

The Folklife Center Annual Report 2020

Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY 12801

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6 pages

Library was closed to staff and public March 15 due to Covid, and only partially reopened to staff June 8 on an A/B schedule for 50% capacity (department heads 100%). After March 15, there was no physical access for the public to the Folklife Center (including research room, gallery, and library performance space) for the duration of 2020.

Folklife staff also contributed an average of 33.3 hours per month to Library's Curbside & Pop-in activities, and acted as PIC (Person in Charge) once a week.

Grants & Income

1. **New York State Council on the Arts - Folk Arts** - award of \$45,000 for the second of 5 year multiyear support for the folk arts activities as a Regional and County Folk Arts Program. **A large portion of these funds were not spent due to our closure after March 15, but encumbered for use in 2021.**
2. **Friends of Crandall Public Library** - award of \$12,400 to support *Live! Folklife Concerts* (spring & fall series), *Summerland Music Society* concerts (July-August), *Winter Bluegrass Jams* (January, February, November, December) & *Colgate Resolutions* concert (January). **Much of this money was returned due to the cancelation of our entire concert schedule after March 15th.**
3. **Donations** - \$25 from Tri-County Branch National Garden Association, \$25 from Women's National Farm & Garden Cambridge Branch, \$25 patron from California.

Volunteers

Special thanks to our 6 volunteers, providing 83.5 hours (January to March 15) for their assistance with databases, inventories, indexing of manuscript collections; digitizing music; scanning images; photographing objects; processing serials; preservation rehousing, copying; filing: Jude Dolton, Lisa Dougherty, Lillian LaFrance, Maureen Reilly, Katrina Rozelle, Dana Simpson.

Archives & Special Collections

1. **Reading Room** - January 1 10 hours a week added to schedule from Mon-Fri 10-12, 1-4, Tues 5-8. to Monday-Friday 10 am to 4 pm, Tuesday 4-9, Sunday 1-5 pm.
 - a. January - 257 patrons, 513 items used, 161 hours; closed 1/1, 1/20
 - b. February - 226 patrons, 525 items used, 144 hours; closed 2/7, 2/17
 - c. March 1-15 - 150 patrons, 231 items used, 82 hours
 - d. **March 16 to June 7: closed to staff and patrons**
 - e. **Reopen June 8 to December answering patron requests via email and phone:**
 - f. June - 17 patron requests, 66 items used
 - g. July/August - 107 patron requests, 140 items used
 - h. September - 52 patron requests, 75 items used
 - i. October - 42 patron requests, 75 items used
 - j. November - 51 patron requests, 53 items used
 - k. December - 40 patron request, 37 items used

2. Collection Management

- a. Archival Storage Room entirely reorganized, inventorying and removing Government Documents and *Life & Look* magazines.
- b. Government Documents moved Inactive Storage Room.
- c. Serial Collections have been assessed and consolidated, allowing for reorganization of Maps, Posters, Art & Artifacts, Photographs, Manuscripts (including Business & Family papers, etc).
- d. Library's Institutional Archives weeded and reorganized.
- e. Inactive Library Records: 31 cubic feet shredded.
- f. Inactive Storage Room: installed new archival shelving (96 cubic feet capacity)
- g. St. Isaac Jogues plaster model for the Lake George statue repaired and returned October 2.
- h. LGS-1 Retention & Disposition Schedule for NYS Local Gov't Records adopted by Board Nov 18.

3. New Collections

- a. Holden Reference Book Collection - 299 new titles added to online catalog
- b. Special Titles & Other Publications
 - i. 19 vinyl records donated by Maureen Dye
 - ii. High school yearbooks by Fort Edward Historical Society
 - iii. Civil War books (8), etc. donated by Herb Hudnut
 - iv. Nancy Drew and Happy Hollisters books to Historic Children's Book Collection
 - v. Thornton Wilder book (9) to Historic Children's Book Collection
 - vi. Folk arts and folklife books from Todd DeGarmo
- c. Manuscript Collections
 - i. Merkel & Gelman items, donated by Bob and Barb Rosoff
 - ii. Photo of Ronald Reagan as GE spokesperson
 - iii. Local AM Radio Collection by Maury Thompson
 - iv. Glens Falls Hospital Guild archives additions
 - v. Daughters of the American Revolution archives additions
 - vi. Lee Montgomery Papers donated by Donald Lee.
 - vii. Lake George Band Archives 4 cubic feet added
 - viii. Photographs by Elaine Monroe.
 - ix. Glass plate negatives collection by George Conkey (approx. 2000) purchased
 - x. Seeley family information from familyBible
 - xi. Misc items donated by the Fort Edward Historical Society
 - xii. Photographs and papers donated by Joe and Sarah Cutshall-King
 - xiii. Photographs, papers from Herlihy Walsh via Fort Edward Historical Society
 - xiv. Family Photo Albums (Hoopes, Hyde, Cunningham, Prunyn) donated by Joan Lapham
 - xv. Misc. home movies and slides donated by Maury Thompson
- d. Folk Art Collections
 - i. Neon sign (Folklife Center logo) by Lite Brite Neon of Kingston, NY
 - ii. Sculpture from salvage barn roofing by blacksmith James Gonzalez

