

Crandall Public Library's

# Center for Folklife, History & Cultural Programs

2004 Annual Report (6 pages)

by Todd DeGarmo, Director of the Center

## Mission

The Center for Folklife, History & Cultural Programs at Crandall Public Library (CPL) 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 the Library's four department heads. 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 in Anthropology, and has 19 years experience in research, grantsmanship, and public programming in folk arts. He is also Records Management Officer and supervisor of the custodial staff.

**Librarian/Archivist II**, Albert Fowler, full-time professional staff, runs the daily operation of the Folklife Center's Reading Room, and 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.

**Reference Librarians**, Katherine Chansky, Bruce Cole, and others help to cover the Center's Reading Room when Center staff are not available.

**Consultants**, for specific, grant-funded projects (see below).

## Grants

This past year we received outside funding for our programs from the following sources:

- **New York State Council on the Arts–Folk Arts Program**,  
4th year of multi-year funding for folk arts projects \$27,100
- **Leo Cox Beach Philanthropic Foundation**  
towards new exhibition on Indian Basket collection \$8,500
- **New York Council for the Humanities**  
towards lecture series for the exhibition, Public Views \$1,500
- **BOCES-Project Enrich**  
income and supplies for DeGarmo teaching a Spring  
and Fall class, *Backyards: Photograph Your World* \$1,021
- **Zonta Club of Glens Falls**  
help for processing special collections \$ 800
- **NY Folklore Society Mentoring Program**  
to develop an exhibition on the Indian Basket collection \$ 750
- **Queensbury Schools**  
for our help with Adirondack Day \$ 150

# Archives & Special Collections

## The Reading Room

Staffed for the public 22 hours per week (6 days a week). We had 1889 users asking 1408 reference questions, using 2687 items, making 3511 photocopies.

Special collections have also been used by both local newspapers, for Chapman Museum exhibitions, and patrons.

## Holden Reference Collection:

147 new books and materials were purchased in the subjects of local and regional history, genealogy, folk arts and folklife studies. In addition, the Friends of Crandall Public Library provided 764 titles from donations to the Friends book sale.

## Special Acquisitions

The Arthur S. Fisher Photograph Collection was donated by his grandson, Douglas Hart. We also acquired the records of the Zonta Club of Glens Falls. Our own projects generated fieldwork & program files for the Library Archives, including the addition of folk arts from our exhibitions, *Paper Arts*, *Home & Loved Ones*, and *Homemade Halloween*.

## Processing & Preserving Collections

A NYS Archives 2003/4 grant paid for Laura Van Guilder to work on the preservation of our photograph collections. A CDLC grant paid for Jennifer Ferris to add older unprocessed books to the catalog.

## Records Management:

As the Records Management Officer, DeGarmo culled 25 cubic feet of Obsolete Library Records, based on the NYS Records Retention & Disposition Schedule.

## Finding Aids for Special Collections

Albert Fowler's collection descriptions of 120 core collections have been placed on the NYS Library catalog.

# Public Programs

## **Harnessing the Hudson**

Exhibition in Folklife Gallery  
until January 31.

Displayed the 2003 photographs by Individual Artist grant recipient Gretchen McHugh along with historic photographs of industrial sites along the upper Hudson River.

Performance: *Millhand Maggie*, family stories of the Cohoes Mills  
told by Kathleen Gill on January 8 • audience 37.

Performance: *Working Waters*, songs of the river, canal, factories  
sung by George Ward on January 15 • audience 32.

### **Guess What I Collect**

- New series, co-hosted by the Children's Department
- February 7: Workshop 10-12:30 for xx new exhibitors
  - July 8: Workshop 2-3:30 pm for 18 new exhibitors

### **Land & Liberty**

Exhibition in the Folklife Gallery February & March 2005  
Betty LaDuke's photographs, drawings, paintings of murals from Chiapas Mexico

Reception (our 5th year) for an exhibition of international children's art in the Library's Friends Gallery.

Latin Jazz Concert, in the Folklife Center, Wednesday, February 9, featuring three members of Alex Torres' orchestra for an audience of 90.

#### Lectures:

- March 18: Local Community Murals by Susan Shanley • audience 25
- March 22: Mexican Muralist Movement by Jaime Aredondo • audience 35

### **Extraordinary Women**

April 22<sup>nd</sup> the Folklife Center co-hosted, with the Adirondack Branch of the American Association of University Women, the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual awards for Women History Month fifth grade essay contest winners who used our *Extraordinary Women Book Box*, with musical performance by Susan Hamlin • audience of 70.

### **Photograph Your World**

Todd DeGarmo taught 35 mm photography skills to area middle school students for BOCES Project Enrich (Hudson Falls/Washington County site) for 6 weeks in the Spring and 6 weeks in the Fall (October 12 to November 16), totaling 30 students from xx schools in our region.

### **Paper Arts**

Exhibition in the Folklife Gallery

April 5 to June 7, 2005

Festival masks, origami, snowflakes, paper dolls, May baskets by local artists.

Workshops: 8 workshops (origami, May baskets, snowflakes) to a total of 140 children in the library and school classroom.

