

Crandall Public Library's

Center for Folklife, History & Cultural Programs

1998 Annual Report (9 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 Center helps to serve the library's mission of outreach as the Central Reference Library of the Southern Adirondack Library System.

Staffing

Director of the Center, Todd DeGarmo is full-time, professional staff and one of three department heads. He has worked for the library since 1986, first as a consultant and later as staff folklorist. He is a doctoral candidate in American Studies, holds a masters in Anthropology, and has 12 years experience in research, grantsmanship, and public programming in folk arts. A board member of New York Folklore Society since 1990, Todd has served as President of the Board since 1996. He has chaired the Selection Committee for the executive director search this year. He also serves as a member of the advisory committee to the Capital District Library Council's Documentary Heritage Program (1994-present), is a member of the Saratoga History Roundtable (1994-present), and is adjunct faculty, teaching one course each year in American Studies at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs. At the end of the year he was asked by the American Folklife Center to be a New York State advisor to the Local Legacies project, coordinated by the Library of Congress.

Librarian/Archivist I, Albert Fowler, full-time professional staff, runs the daily operation of the Center's Reading Room, and the management of the archives and special collections. He has masters degrees in library science and history with over 20 years experience in both public and academic libraries/archives around the country. Early this year, Albert gave up his part-time position as Regional Archivist for the Documentary Heritage Program at the Capital District Library Council (1996-1998) to come work with us full-time.

Reference Librarians, Bruce Cole, Diane Jones, Teri Weston and Judy Santoliquido help to cover the Center's Reading Room when primary Center staff are not available.

Library Staff, from all departments (Reference, Childrens, Circulation/Technical Services, Custodial) gave above-and-beyond expectations in helping run the *Maya Celebration* this year. My thanks to all.

Volunteers, Betty Kern and Lillian Beswick (each 2 hrs/wk all year).

Grants

This past year we received funding for our programs from the New York State Council on the Arts–Folk Arts Program (\$28,000), the New York State Council for the Humanities–Local Affiliate Grant (\$6000), and the Friends of Crandall Public Library (\$3000), the Washington County Youth Bureau via the Southern Adirondack Library System (\$1700).

Original Research & Documentation

Special programs like *Maya Celebration* and *Barns* generate fieldwork (slides, audio tapes, notes, objects and other materials) and program files (interpretative flyers, exhibition text, videos, and other materials) that become a permanent part of the Library's Archives and Special Collections.

Public Programs

Maya Celebration

April to June 1998

Not counting exhibitions, 1322 patrons participated.

We produced 4 posters and a resource guide, *Maya Celebration*.

• **Exhibitions:**

Maya Textile Tradition

April 1 to June 30, Folklife Gallery, CPL.

Exhibition by ethnographic photographer, Jeffrey Jay Foxx, including textiles and other materials from Mayan Hands, Maya Works, du Flon Collection, International Mayan League.

(CPL Door Count: April=23,709, May=21,693, June=22,272)

(Center Door Count: April=215, May=147, June=193)

Granddaughters of Corn: Portraits of Guatemala Women

May 9 to 29, 1998, Upstairs Gallery, CPL

Exhibition of photographs by Marilyn Anderson and text by Jonathan Garlock, and a display by the Glens Falls Medical Mission to Guatemala.

(CPL Door Count: May=21,693)

• **Workshops:**

Maya Treasure Hunt

(1 program, 4 sessions, 2 presenters, 80 participants)

April 30, Folklife Center and Gallery, CPL

Warrensburg 4th Graders, 10-12 noon (4 half-hour sessions)

Dances of the People

(2 artists, 1 program, 10 sessions, 3 days, 210 participants)

Maya stories through costumes and dance led by Carmen and Ed Contento.

May 12-14, Brown Room, CPL.

Tuesday, May 12,

7 pm Public 40 participants

Wednesday, May 13

9:15 St. Mary's Pre-School 15 participants

10 Public 42 participants

10:45 Apple A Day Pre-School 13 participants

1:15 St Mary's Pre-School 13 participants

Thursday, May 14

9:15	Christ Church Nursery	17 participants
10:15	First Baptist	11 participants
11	Bluebird's Nest	19 participants
1	SGF U.Methodist	19 participants
1:30	Warren Co Head Start	21 participants

• **Meeting:**

Glens Falls Medical Mission to Guatemala

(1 meeting, 50 participants)

Meeting hosted by Christine McDonald.

Monday, May 11, Folklife Center, CPL.

