



The Community Foundation
for South Central New York

COMMUNITY *News*

Museum Shines a Light on New Native American Masterpiece



*W*hy place a totem pole from the Pacific Northwest at the entrance to a neo-Georgian building in Central New York?

The 30-foot contemporary Haida carving is the latest addition to the Eugene and Clare Thaw Collection of American Indian Art, an assemblage of nearly 850 works on display at the Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown. Since the museum erected the pole on its front lawn last May, the piece has offered a vivid reminder that one of the world's outstanding collections of Native American art stands just beyond the building's doors.

"It has made people really curious, as they realize that there's more to see inside," says Eva Fognell, Curator of the Thaw Collection.

Retired art dealer Eugene Thaw and his wife started purchasing Native American art when they moved from New York City to Santa Fe. By 1992 the collection had outgrown the Thaws' home, and they started making plans to donate it to a museum. Having once owned a summer home near Cherry Valley, the Thaws were familiar with the Fenimore Art Museum, which gladly accepted the collection. A new museum wing built to house the work opened in 1995. The Thaws have continued to purchase new art for the collection.

Mr. and Mrs. Thaw choose work by Native American artists with the same critical eye they bring to great pieces from Europe or Asia. That's part of what

makes the Thaw Collection an important body of work and a treat for people who visit the museum. "It's a masterpiece collection," Fognell says.

The new totem pole is the collection's largest piece. The Thaws commissioned Haida artist Reg Davidson to create the four-foot wide cedar carving, which tells the story of how the Raven stole the Beaver's house, lake and fish trap and taught the Haida people how to catch fish.

Davidson traveled to Cooperstown from British Columbia to help dedicate the totem pole at the official unveiling on May 29. The ceremony also included a performance by his dance troupe, the Rainbow Creek Dancers.

As the cloth coverings fell away from the pole that afternoon, a collective gasp emerged from the 500 people assembled on the lawn. "It's a very

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Workshops Help Nonprofits Grow Stronger

In tough economic times, fewer not-for-profit organizations can afford to send staff to workshops or classes. But training is critical to an organization's capacity to carry out its mission.

As part of our ongoing commitment to capacity building, throughout 2010 the Community Foundation has been offering a series of workshops free of charge to not-for-profits in our region.

On April 15, the New York Council of Nonprofits Inc. (NYCON) presented "Improving Nonprofit Capacity and Effectiveness Through Assessment" at the Broome County Public Library. Fifty-three attendees learned how to evaluate their organizations' current situations, policies and practices as a first step toward enhancing performance. The Community Foundation sponsored this workshop along with the Stewart W. and Willma C. Hoyt Foundation. Participating organizations had the chance to apply to the 2010 Broome, Chenango, Cortland and Tioga Capacity Building Mini-grant program, funded by the Community

Foundation, the Hoyt Foundation and the Conrad and Virginia Klee Foundation.

On June 24, fifty participants joined arts management consultant Susan J. Palmer for a half-day workshop called "Reluctant to Ready!" Held in collaboration with WSKG Public Broadcasting, the workshop presented a seven-step plan for transforming board members into stellar fundraisers.

This fall brings three full-day workshops devoted to evidence-based decision making, a strategy for providing successful solutions to meet real needs. Dr. Pamela Mischen, Director of the Center for Applied Community Research and Development and Associate Professor in the Department of Public Administration at Binghamton University, will host the sessions at the Binghamton University Downtown Center. Topics include "How Can We Do What We Do better?" on October 8, "Needs Assessment" on November 12 and "Evaluation" on December 3.

We're glad that the Community Foundation can help to fill this important need for not-for-profits in our region.

OUT AND ABOUT



Broome County Public Library Director Lisa Wise and Head of Youth Services Sarah Reid show Board Members Callie Demtrak and Elysia Gudas and Executive Director Diane Brown the books they will be giving to newborns and their families as part of the Books and Babies Campaign funded with a \$1,000 grant from the Community Foundation.

Recent Grants from the CommuniFund™

Afton Historical Society: \$2,750 for purchase of archival quality storage materials for preservation of historic documents, photos and clothing (*Chenango*)

Binghamton Housing Authority: \$10,000 to fund and expand *Growing Connection* agriculture program for disadvantaged youth at Carlisle and Saratoga Apartments (*Broome*)

Broome County Public Library: \$1,000 toward purchase of large format books for *Books and Babies* campaign with Wilson Hospital (*Broome*)

Camp Ahwaga Association: \$4,937 to fund transportation/operating support for summer camp for disabled children (*Tioga*)

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County: \$5,920 for purchase of laptops and video

projectors to increase technical capabilities for educational training/workshops (*Broome*)

Cortland County Community Action: \$5,200 for a financial literacy program for disadvantaged families (*Cortland*)

