

The Folklife Center Annual Report 2015

Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY 12801

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

Erica Wolfe Burke, Archivist/Librarian - 6 pages

Grants & Income

1. New York State Council on the Arts - Folk Arts - award of \$36,000 (first of 3, multiyear grant) for the folk arts programs developed and presented by The Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library, as a regional folk art program.
2. Friends of Crandall Public Library - award of \$9,400 towards *Live! Folklife Concert* (Spring & Fall) and *Summerland Music* series (July-August).
3. Leo Cox Beach Philanthropic Foundation - award of \$3,000 toward the Live! Folklife Concert series.
4. Capital District Library Council - award of \$2,500 RBDS Cataloging/Metadata grant to hire a consultant to add items to the New York Heritage digital collections website (www.nyheritage.org).
5. New York Folklore Society Mentoring Grant - award of \$650 for consultation with Kevin Ankeny, professor of Broadcasting, SUNY Adirondack to design a portable, bluetooth lab for shooting and mixing multi-camera events, and provide instruction for its use.
6. Donations - \$150 from the New York Division Woman's National Farm & Garden Association; \$35 in memory of William Richards from Robert & Barbara Green; \$25 from the Glens Falls Hospital Guild.

Interns, Volunteers, Consultants

1. Special thanks to our interns:
 - a. Mary Vandermeulen (SUNY Albany, MA in Informational Studies)
 - b. Liz Persons (St. Michael College, Colchester, VT)
2. Special thanks to our many volunteers, providing 917.5 hours of help:

Heidy Acevedo, Randolph Bower, Camp Chingachook alumni, Tish Dolton, Lisa Dougherty, Maureen Dye, Susan Gornall, Josh Henderson, Sarah Loscalzo, Jacqueline McConnell, Chad Murray, Faye Nolan, Pam Reed, Tracy Richmond, Sara Robert, Catherine Schmidt, Woman's National Farm & Garden Association.
3. Special thanks to consultant Cindy Maguire, librarian/special collections cataloger; Kevan Rogan, reference librarian, for editing videos of *Do Tell: Learning to Perform Personal Stories* and *Live! Folklife Concerts* and posting to our YouTube channel; Emma Rogan and Anne Nelson for helping to photograph Folklife Gallery receptions; Crandall Public Library staff Jennifer Boyer, Tish Dolton, Rachel Clothier, Andrea Herman, Kathy Naftaly, and Kevin Rogan for covering the Folklife Center desk especially during the time of Erica Burke's husband Jim Burke's illness and death this past year.

Archives & Special Collections

1. **Reading Room:** 2,490 patrons using 5481 items
 - a. Open Monday-Friday 10-12, 1-4, Tuesday 5-8; Friends Book Sale Saturdays
2. **Special Publicity**
 - a. TV News 10 ABC: Mark Baker's segment on *Look Magazine: Glens Falls Hometown USA Collection* aired May 4th on Fox News at 10 pm and TV News 10 ABC at 11 pm.
 - b. Upstate Scavenger Hunt: our *Day of the Dead Sculpture: Skeleton Bicyclist* by Aurelia Fernandez Marure from the Folk Art Collection was featured by online editor Doug Kruse for this new feature in the *Post-Star*, Glens Falls, NY, September 10, 2015, p. C1.
 - c. Warren County Memories: The Folklife Center, Chapman Historical Museum and others providing historical photographs for this new book published by the *Post-Star* in December 2015.
3. **New Collections**
 - a. Holden Reference Book Collection: 495 new titles on Polaris catalog.
 - b. Serials
 - i. New York Folklore Quarterly - missing issues from Galway Public Library.
 - ii. Queensbury High School Yearbooks (9) donated by Joan Aldrous.
 - iii. The Morning Star, Glens Falls, NY (3 issues) donated by Paul McCarty.
 - iv. Sanford Street School Yearbooks (10 years) donated by the Friends of CPL.
 - v. In addition to our regular titles.
 - c. Manuscript Collections
 - i. Adirondack Red Wings Collection (4 cubic feet), donated by Lillian Beswick.
 - ii. Annual Cambridge Invitational Predicted Log Race 1966-1976 - copy of scrapbook kept by founder Carleton Foster, Cambridge, NY.
 - iii. Book of Sewing Lessons completed by Dorothy Shapiro, donated by Sandy Phillips.
 - iv. Children's Committee of Warren County Archives - additions.
 - v. Crandall Trust Archives - additions
 - vi. Glens Falls High School Diploma 1925 of Ralph Doray, donated by William Smith and Nancy LaFave.
 - vii. Glens Falls Machine Works Business Records (16 boxes), donated by Carol Mullen.
 - viii. Lease/Deed, 1 January 1798 James Caldwell to Enoch Phillips, donated by Minnie Bolster, Saratoga Springs, NY.
 - ix. Wings Falls Quilters Guild Archives - additions
 - d. Photographs, Postcards, other Images
 - i. Annual Cambridge Invitational Predicted Log Race, scans of slides (1970-1971) taken by Christopher Pearce, Shushan, NY.
 - ii. Postcards of southern Washington County, NY (Lauderdale, Hedges Lake, Shushan, etc), 408 images donated by Tim and Patty Burch, Albany, NY.
 - iii. Addy & Will Csaplak Lake George Collection - additions.
 - e. Folk Art Collections
 - i. African household baskets (4 Lozi of Zambia, 1 Congo) donated by Donald Sevitte, Saratoga Springs, NY
 - ii. Wool sculpture, *Little One*, by Sharon Hanehan.
 - iii. Decoys (1 decorative Mallard Preener, 1 hunting Merganser) by Steven Jay Sanford.