• **Weekend Celebration:**

Maya Reception & Concert

(13 artists, 1 program, 254 participants/door count)

Friday May 15, 1998 7 to 10 pm at Crandall Public Library

Performance:

- Grupo Cultural Uk'ux Pop Wuj (traditional dance of Guatemala)
- Marimba Maya Quetzal (marimba band)

Keynote speaker:

- Elena Ixcot, International Mayan League

Exhibitions

- Granddaughters of Corn, upstairs Gallery
- Maya Textile Tradition, Folklife Gallery

Marketplace:

CPL posters, books

- textiles and other items by Maya artists sold by Mayan Hands &

Maya Works

Refreshments:

- El Mariachi Mexican Restaurant, Albany, NY

Maya Festival

Saturday, May 16, 9 am to 5 pm

a. City Park activities:

(274 participants)

Live Music and Dance

- Marimba Maya Quetzal (marimba band)
- Grupo Cultural Uk'ux Pop Wuj (dance from Guatemala)

Kids Workshops

- by Dances of the People with Maya Costumes & Dance

Craft Demonstration

- Maya Weaver, Juanita Velasco backstrap loom weaving

demonstrations

Marketplace

- textiles and other useful items by Maya artisans sold by Mayan

Hands and Maya Works

Exhibitions

- Granddaughters of Corn in upstairs Gallery
- Maya Textile Tradition in Folklife Gallery

b. Roundtable Discussion in CPL Auditorium at 1 pm

(48 participants)

Jeff Foxx, photographer, Maya Textile Tradition

Marilyn Anderson, photographer, Granddaughters of Corn
Branda Rosenbaum, Mayan Hands
Patricia Krause, Maya Works
Jan Hanvik, PAMAR

c. Film Screening/*Men with Guns* in CPL Auditorium @ 3:30 pm
(45 participants)

• **Folk Artist-in-Residence**

Elena Ixcot, Maya Weaver

(1 artist, 12 sessions in 5 days at 4 sites, 361 participants)

June 1-5, 1998

Following the format of our Growing Up in the North Country, a continuing children's workshop series where local people share their own traditions in narrative/demonstration and participatory formats. Publicity included press releases, articles in several area papers, 3 different interpretative flyers bulk mailed to targeted audience; sessions are usually videotaped.

Monday, June 1

Sanford Street 3rd Graders, Glens Falls, Warren County (80 participants)

9:30-10:30 am 1 hour with Elena in Folklife Center

10:30-11:30 am 1 hour with stories in CPL Auditorium

Public Demonstration in Folklife Gallery, CPL, 1 to 4 pm (20 participants)

Tuesday, June 2

Public Demonstration (+Albany students & homeschoolers) (25 participants)
in Folklife Center, CPL, 10 am to noon

Wednesday, June 3

Salem Junior-Senior High School Spanish Classes (108 participants)

Host high school language teacher: Kristin Narkiewicz

Salem/Bancroft Librarian participant: Julie Brown

8:05-9:30 am 18 students + 3 adults

9:35 to 11:05 am 36 students + 5 adults (in Spanish)

11:35-12:58 20 students + 2 adults

1:01-2:25 pm 20 students + 4 adults (in Spanish)

Thursday, June 4

Greenwich 6th Grade Girls at Easton Library, Washington County (28 participants)

Easton Librarian participant: Helen Brownell

Greenwich 6th Grade Teacher: Sharon Kruger

Noon - 2 pm: 20 girls + 3 teachers + 5 adults from the community

Pember Library, Granville, Washington County (15 participants)

Library Staff participant: Ardice Bresett

7 to 8:30 pm

Friday, June 5

Tanglewood 3rd Graders, South Glens Falls, Saratoga County

at Crandall Public Library

SGF 3rd Grade Teacher contact: Linda Faden

75 students + 10 adults

(85 participants)

10-10:30 am

1 hour with Elena Ixcot in Folklife Center

10:30-11 am

1/2 hour with Stories in Auditorium

11-11:30 am

1/2 hour with Internet in Brown Room

11:30-noon

Ghosts & Monsters: Tales Told in Upstate New York

(3 programs, 4 artists, 408 participants)

October 1999

Folklife Music, Storytelling & Dance, public performance series, with focus on storytelling, book signings and reception:

Dark Side of the Moon with Jeannine Laverty
Wednesday, October 7, 7 pm in CPL Auditorium, 112 participants

Ghosts in Our Midst with Helen Cackener
Wednesday, October 14, 7 pm in CPL Auditorium, 128 participants