- April 6: Origami & 1000 Cranes with Kumiko Chiba  
BOCES, 2:30 pm • audience 15
- April 12: May Baskets with the Moreau Seniors  
Folklife Center, 10 am & 11:30 am • audience 29=31
- April 13: Origami & 1000 Cranes with Kumiko Chiba  
Folklife Center, 10, 11:30, 1:30 pm • audience 15+16+10
- April 14: Snowflakes with Frieda Toth  
Folklife Center, 10 & 11:30 am • audience 9+16
- June 16: Origami & 1000 Cranes with Kumiko Chiba  
Salem Central School 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades • audience 25+25

In cooperation with visit from pop-up book author/artist, Robert Sabuta,  
With a talk on May 14 (audience 65) and workshop on May 15 (audience 48).

### **Queensbury 3rd Grade Adirondack Day**

Performance: storyteller James Bruchac, who told Abenaki stories to 150 third graders over 6 sessions at the Queensbury Schools' Adirondack Day on May 28th.

### **Home & Loved Ones**

Exhibition: in the Folklife Gallery

June 7 to August 31, 2005

The memory paintings and stories of Clara Mae Towers Orto (of Corinth, Saratoga County, NY)

Reception: Tuesday, June 15, 5:30 to 7:30 pm for an audience of 200+.

#### Storytelling workshop series

- July 8 Grand Generation (film & discussion) audience of 7
- July 15 Telling Your Family Stories with Jeanne Laverty audience of 6
- July 22 Story Sharing Circle audience of 10

### **Live! At the Bandstand**

Performances: Tuesday evening concert series in City Park, 7 to 8:30 pm

- July 6 Curragh (Irish) audience of 450
- July 13 Robanic Reggae (Jamaican) audience of 350
- July 20 Jesse Lege (Cajun) audience of 325
- July 27 Alex Torres (Latin) audience of 180 (rain!)

**Total audience of 1305**

### **Public Views**

Exhibition in the Folklife Gallery

September to December 2004

100 years of cameras from the collection of Russell Serrienne

Reception, September 7

#### Lecture Series

- September 9 Laterna Magica: Projected Entertainment  
by Russell Serrienne; audience of 55
- October 7 Postmarked New York: The Postcard in American Life  
by Cynthia Ruben audience of 20.
- October 14 Old Glens Falls: Rebirth of a 1920s Slide Show  
by Todd DeGarmo audience of 65
- October 28 Stoddard the Artist, Stoddard the Salesman  
by Joseph Cutshall-King audience of 22
- October 30 Glens Falls Hometown USA: 1940s Color Slide Show  
by Bruce Cole audience of 55
- November 3 Digital Wizardy: From Grain to Pixels  
by Carl Heilman II audience of 26

**Total audience of 243**

## **Homemade Halloween**

Exhibition in the Friends Gallery  
October 25 to November 12, 2004

Community display of handmade masks, costumes, and family photographs, co-hosted by the Children's Department, with contributions from Ralph Lee/Mettowee River Players (NYC & Salem) photographs of the Greenwich Village Halloween Parade and a bird puppet; student art from the Glens Falls Middle School; homemade costumes and family photographs from patrons and staff.

Reception, Saturday, October 30 – Crandall Fest!

## **Exhibition Cubes**

Special rotating display of regional folk art and artists:

Reference area (3 display cases):

ice fishing, Adirondack packbaskets (Jack Leadley); wooden mechanical toys (Chris Morley), fishing flies (Marc Francato); woolens (DePauls); Navajo marriage dolls

Children's Department (1 display case):

shovel maker (Gary Rathbone); chainsaw carved bear (Bob Sutliff); snowshoes (Ray Greene)

Downstairs/900s

toy barn (Sandy Lourie), balsam pillows by various artists; bird with snake carving (Bob Sutliff)

## **Book Boxes**

To date, ten 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 (new) - developed for the Taiwan exhibition of the World Awareness Children's Museum

Extraordinary Women (new) - developed for the 5th grade essay contest offered by the Adirondack branch of the American Association of University Women

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

## **Presentations by archivist Albert Fowler:**

- October: Archives in Washington Counxxxxxxx

## **Presentations by folklorist Todd DeGarmo:**

*Family Exploration, or a Folklorist plays Genealogist* at the Greenfield Historical Society, Greenfield Center, NY on April 20, 2005 • audience 35.

*Life Within: A Folklorist's Peek at the Vernacular Architecture in NE NY* at Wiawaka, Lake George, NY, on July 7, 2005 • audience of 15.

## Additional Professional Activities

### **Albert Fowler**

founding member, Warren County History Roundtable

attendee, *Family Histxxxxxx*

### **Todd DeGarmo**

- past-president of the Board, New York Folklore Society until Fall 2004.
- member of the Advisory Committee, Capital District Library Council - Documentary Heritage Program.
- member of the Library's Expansion Committee, consisting of members of the board, staff, and 3 charter communities.
- January 29: participant, Local Museum Educators organizational meeting, administered by the Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council.
- March 12-13: attendee of the Library Board, *Preservation 2004: Creating Livable Communities and Fostering Historic Preservation* at Skidmore College.
- April 28-30: presenter and facilitator for the session "Education & Youth Programs" at the *New York State Folk Arts Roundtable*, Skaneateles, NY.
- May 6: host for Board presentations, *Beyond Access & Historic Preservation*.
- September 20-25: attendee/researcher, Grand Opening and festival of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, Washington, DC.
- September 30: attendee, Documentary Heritage Program grant writing workshop.