. Special thanks to our interns:
 - a. Alexandra Crosby (Maryland Institute College of Art, MA in Critical Studies)
 - b. Victoria Hafner (SUNY Geneseo, Anthropology)
 - c. Jeromy McFarren (Empire State College/Masters in Liberal Studies/Public History)
 - d. Emily Weaver (Hofstra University, Anthropology/Geology)
2. Special thanks to our many volunteers, providing 1138.25 hours of help:
Jane Arnold, Seth Baldwin, Stephen Baratta, Sunny Buchman, Camp Chingachgook Alumni Association, Tisha Dolton, Lisa Dougherty, Maureen Dye, Jan Gabeille, Glens Falls Hospital Guild, Josh Henderson, Anne Lassel, Mike Moynihan, Chad Murray, Nina Paranjpe, Pam Reed, Sara Robert, Catherine Schmidt, Maureen Tuttle, Warren County Children's Committee, Lindsey Ziegler, Katie Zilka.
3. Special thanks to consultant Cindy Maguire, Librarian/Special Collections Cataloger, and Jeromy McFarren, media consultant.

Archives & Special Collections

1. **Reading Room:** 2738 patrons using 5560 items
Open Monday-Friday 10-12, 1-4, Tuesday 5-8; Friends Book Sale Saturdays,
and Family History Workshop Saturdays (1400.75 hours).
2. **Special Note:** The John James Audubon Collection kicked off the Doug Gruse/*Post-Star* museum series with a 2-part, front page series called "Sex, Lies, and Ornithology" February 23, and "Audubon Granddaughter Rewrites History" February 24, 2014.
3. **New Collections**
 - a. Holden Reference Book Collection: 495 new titles on Polaris catalog.
 - b. *Hill Country Observer*, back issues of this regional newspaper donated by its publisher.
 - c. *Orbit*, Queensbury high school yearbook, 12 volumes donated by the school.
 - d. *City Park, Glens Falls, NY* framed print by David Grey (1973) donated by Rosanne Valachovic.
 - e. *Co-op Cookery*, binder of newspaper columns published in *Washington County Post* 1983-89, written and donated by Anita Witten.
 - f. *American Wildlife Art* (2008) signed by author David J. Wagner, and passed on to us by Doug Gruse who used it in his *Post-Star* articles on the John James Audubon Collection.
 - g. *Northern Junket*, serial, Vol. 1-14, 1950-84, donated by Stephen F. Leonard.
 - h. Clara Rudnick Holocaust Collection (including interview, transcripts, clippings, letters, etc)
 - i. *The Chronicle* and *Lake George Mirror* microfilm additions.
 - j. *Wooden Boat, Adirondack Life* (serials) and 30 books on canoeing donated by Jim Mandell.
 - k. *Hermes*, Hudson Falls high school yearbooks, donated by Lisa Dougherty.
 - l. Abby & Will Csaplar Lake George Collection misc. additions.
 - m. Abby & Will Csaplar Silver Bay Collection - 4 cubic feet of images, papers, ephemera.
 - n. Viola Hagadorn Ralph Diary 1910-30, donated by gr-gr-granddaughter DawnMarie Helin.
 - o. American Association of University Women - additions.
 - p. World War II era clipping collection of Paul Ward.
 - q. *Boltonian*, Bolton Landing high school yearbooks.
 - r. *Remembering Diane Struble* - recording session of memories of Struble's historic Lake George swim in 1958.
 - s. *North Country Arts* papers of Sara Cutshall-King.
 - t. Empire Theater Papers of James Holden (additions), donated by William J. Gordon.
 - u. Mount McGregor ephemera including 2 fungus art paintings, donated by Todd DeGarmo.
 - v. Hidden Valley ephemera donated by Richard Brown.
 - w. Books, postcards, scrapbooks, ephemera, and 38 wood carvings donated by Alfred O'Brien.
 - x. Digital video recordings of *Live! Folklife Concerts & Summerland Music Festival* by DeGarmo.
 - y. *Portraits*, short documentaries using Solomon Documentary Lab by Jeromy McFarren (Bliss McIntosh & Black Ash Baskets; Celebrating Women's Creative Hands & Spirits; 2 workers at the Saratoga Race track; Katie Cross & Buff Mittens)
 - w. Folk Art Collection:
 - a. *Brown Trout*, fish sculpture by Tim Reed.
 - b. Willow basket by Bonnie Gale.
 - c. *Dreaming of Greater Things*, found art sculpture by Jack Metzger.
 - d. Mount McGregor fungus art (see "3" above).
 - e. 38 wood carvings (see "3u" above).
4. **Collection Management**
 - a. Csaplar Lake George Collection: inventory and preservation rehousing; ongoing item-level inventory into Filemaker Pro database.
 - b. Camp Chingachgook Archives: 5-year deposit being processed by CC alumni/volunteers.
 - c. Folk Music Libraries: ongoing digitization of albums for patron access at iTunes station.