When the Chenoo Howls with James & Joseph Bruchac
Wednesday, October 21, 7 pm in CPL Auditorium, 168 participants

Publicity included press releases to monthly newsletters, weekly/daily newspapers, radio/television; bookmarks with bibliography placed in library; flyer bulkmailed to individuals, media, schools, libraries, professionals; ad purchased in FolkTimes. Note that CPL Auditorium holds 115 chairs in a tight arrangement. The removal of the spotlights for the 35 mm film was problematic and was asked to be corrected. Microphone/sound reinforcement was used in the first 2 sessions. DeGarmo videotaped all 3 sessions for the Folklife Archives. Jeannine & Helen noted receiving multiple calls (5-6 each) for future engagements because of our flyer mailing. 27 individuals requested being added to Folklife Mailing List.

Family Folklore Writing Workshops for Kids

(1 program, 1 presenter, 8 sessions, 20 participants)

July 1999

Fourth-sixth graders were taught to collect and write their own family stories. Two groups meeting for 4 sessions each in the Folklife Center were led by consultant Nora Nellis.

Collections were placed on display.

Session A: Mondays, 11 am to noon, July 6, 13, 20 & 27

Session B: Tuesdays, 11 am to noon, July 7, 14, 21 & 28

Exhibitions

Besides Maya Textile Tradition and Granddaughters of Corn (see *Maya Celebration* above), the Folklife Center presented several displays at the Library and one travelling exhibit to 2 sites:

Folk Art from the Trees – developed by the Folklife Center to showcase various folk artists and their work, containing objects, photographs, biographical information.

Peaveys, Pike Poles, and Pickaroons – subtitled, *Moving Logs from Stump to Mill in the Adirondacks*, a travelling display of photographs and Adirondack folk music lyrics developed in cooperation with officials from the Warrensburg office of Department of Environmental Conservation; sites travelled:

- Family Forest Fair, Greenwich (June)
- Warren County Historical Society for display at the Warren County Youth Fair, Warrensburg (August)

An Ongoing Voyage, developed by Library of Congress
- early contact between Americas & Europe.

Fine Art: rehang paintings, prints and photographs from the Special Collections in various locations around around the Library; investigate security options.

"Folklife Cubes" around the Library

IACA/Africa
Hand-tied Fishing Flies & Taxidermed Salmon
Maya Dolls
Pysanky & Easter Basket by Marge Prehoda

Folklorist Presentations

Guest on local TV 8 to showcase the work of the Folklife Center, December.

Oral History Workshop for Thurman Historical Society at Athol Town Hall,
June 6, 12 participants.

"Making Memories: Folk Art of Upstate New York" for the Chapman Museum's
exhibition, *Live Right and Be Friendly: The Saga of Broncho Charlie
Miller*, March 21, 10 participants.

Folklore and the Internet

Originally offered as a Folk Arts Forum cosponsored by New York Folklore
Society in October 1997, this presentation developed by Mark Roberts and Todd
DeGarmo will travel to the American Library Association meeting in New Orleans,
June 1999.

Special Projects

Barns in the Landscape

- Meeting of the *New York State Barn Coalition*, Cooperstown, Dec 16.
- Presenter, "Washington County Barn Survey Project", and chair of the session, *Collaborations across Disciplines*, at New York State Folk Arts Roundtable, Syracuse, May 6.
- Presenter, "Barn Survey for Washington County" Hebron Preservation Society, West Hebron, NY, April 16, 30 participants
- Gathering examples of barn surveys (eg Rochester Museum, Ulster County)
- Meeting with NYS Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau, Peebles Island.

Warren County Tourism: Amusements, Dude Ranches, & Summer Camps

Publication pending on this project funded Documentary Heritage Program to
survey and inventory records of local tourism businesses; co-authored by Ellen
McHale, Albert Fowler and Todd DeGarmo.

Indian Camps & Upstate Tourism

Curriculum kit pending, funded by the State Archives and Records Administration,
based on local research by Todd DeGarmo with help of an advisory group
including Mary Zwolinsky, Nancy Scheemaker, and area teachers.

Travels Along the Hudson

Asked to participate in a New York Public Library project to develop a virtual
exhibition on the Internet; attended strategy meetings and hosted researcher to our
special collections; waiting word on funding.

Archives & Special Collections

Holden Reference Collection:

\$4500 was spent from the Library's book budget on 181 new titles, and an additional 607 donated titles were added, in the subjects of local and regional history, folk arts and folklife studies, genealogy. were processed & added.