iv. Dolls, assemblages, paintings by Caroline Hooke (1921-2015) donated by Ruth Barngrove Sauer.

f. Art & Objects Collections

- i. Stephen Alcorn, Cambridge, NY - entire collection of his 92 original, large format relief-block prints, created for the award-winning anthologies, *Abraham Lincoln: In His Own Words* (1994) and *Frederick Douglass: In His Own Words* (1995).
- ii. *The Star Gazers*, a poem by Richard Carella, #9 of 30 signed copies printed for Weathered Orb Press by Robert Walp, Chester Creek Press, Chestertown, NY.
- iii. Windfield Design architectural models of Glens Falls landmarks (22 pieces) donated by Michael Cleary.
- iv. Salem Pop-Up Project, featuring the handmade pop-up book, *The ??? Book*, North Main Gallery, Salem NY (2011), by instructors Ed Hutchins and Ruth Sauer, and other pop-up materials, donated by Ruth Barngrove Sauer.
- v. Indian Camps & Upstate Tourism Collection - Peter Kaulfuss (1841-1927) engraved tourist glass (15 pieces), Saratoga Springs, purchased from Minnie Bolster, Saratoga Springs, NY
- vi. Indian Camps & Upstate Tourism Collection - Indian Camp beadwork (7 pieces), Saratoga Springs, purchased from Minnie Bolster, Saratoga Springs, NY.
- vii. Charles Evans Hughes Collection: various items donated by Maury Thompson.

4. **Collection Management**

- a. Permanent Serials: CDLC grant to add these collections to the Polaris online catalogue
- b. 1860 Smith Map of New York State: conservation treatment & presentation framing.
- c. NYS Vital Record Indexes: updates from NYS Archives & Department of Health.
- d. Folk Music Libraries: ongoing digitization of albums for patron access at iTunes stations.
- e. Crandall Public Library Archives: additions.
- f. Csaplár Silver Bay Collection & additions to Lake George collection: appraisal by Henry Caldwell and ongoing item-level inventory into FileMaker Pro database.
- g. Camp Chingachook Archives: 5-year deposit being processed by CC alumni.
- h. Manuscript Collections: new collections processed, inventories and described.
- i. Vertical Files (Glens Falls/Queensbury, Regional, Biographical): filing/preservation copying
- j. Live! Folklife Concerts & Do Tell uploaded to YouTube (The Folklife Center at CPL).