- d. New manuscript collections: processed, inventoried and collection description.
- e. Vertical Files (Glens Falls-Queensbury, Regional, Biographical): filing/preservation copying.
- f. Serials: additions, storage reorganization, new inventory.
- g. NYS Vital Record Indexes: updates from NYS Archives & Department of Health.
- h. Crandall Public Library Archives

Folklife Gallery

1. **Celebrating Women's Creative Hands & Spirits** - a newly donated internationally inspired exhibition by Betty LaDuke, with selections from the Folklife Center's collections showcasing the art of local women, with special thanks to Jeromy McFarren, guest curator/Empire State College intern, and to the Children's and Reference staff for collaborative programming for this project, on view January to April 30, 2014.
 - a. Reception on January 30, 4:30-7 pm, with musical guest Barry Hyman, best. 75 attendees.
 - b. Many Different Faces on February 19 (see below in *Cultural Programs 1*).
2. **Collecting Lake George: Maps, Prints, Postcards & Other Memorabilia**- a new, original exhibition featuring maps and prints loaned by the family of H. Glen Caffry, and items from the new Abby & Will Csaplak Lake George Collection, and a number of other items from the Special Collections, on view May 7 to July 17, 2014.
 - a. Reception for family and friends of H. Glen Caffry, Saturday, May 31, 3-5 pm, 32 attendees.
 - b. At the Lake lecture series (see below in *Cultural Programs*).
3. **Batman Imagined** - original artwork from 54 patrons ages 3 to 64 with prizes awarded, and loaned Batman collectibles from Crandall staff, July 21 to 25, to help celebrate Batman Day on July 23 (see below *Cultural Programs 9*).
4. **Stable Views: Voices & Stories from the Thoroughbred Racetrack** - presented by guest curator Ellen McHale in partnership with the New York Folklore Society, August to December 31, 2014.

Cultural Programs (music, storytelling, workshops, presentations)

1. **Many Different Faces**, an expressive movement piece, choreographed to a narrative in 3 languages, facilitated by Lili Loveday, filmed for the archives, February 19, 45 attendees.
2. **Guess What I Collect**: kids workshop on curating their own collections to be displayed at the Library, co-hosted by the Children's Department, February 20 and August 15, 20 participants.
3. **Family History Workshops**, free, 2nd Saturdays in Spring
 - a. February 8: Irish Ancestors/Getting Back to the Boat with Lisa Dougherty, audience 3.
 - b. March 8: Irish Genealogy II with Erica Wolfe Burke, audience 2.
4. **Live! Folklife Concert Series**, Winter/Spring Thursdays 7 to 9 pm (doors open at 6:30) in the Community Room with portable stage & sound system, digital video recorded:
 - a. March 13, Veena Chandra & Devesh Chandra Duo, audience 70.
 - b. March 20, Tropic Rhythm, audience 115
 - c. March 27, Mando Planet, audience 138
 - d. April 3, Red Heart the Ticker, audience 114.
 - e. April 10, Panache Quartet, audience 165.
 - f. April 17, Alex Torres Trio, audience 104.

5. **Do Tell: Learning to Perform Personal Stories:** free workshop series taught by Margaret French and Betty Cassidy; participants attend 4 sessions and have their final performance video recorded; funded in part by the Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust
 - a. Crandall Public Library: April 14, 21, 28, May 5 (Monday, 6:30-8:30 pm), 24 attendees
 - b. Salem Courthouse Community C.: May 28, June 4, 11, 18 (Wednesday, 6-8 pm), 12 attendees
 - c. Indian Lake Public Library: September 10, 17, 24, October 1 (Wed, 1:30-2:30), 8 attendees

6. **At the Lake:** a free series of presentations supporting our new exhibition, *Collecting Lake George*, co-hosted with the Chapman Historical Museum at 7 pm:
 - a. May 15: History of the Sagamore Resort by Bill Gates, audience 59.
 - b. June 5: A Strong Conviction of Duty: Stoddard's LG Photo Book by Erin Coe, audience 87.
 - c. June 12: 185 Years of Lake George Souvenirs by Henry Caldwell, June 12, audience 70.

7. **Heritage Hunters History Faire**, talk by Burke at Clifton Park Library, May 17, audience xx.