Folklife Gallery

1. **Anvil's Ring: Artist Blacksmith Association of North America (ABANA)** - an original showcase of artistry loaned by members of ABANA scheduled for January 22 to June 1 in the Folklife Gallery, leading up to the ABANA 2020 Conference June 3-6 at the Washington County Fairgrounds, Greenwich, NY.
 - a. Reception, March 5, 5-7 pm, 100 attendees.
 - b. **This exhibition was cut short due to our closure on March 17th, and all items returned to participants by June. The ABANA 2020 Conference was cancelled.**
2. **Equali-Tea: Suffragist Tea Cozies in Redwork**, new exhibition in the Folklife Gallery, October-December, depicting 42 NYS suffragists with biographies by artist/historian Tisha Dolton, funded in part by LARAC/NYSCA grant.
 - a. online version was added to our website
 - b. video produced of Tisha creating the Redwork designs.
 - c. The exhibit was featured in Global Listener Stitchery Highlights 2020 on Dec 31 for the podcast, *Stitchery Stories: Embroidery & Textile Art* www.stitcherystories.com/2020listenerhighlights/.
3. **Folklife Gallery** floor stripped and resurfaced, and exhibit cases repainted during closure.
4. **Folk Arts All Around Us** - preparations begin on a showcasing of our Folk Arts Collection, guest curated by Todd DeGarmo for a February-October 2021 exhibition hosted by TAUNY (Traditional Arts in Upstate New York) in Canton, NY.

Cultural Programs - (music, storytelling, workshops, presentations)

1. **Colgate Resolutions Live!** - fourth annual visit by this co-ed a cappella group on their Northeast January tour, January 8, 7 pm, funded in part by the Friends of Crandall Public Library, with the entire free concert recorded live and added to our YouTube page, 145 attendees.
2. **Winter Bluegrass Jam** - a musical series for pickers and listeners alike, hosted by Alan Epstein, sponsored by the Folklife Center on the 2nd Thursdays of the winter months (January, February, November, December) 6:30 to 8:30 pm:
 - a. January 9 - 25 musicians + 60 listeners
 - b. February 13 - 27 musicians + 68 listeners
 - c. **November & December sessions cancelled due to Covid closure.**
5. **Family History One-to-One** - drop-in, personalized help with volunteer, professional genealogist Lisa Dougherty 3rd Wednesday each month: Jan (1), Feb (6). **10 remaining sessions cancelled due to Covid closure.**
6. **Shutter Squad** - is a 6-session photography program offered to a group of ten kids aged 10 to 13, 4 times each year team-taught offered by Emma Rogan (Children's Department) and Kevin Rogan (Folklife Center). Over 6 sessions participants learn the principles of photography using professional equipment to develop skill and their own style to capture scenes from their everyday lives, culminating in a Folklife Gallery B exhibition and reception:
 - a. Workshops, Dec 16, 30, Jan 13, 27, Feb 10, 24, 3:30-5 pm, 10 participants x 6 sessions
 - b. Exhibition, Feb 24 to May 15, Folklife Gallery B, 10 participants
 - c. Reception, Feb 26, 6:30-8 pm, 100 attendees.
 - d. **Remaining workshop series for the year cancelled due to Covid closures.**

7. **Live! Folklife Concert Series** - our continuing series of free, Thursday evening performances, 7 to 8:30 pm, with a total of 12 live concerts scheduled in the Spring, and 6 concerts for the Fall, funded in part from the Friends of Crandall Public Library (who also distribute our publicity bookmarks at their book sales) and the New York State Council on the Arts-Folk Arts Program, with the entire concert recorded live with 3 cameras, edited and archived, with songs added to our YouTube page:

- a. March 5 - Bob Warren's Only the Message Mattered - 140 attendees
- b. March 12 - Whippersnappers - 76 attendees.