Use:

The Reading Room increased hours in February from 15 hours to 22 hours per week (6 days a week). We had 2535 users (an increase of 11.7% from 1997), asking 2639 reference questions, using 4872 items and making 5900 photocopies.

Loans from the special collections were provided to the Chapman Museum for their exhibitions.

Tours of the Center were given to representatives of TAUNY, Clinton County Historical Society, NY Historical Association,

Arrangement & Description projects:

Volunteers Betty Kern and Lillian Beswick helped arrange describe many collections this year: Richard Dean photographs, Glens Falls Rotary Club Records, Records of the de Blasiis Chamber Music Series, verticle files, serials, Folklife Collections, Fine Arts, Microfilm, Records of Empire Theatre, and Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. We have also begun to use the web page to post finding aids to the special collections.

Other:

Added a new exhibit case in the Children's Brown Room, a new storage cabinet in the Archives Storage Room, and reorganized collections (maps, serials, some books) in Reading Room.

Other Projects

Civil War Soldiers:

Austin W. Holden & 22d Regiment of NY Volunteers

(2 professionals, 1 program with 3 sessions, 80 students & 6 adults)

Thursday, October 15, 1998

9 am - noon, in the Folklife Center

This program was developed and led by archivist Albert Fowler and director of the Center Todd DeGarmo. Lake George 8th graders worked in teams of 3 and 4 for a total of approx. 27 for each of 3 sessions. The student teams followed an "archival treasure hunt", answering questions using various archival evidence at 8 different stations.

Genealogy on the Internet

(1 program, 2 professionals, 75 participants)

Developed and presented by technology librarian Mark Roberts and Center archivist Albert Fowler for the beginner on Saturday, October 17, 1998, 9 am - noon, CPL Auditorium.

Publicity included a flyer for handout and posting in library, and a press release for targeted mailing to media and professionals. Handouts were provided to the participants, and comment sheets returned.

Guide to Genealogy Reference

November 3 & 19 classes and written guide.

Written and developed by Albert Fowler to offer guidance to the Reference Librarians who cover the Folklife Center Reading Room when primary staff are not available.

Presentations by Archivist

- Alexandra deGrandpre's genealogy class for Academy of Learning in Retirement , Nov 2, 12 participants.
- *Genealogy on the Internet*, Ticonderoga Historical Society, Oct 27.
- Guest speaker at Teaching Using Historical Records workshop, hosted by Fulton County Historian at Fulton-Montgomery Community College, Sept 16, 100 participants.
- South Glens Falls Girl Scouts, book preservation, Aug 20, 8 participants

Publicity

Besides the wonderful publicity we receive for our programs, the Folklife Center was featured in several publications this year:

- Beyond Four Walls (guide to educational programs),
- BOCES Arts in Education Resource Book,
- Northern Forest Cultural Resource Guide,
- Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation Annotated Guide of Folk Arts Organizations,
- ArtWORKS for Young People: A Report on the Dialogue (based on a conference on arts programming in 1990s)
- Various links to our library web page.

Additional Professional Activities

Participation (DeGarmo)

- attendee, SALS meeting about new online catalog system, Sept 30.
- student at an internet workshop: Introduction to Internet HTML, CDLC, Albany, Sept 28.
- attendee, SARA meeting about archival and preservation grants, Warren County, Sept 15.
- attendee, 1998 Fall Conference, New York Folklore Society, at Hallockville Museum and Folklife Center, September.
- library representative, annual meeting and dinner of the Southern Adirondack Library System, Queensbury Hotel, Glens Falls, May 18.
- guest host, Folk Arts Forum for professional public sector folklorists, New York Folklore Society, June 17.

Participation (Fowler):

- opening for *Lasting Roots* exhibit at Chapman Historical Museum, December.
- Capital Region Archives Dinner, Oct 13.
- student at genealogy workshop by Dr. Arlene Eakle, Saratoga Springs, Sept 30.
- student at internet training for SALS librarians, Saratoga Springs, Sept 15.
- attendee, Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC), Saratoga Springs, May 7-8.

- student, two Society of American Archivists workshops, *Archival Cataloguing as a Component of Description and Application of the USMARC Format*, Lowell, MA, April 20-21.

General Services: to help those interested in folk arts by providing names of artists and programming suggestions to individuals and organizations, including TAUNY, SALS, Lake George Library, Keene Valley Library, North Creek Railway,