Folklife Gallery

1. **Battenkill Inspired** - a new exhibition curated by Todd DeGarmo, showcasing the works of over 25 artists (featuring paintings, art prints, photography, magazine cover art, hand-tied fishing flies, hunting and decorative decoys, a boat, jewelry, dolls, sculptures, a bridge model), and many historic images and artifacts loaned by historical societies and private collections, on display from January to June 30, 2015. In addition, Washington County Tourism is coordinating the publicity for organizations hosting their own events within the theme, *Battenkill Inspired*, including the Battenkill Conservancy, Battenkill Kitchen, SAW (Salem Art Works), Georgi Museum, and Gardenworks.
 - a. Reception on Thursday, March 12, 5 to 7 pm, 200 attendees.
 - b. Lecture series - see Battenkill Lectures below under Cultural Programs.
2. **A Transitional Interpretation: American Roots Music By Five Photographers** -an original Folklife Gallery exhibition on display September to December 31, 2015. Guest curator Andrzej "Andre" Pilarczyk and his colleagues (Joseph Deuel, Enid Farber, Bryan Lasky, Lawrence White) provide an insider's view of the dramatic worlds of live music performance. Also includes displays by 5 important performance venues (Caffe Lena, The Egg, WAMC's The Linda, Old Songs, Exit 97.7 WEXT), misc. music memorabilia, and a free, 24-page catalog.
 - a. Reception on Saturday, September 19, 4 to 7 pm with over 150 attending.

Cultural Programs (music, storytelling, workshops, presentations)

1. **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 19. After some 15 years, this program has been taken over entirely by the Children's Department.
2. **Live! Folklife Concert Series**, the Spring series featured 12 live concerts, free to the public, thanks to funding from the Friends of Crandall Public Library and the New York State Council on the Arts. All are on Thursdays 7 to 9 pm (doors open 6:30) in the Community Room with portable stage & sound system, digital video recorded for the archives with a song or 2 posted to our YouTube channel, *The Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library*:
 - a. March 12 - Hot Club of Saratoga - 170 attendees.
 - b. March 19 - Phil Henry with Gary Moon - 112 attendees.
 - c. March 26 - Amy Gallatin & Stillwaters - 120 attendees.
 - d. April 9 - Wooden Dinosaur - 133 attendees.
 - e. April 16 - Honey Dewdrops - 123 attendees.
 - f. April 23 - Emerald Rae Trio - 155 attendees.
 - g. May 7 - Maire Ni Chathasaish & Chris Newman - 110 attendees.
 - h. May 14 - Hill Hollow Band - 125 attendees.
 - i. May 21 - DuPont Brothers - 102 attendees.
 - j. June 4 - Bob Warren Trio - 105 attendees.
 - k. June 18 - Cuddle Magic - 123 attendees.
 - l. June 25 - Dennis Stroughmatt et l'Esprit Creole - 110 attendees.
3. **Warren County Historical Society:** Erica Wolfe Burke presented the illustrated talk, *Researching the Feeder Canal at Glens Falls City Hall* on March 18 to 75 attendees.
4. **Battenkill Lectures:** a free series of presentations April to June supporting our new exhibition, *Battenkill Inspired*, scheduled April to June at the Library (CPL) with some repeated at the Salem Courthouse Community Center:
 - a. April 20 (CPL) The Covered Bridges of Washington County, by Robert McIntosh, 48 attendees.
 - b. May 11 (CPL) Beginning Ornithology by Stephen Jay Sanford, 42 attendees.
 - c. May 13 (Salem) - The Covered Bridges of Washington County, by Robert McIntosh, 48 attendees.
 - d. May 20 (Salem) Beginning Ornithology by Stephen Jay Sanford, 22 attendees.
 - e. June 1 (CPL) Teaching Trout to Talk by Stuart Bartow, 15 attendees.
 - f. June 3 (Salem) Batten Kill: History of Fly Fishing by Cathi Comar, 24 attendees.
 - g. June 8 (CPL) Batten Kill: History of Fly Fishing by Cathi Comar, 27 attendees.
 - h. June 10 (CPL) Teaching Trout to Talk by Stuart Bartow, 16 attendees.
5. **Summertime Music Society** the fourth year of a 3-part indoor chamber music series presented free to the public on Thursdays 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:
 - a. July 16: Safety Last (Cary Brown, piano)- Experience this hilarious and influential 1923 silent film starring comedian Harold Lloyd win improvised piano accompaniment - audience 75.
 - b. July 30: NYCounterpoint: Andy Warhol & the Downtown Music Scene (Stephen Drury, piano; Christopher Bush, clarinet; Erin Coe, director of the Hyde Museum) - Art and music collide in this exploration of music by groundbreaking composers who, like Andy Warhol, lived and worked in New York City during the second half of the 20th century. Work of John Cage, Steve Reich, Julia Wolfe and more - audience 73.
 - c. August 13: Song of Love: The Schumanns and Brahms, (Anastasia Robinson, piano; Charlie Powers, cello; Christopher Bush, clarinet; Carol Minor, piano; Hillary Parker) - The complicated relationship between three celebrated musicians of the Romantic ear comes to life - audience 94.