Remaining schedule cancelled due to Covid closure:

- c. March 19 - Tim O'Shea.
- d. March 26 - Ukrainian Village Voices.
- e. April 2 - Faux Paws.
- f. April 9 - Ana Egge.
- g. April 16 - Maqi Li & Charlotte Evelyn.
- h. April 23 - Sound an Echo.
- i. April 30 - Damn Tall Buildings.
- j. May 7 - Hanneke Cassell Band.
- k. May 14 - Rad Trads.
- l. May 21 - Tim Connell.
- m. September 24 - Jeremiahs.
- n. October 8 - Trials of Cato.
- o. October 22 - Ana Egge.
- p. November 5 - Humbirds.
- q. November 12 - Tommy Sands.
- r. November 19 - Rad Trads.

8. **Summertime Music Society** - would have celebrated its 11th season as an indoor chamber music series presented free to the public at 7 pm (doors open 6:30), curated by Summerland Music Society's Carol Minor and Christopher Bush, and presented in partnership with the Folklife Center, and funded in part by Friends of Crandall Public Library. **The 4 part series was cancelled due to Covid.**

9. **Video Documentaries** - consulting filmmaker Hannah DeGarmo (previous projects *Battenkill Inspired* and *Lake George On the Water*) returns to work on new documentaries, e.g. Lite Brite Neon making our new logo sign. However, due to Covid we've shifted focus to "From the Archives" tapping 35 years of research. Seven are in currently in production for a 2021 release:

- a. Tied Quilts of the Johnsburg United Methodist Women
- b. Jack Leadley, An Adirondack Legend
- c. Balsam Tradition of the Adirondacks
- d. Big Moose Chapel Balsam Bee
- e. Balsam Pillows of Standard Supply Company
- f. Northern Survey Company of Albany NY
- g. Folklife Tour from Christopher Baldwin's Graphic Novel, Glens Falls.

10. **Facebook Page** featuring the Folklife Center with music, folk art, local interest:

- a. March 16-31: 18 posts, 22,456 reach, 1,829 engagements, 158 shares
- b. April 1-30: 34 posts, 102,698 reach, 6,886 engagements, 524 shares
- c. May 1-31: 22 posts, 152,272 reach, 11,133 engagements, 773 shares
- d. June 1-30: 22 posts, 89,712 reach, 7,189 engagements, 512 shares
- e. July 1-31: 22 new posts, 95,023 reach, 4,548 engagements, 377 shares
- f. August: 17 new posts, 61,485 reach, 2,811 engagements, 245 shares
- g. **Totals for 5 months: 135 posts, 523,646 reach, 34,646 engagements, 2,589 shares**

11. **YouTube channel:** The Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library, adding performance videos, new documentaries, and beginning a new series called “From the Vault” tapping into pre-2010 audiovisual materials in our archives, starting with Sara Cleveland and Ham Ferry performances at the Library back in the early 1980s.
- a. January: 8,667 new views, 23 new subscribers, 6 new videos
 - b. February: 6,642 new views, 15 new subscribers, 4 new videos
 - c. March: 6,395 new views, 13 new subscribers, 3 new videos
 - d. April: 6,858 new views, 30 new subscribers, 0 new videos
 - e. May: 6,801 new views, 16 new subscribers, 0 new videos
 - f. June: 6,266 new views, 22 new subscribers, 1 new video
 - g. July: 5,967 new views, 21 new subscribers, 7 new videos
 - h. August: 6,129 new views, 7 new subscribers, 2 new videos
 - i. September: 5,710 new views, 19 new subscribers, 1 new video
 - j. October: 6,497 new views, 27 new subscribers, 0 new videos
 - k. November: 4,704 new views, 14 new subscribers 2 new videos
 - l. December: 4,716 new views, 18 new subscribers, 0 new videos
 - m. **Total 2020 Usage: 225 subscribers, 26 videos, 75,352 views**
 - n. **Total Usage since 9/2014: 649 subscribers, 468 videos, 263,885 views**
12. **Blog** (www.folklifecenter.com) - begun in July and linked to Library’s website and Facebook page, with a **total of 13 posts, 1,391 views:**
- a. July 7 - Welcome to the Blog
 - b. July 14 - Video Stories & the Quarantine Nostalgia Blues (Rogan)
 - c. Aug 3 - Pandemic! Florence D. Wilmarth and the Glens Falls Club of College Women (Dolton)
 - d. Aug 13 - Suffragists in Warren County, NY (Dolton)
 - e. Aug 21 - Taking a LOOK at the Hometown USA Color Slide Collection (Dolton)
 - f. Aug 27 - It’s No Cinch! Local Girls Pose for National Magazine (Dolton)
 - g. Sept 3 - Revolt! 1916 & 2016 (Dolton)
 - h. Sept 10 - Only the Message Mattered (Dolton)
 - i. Sept 21 - Shutter Squad: Guiding a New Generation of Photographers (Rogan)
 - j. Oct 28 - Trick or Treat! (DeGarmo)
 - k. Oct 29 - Cooking for Funds: Cookbooks & Food Sales (Dolton)
 - l. Dec 5 - Suffrage Centennial Celebrated in Embroidery (Dolton)
 - m. Dec 8 - Life with a Gingerbread Man Cookie (DeGarmo)
13. **Woman Suffrage in Warren and Washington Counties 1883-1917**, by Tisha Dolton, Zoom meeting with the Conkling Center, co-sponsored by Warren County Historical Society, June 18, 12 attendees.
14. **Lake George On the Water** by Hannah DeGarmo, Facebook virtual event hosted by Lake George Historical Association, July 16, 7 pm, 1,254 views within 24 hours (2904 views by July 31).
15. **Taking a Look at Hometown USA** - by Tisha Dolton, Facebook virtual event co-sponsored by the Chapman Museum to support the current exhibition, *Let’s All Fight, the Line Cathers Collection of WWII Home Front Posters*, Tuesday, August 18, 7 pm. 35 attendees (303 later views).
16. **Lake George On the Water**- original videos used by the Hyde Art Museum to support educational programs for the current exhibition, *J.S. Wooley, Adirondack Photographer*.
17. **Cultural Curiosities from the Folklife Center** by Tisha Dolton, on a Zoom meeting with the Conkling Center, September 24, 12 attendees.
18. **Suffrage in Warren & Washington Counties 1883-1917** by Tisha Dolton, on a Zoom meeting with American Association of University Women Adirondack Chapter, co-sponsored by Warren County Historical Society, October 8, 22 attendees.