8. **Summertime Music Society** the third year of a 3-part chamber music series on Thursdays at 7 pm curated by Summerland Music Society's Carol Minor and Christopher Bush, and presented in partnership with the Folklife Center, funded in part by Friends of CPL:
 - a. July 10: Charlie Chaplin's City Lights (Cary Brown, piano), a unique opportunity to experience Chaplin's 1931 silent film with live, improvised piano accompaniment, audience 100.
 - b. July 24: Music of the Belle Epoque: Paris 1871-1914 (Sahoko Sato, mezzo-soprano; Christopher Bush, clarinet; Carol Minor, piano; Dr. Domenica Newell-Amato, Utica College) - music of Debussy, Ravel, Satie, Duparc & Hahn, audience 108.
 - c. August 7: The Impossible Lives of Greta Wells, evening of words & music with award-winning author Andrew Sean Greer (Christopher Bush, clarinet; Carol Minor, piano), audience 85.

9. **Batman Day:** a library-wide celebration of 75 years of Batman with costumes, games and activities, cartoons all day, free giveaways, original art and memorabilia displays, marketplace, on Wednesday, July 23, 11 am to 7 pm; features and photographs in Post-Star, Chronicle and other venues; engaged over 1800 on Facebook (487.5% increase); door count = 3015.

10. **Underground Railroad** author talk by Tom Colarco co-hosted with the Warren County Historical Society, August 13, audience 55.

11. **Live! Folklife Concert Series:** Fall Thursdays 7 to 9 pm (doors open at 6:30), free, in the Library's Community Room, with portable stage and sound system, digital video recorded:
 - a. September 11, Harpeth Rising, audience 165
 - b. September 18, Alex Smith, audience 88
 - c. September 26, No Fuss and Feathers Roadshow, audience 160
 - d. October 9, Boxcar Lilies, audience 165
 - e. October 16, Longtime Courting, audience 178
 - f. October 23, Rabbit in the Rye, audience 118

12. **Film Series discussions** by Dr. Ellen McHale, guest curator for Stable Views, October 7,

13. **Genealogy** workshop by Burke at Bolton Free Library, October 18, 8 attendees.

14. **Tours & Orientations** - as requested: January 8, new CPL Board member (1); January 27, CWI (4); March 25, Hague Historical Society (5); September 30, SALS librarians (6); November 13, Abraham Wing School (31).

Professional Training & Participation

1. The Folklife Center is featured in *Path Through History*, a statewide tourism promotion through a website, calendar, and roadside signage - www.paththroughhistory.ny.gov.
2. The Folklife Center is a featured contributor to the New York Heritage Digital Collections - www.nyheritage.org.
3. DeGarmo is the acquisitions editor for *Voices: Journal of New York Folklore*, a membership magazine published twice a year by the New York Folklore Society.
4. DeGarmo is a member of the Capital District Library Council's Documentary Heritage Advisory Committee and attended quarterly meetings.
5. DeGarmo was interviewed for the "Working with a Donor" segment of the *Strengthening Archives* video project produced by the New York State Archives, in the Folklife Center, February 21, 2014.
6. DeGarmo was interviewed by Diana Dow Schull (DDSchull Associates) for an upcoming publication on innovative programming in public libraries to engage communities with special collections, specifically in the chapters on unique institutional models, and collaborations with community organizations.
7. Burke published "Early Printing in Washington County 1794-1825, with an emphasis on Salem newspapers" in the *Journal of the Washington County Historical Society*, 2014, pp. 2-19.
8. Volunteer Maureen Dye published "Irv and Fran Shapiro Folk Music Library" in *Voices: Journal of New York Folklore*, Spring-Summer 2014, Vol. 40: 1-2, pp. 22-13.
9. DeGarmo served on the Library's Strategic Planning Committee.
10. DeGarmo presented a paper, "A Cardboard Boat Race on the Upper Hudson" at the 40th annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Play, Strong Museum, Rochester, NY, March 24, 2014.
11. DeGarmo attended Southern Adirondack Library System's annual meeting, Saratoga Springs, May 19.
12. DeGarmo attended the opening reception (invited by our friends the Contentos/Dance Mask of Guatemala exhibition) for a new exhibition, *Tradition in Movement: Dance Culture of Guatemala*, at the Dance Museum, Saratoga Springs, May 2.
13. Burke attended Genealogy Day at the Schenectady County Historical Society, October 4.
14. DeGarmo attended Lakes to Locks annual meeting, at CPL on October 8.
15. Burke attended the Feeder Canal Alliance annual meeting in Glens Falls on November 5.
16. DeGarmo attended the American Folklore Society's annual meeting in Santa Fe, NM, November 5-8.
17. DeGarmo attended a sustainable funding meeting of upstate organizations hosted by the New York Folklore Society, in Utica, NY, November 13.
18. DeGarmo attended the New York State Folk Arts Roundtable, an annual meeting of public folklorists, in Troy, NY (including a workshop at the Sanctuary for Independent Media) on December 2-4.