

From 1993 Crandall Public Library Annual Report

Center for Folklife, History & Cultural Programs

On July 28, 1993, the Board of Trustees approved the creation of the Center for Folklife, History and Cultural Programs. It adopted its mission statement and appointed Todd DeGarmo as director. The establishment of the Center effectively transforms the ten-year-old folklife program into a program for original research and documentation, special collections, cultural programs, and scholar discussion on the living and historical cultural heritage of the region. The Center will serve the Upper Hudson Valley and Southern Adirondacks of upstate New York, and Crandall Public Library's four-county service area as the Central Reference Library of the Southern Adirondack Library System (Saratoga, Washington, Warren and Hamilton).

Grants

Besides the library's support, the Center's budget was largely grant-funded this past year, including awards from the National Endowment for the Arts (\$26,000), and the New York State Council on the Arts (\$19,000).

Growing Up in the North Country

Over 1200 participated in this year's workshop series, featuring 11 different programs in six series. A number of these programs traveled to an additional 11 sites in Warren and Washington Counties as a part of our outreach policy:

1. In Springtime, in March at Crandall and Saratoga Springs, featuring Maybaskets by Moreau Seniors; Origami by Yuko Okada; Lithuanian Easter Celebration by Stace Marcinkevicius & Lee Van Alstyne; Pysanky by Carl Prehoda & Karen Folger.
2. Native Roots: Our Abenaki and Iroquois Heritage at Crandall in April: Iroquois Ecology & Cornhusk Dolls by Rita Chrisjohn Benson; Abenaki Stories of Spring by Joseph Bruchac.
3. Fishing Flies by Marc and Tony Francato, at three libraries in Washington County and two libraries in Warren County with additional support from SALS and Youth Bureaus.
4. Street Dance by Charisma Dancers of Troy, in Sept at Crandall and Greenwich; Harvest & Home in Oct featuring Apples by O.A. Borden & Sons; Sukkot by Linda Friedman; Scarecrows by Kim Sherman.
5. Iroquois Ecology and Cornhusk Dolls by Rita Benson in Nov for Salem fourth graders at Bancroft Library and Cambridge fourth graders at Hubbard Hall, with multicultural books (compiled by Adelaide Leibold/Children's Dept) sent to each school.

Services

The Center has offered suggestions and the names of artists to those interested in folk arts, including International Culture Association, ACC, Lake George Arts Project, Traditional Arts in Upstate New York in Canton, Massena's North Country Folklife Festival, Old Songs Festival, Caffe Lena.

Professional Outreach

Member of the Board of Directors, NY Folklore Society.

Library representative, Adirondack Heritage Consortium, Silver Bay, Nov 4, 1993.

Selection committee, Traditional Heritage Awards, first annual to living folk masters, TAUNY, Canton, NY.

Moderator for panel, Folklore and Education, NYS Folklore Society annual meeting, SUNY-Brockport. October 22, 1993.

Participant, NYS Folk Arts Forum: Contested Heritage: The Politics of Culture in Postwar NYS, RCCA, Troy, July 8, 1993.

Moderator for panel, Collecting Folk Arts at the conference, For the Love of It, Folk Arts in Communities, Albany Institute of History & Art, May 13-14, 1993

Tutor, Cultural Anthropology, Empire State College.

Consultant, Saratoga Capstone Experience: Histories of Saratoga, Skidmore College.

Author of article, Indian Camps and Upstate Tourism, in New York Folklore Newsletter, Summer 1993, Vol. 14 no. 2, p. 3-4+.

Guest Speaker, Crandall Library Folklife Programs, for Schuylerville Lions Club.

Guest Speaker, Indian Camps and Upstate Tourism, for Lake George Rotary Club.

Interviewed for magazine article, "The Piece Corps" (Johnsburg United Methodist Women and tied quilts) by Bill McKibben, in Adirondack Life, Jan/Feb 1993.

Publication listed, Balsam Traditions in Folklife Educational Resources: A Preliminary Guide to Available Materials, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress.

Archives and Special Collections

In 1993 the Holden Room averaged 123 visitors per month: a total of 1500, including users from 20 states. We are grateful for the many donations to our historical collections. Of special interest are the Elizabeth Thew McDonald collection of local

genealogy; the Thomas Beach collection of history books, including W.H.H. "Adirondack" Murray books signed by the author.

A Needs Assessment of Crandall Library's Historical Collections by archival consultant John Dojka and funded by the NYS DHP, is being used to plan for better preservation and access.

DeGarmo was sponsored by the Library to take the graduate course, Archives and Manuscripts at SUNY-Albany. In addition, he participated in seven workshops.

In July we received our first SARA LGRMIF grant (\$9,047) for inventory/planning of a Records Management Program.