19. **Take a Look at Hometown USA in Glorious Kodachrome 1943-44** by Tisha Dolton on Zoom to Home of the Good Shepherd, Moreau, October 13, 12 attendees; and to The Glen at Highland Meadows, Queensbury, October 21, 10 attendees.
20. **Equali-Tea: Suffragist Tea Cozies in Redwork** virtual talk by Tisha Dolton, Dec 18, 16 attendees.
21. **Tours of FC** -1/13 S. Glens Falls 4th gr. (42); 2/28 Salem sch. (8); 3/6 Lake George 2nd gr. (58).

Workshops & Meetings

1. Erica Gonyea
 - a. NYS Family History Conference, hosted virtually by the New York State Genealogical and Biographical Society, Sept 10-12.
 - b.
2. Patricia Dolton
 - a. Suffrage Centennial Programing
 - i. Zoom planning meeting to reschedule events in 2021 (Sept 5)
 - ii. Digital Public Library of America Black woman's suffrage digital collection webinar (Sept 8)
 - iii. Women & the Vote search party zoom workshop (Sept 10 & 17)
 - iv. Women's Rights Alliance of NYS conference call (Sept 16).
 - b. NYSCA virtual public engagement webinar, Sept 16.
 - c. Champlain Valley National Heritage Program knowledge cafe on 2021 themes, Sept 24.
 - d. Suffrage Search Party Zoom workshop, *Women & the Vote* NYS, Nov. 5.
 - e.
3. Todd DeGarmo
 - a. CDLC 20 Libraries, meeting and tour of library at Skidmore, Saratoga Springs, March 4.
 - b. New York Folklore, Zoom meeting planning strategies for folk archives in NYS, September 4.
 - c. Management training session on Zoom, October 28, November 9, 30.
 - d. NYS Folk Arts Roundtable, Zoom meetings, November 10,12,13.

Professional Affiliations

New York Folklore Society - Todd DeGarmo is the Editor of *Voices: The Journal of New York Folklore*, the membership magazine published twice a year by the New York Folklore Society.

Documentary Heritage & Preservation Services in New York - DeGarmo serves on the advisory committee to review and award grants for planning and assessment services (Jan 15, Apr 22).

Warren County Historical Society - Patricia Dolton is a Trustee of the Society, Chair of the Program Committee, and Chair of the Publicity Committee.

Celebrating Suffrage in Greater Glens Falls Committee - Patricia Dolton is a co-founder.

New York Heritage Digital Collections - Crandall Public Library Folklife Center is a contributor to this website (nyheritage.org) with a link to the Digital Public Library of America.

Path Through History - The Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library is a participant in this tourism promotion through a New York State sponsored website, calendar, and roadside signage (www.paththroughhistory.ny.gov).

NYSCA Living Traditions - The Folklife Center is represented on this new digital gateway to New York State's folk arts (<http://nytraditions.org>).