6. **Live! Folklife Concert Series:** the Fall series featured 6 live concerts, free to the public, thanks to funding from the Friends of Crandall Public Library and the New York State Council on the Arts. All are on Thursdays 7 to 9 pm (doors open 6:30) in the Community Room with portable stage & sound system, digital video recorded for the archives with a song or 2 posted to our YouTube channel, *The Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library*:
 - a. September 17 - Annie & the Hedonists - 170 attendees.
 - b. September 24 - Dick Hensold - 118 attendees.
 - c. October 8 - The North & South Dakotas - 160 attendees.
 - d. October 15 - Twangtown Paramours - 105 attendees.
 - e. October 22 - Low Lily - 167 attendees.
 - f. October 29 - The Ramblin' Jug Stompers with Jill Hughes - 174 attendees.
7. **Meet the Author:** Marika McCoola & her new graphic novel, *Baba Yaga's Assistant* on Thursday, October 1 in the Folklife Gallery, selling 32 books with 68 attendees.
8. **Do Tell: Learning to Perform Personal Stories:** free 4- part workshop series taught by storytellers/educators Margaret French and Betty Cassidy. Participants met Mondays (October 26, November 2, 9, 16) from 6:30 to 8:30 pm and had their final performance digital video recorded and published on a DVD and our YouTube channel, *The Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library*.
9. **Winter Bluegrass Jam:** a new musical series for pickers and listeners alike, hosted by Alan Epstein, sponsored by the Folklife Center on the first Thursdays of the winter months (December, January, February), first session December 3, with an attendance of 15 musicians & 35 listeners.
10. **Family History One-to-One:** monthly (3rd Wednesday) drop-in personalized help in the Folklife Center with volunteer genealogist Lisa Dougherty, December 16, 10-noon.
11. **Tours** - as requested: March 24, Tri-County Adult Day Care (10); May 22, Granville 3rd Graders (110 attendees); June 11, Primetimers Salem seniors (15).

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, with a link to the Digital Public Library of America
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. The Folklife Center was featured in the new book, *Archives Alive! Expanding Engagement with Public Library Archives and Special Collections* by Diantha Dow Schull (Chicago, IL: ALA Press, 2015) specifically in the chapters on unique institutional models, and collaborations with community organizations.
5. DeGarmo participated in the Library's Management retreats on January 8 & March 18.
6. DeGarmo was a guest at the reception at the Hyde Art Collection Museum's new exhibition, *Wild Nature* on January 17.

7. DeGarmo participated in the Library's Board of Trustees retreat on January 22.
8. DeGarmo attended a Capital District Library Council meeting on our participation in the *New York Heritage Digital Collections* and the *Digital Public Library of America*, in Albany, February 27.
9. DeGarmo participated in the *New York State Folk Arts Roundtable*, the annual meeting of public sector folklorists sponsored by the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York Folklore Society, in Troy, NY, May 20-22.
10. DeGarmo met with representatives of the Willsboro Library concerning a large donation and possible building of a new archives, July 29.
11. DeGarmo & Naftaly represented the Library at the *Adirondack Cultural Symposium*, Lake Placid, September 10.
12. Burke participated in the webinar, *Using Local Government Records for Genealogy* on October 14.
13. Burke attended Heritage Hunters' annual meeting in Saratoga Springs on October 17.