Family and Children's Society: \$15,000 to renovate lobby entrance into waiting areas for mental health services clinic (*Broome*)

Family Enrichment Network: \$11,000 toward roof replacement at main building (*Broome*)

Franklin Stock Company at Chapel Hall, Inc.: \$10,000 for stabilization of the foundation beneath this historic structure (*Delaware*)

Haven After-School Program: \$1,000 toward purchase of materials for an after-school program serving Binghamton High School students (*Broome*)

Metro Interfaith: \$11,000 toward roof renovation on apartment building for low-income, disabled and elderly tenants (*Broome*)

New York State Historical Association: \$4,500 for a lighting system for a Northwest Coast Native American totem pole to be installed in front of the Fenimore Art Museum (*Otsego*)

Preservation Association of the Southern Tier (PAST): \$4,500 toward rental expenses incurred as result of an unexpected move (*Broome*)

Rescue Mission Alliance: \$12,995 for purchase of kitchen equipment in new facility being renovated to house homeless individuals (*Broome*)

Total: \$99,802

2010 Spring Grantee Visits

During the spring and early summer of 2010, Foundation staff and board members visited grantees from Owego to Franklin to Cortland and back again. There's no better feeling than seeing your dollars in action around the region, doing good and doing it well.



An eclectic collection of local artifacts at the Afton Historical Society Museum will be better preserved thanks to a \$2,750 grant from the Community Foundation for archival quality storage materials.



Proud gardeners pose in front of the grow boxes and plants that the Community Foundation helped fund with a \$10,000 grant to the Binghamton Housing authority towards the Growing Connection agriculture program for young people at Carlisle and Saratoga housing projects.

Web Offers New Ways to Stay Involved

What exactly is a community? The concept has gained some new dimensions as people get together on line to collaborate in ways we couldn't have imagined a few years back.

The Community Foundation is using the Internet to connect with our community in several new ways:

- We've added a "Donate" button to our website (www.cfscny.org). It offers an easy tool for making a contribution with your credit card or PayPal account.
- We've gone multi-media, posting a video that highlights the mission and accomplishments of the Women's Fund. Check it out in the Women's Fund section of our website - www.cfscny.org/about/womens_fund.htm.
- The Women's Fund has joined Facebook. If you visit its page ("Women's Fund of The Community Foundation for SCNY") and indicate that you "like" it, future news about the Fund will appear in the news stream on your own Facebook home page.
- Starting in 2011, you'll have the option of receiving *Community News* electronically. If you want this newsletter delivered to your Inbox in the future, contact us at cfscny@stny.rr.com. Please include your e-mail address and specify which you prefer: the paper newsletter plus the e-mailed version, or the e-mailed version only.

"A Masterpiece Collection"

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impressive piece," Fognell says. "It's wonderful carving: it's expressive, it's powerful."

By giving the totem pole a prominent place in front of the building, museum officials knew they would bring greater visibility to the Thaw Collection as a whole. To complete the effect, though, they needed one more thing—a lighting system to make the totem pole itself more visible.

That's where the Community Foundation stepped in. We granted the Fenimore Art Museum \$4,500 for an underground conduit and lighting fixture to illuminate the art work at night. The lights come on in the evening and continue to shine on the carving until midnight.

Thanks to the lights, the totem pole creates a stunning effect, Fognell says. "You wouldn't see it at night otherwise. With the dark museum in the background, it really stands out."

In the tradition of the Pacific Northwest, a totem pole would stand outside a home, welcoming visitors and maybe telling a story about the family, Fognell says. Now, a magnificent example of Pacific Northwest art greets visitors to the Fenimore Art Museum and gives them a taste of what they'll find within.



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The Community Foundation for South Central New York serves
Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego and Tioga counties.



Community Foundation on the Move

The Community Foundation was founded in 1997 by the Stewart W. and Willma C. Hoyt Foundation, with which we have shared a building from the beginning. It is now time to leave that lovely space in the former Hoyt residence. With bittersweet feelings we bid farewell to 70 Front Street and greet our new neighbors at 520 Columbia Drive in Johnson City. On October 7, 2010 we will be fully ensconced in new, bigger and more accessible offices. Our phone, fax and e-mail contact information will remain the same as will the warm and welcoming atmosphere you are familiar with. Yes, we are up on Carpathian Hill, near the Oakdale Mall, with great views and easy access, even in the winter! Look for an invitation to our open house and donor recognition event in early December, or visit us after October 7 in suite 100, on the first floor left as you enter the building.

Welcome – Tina Barber

A new address is not the only change this fall at the Foundation. On September 1, 2010 we were pleased to welcome our newest staff member, **Tina Barber**. Tina's master's degree in education from Elmira College and her extensive experience in non-profit management in Broome County made her the perfect candidate for the newly created Community Investment Assistant position. For the next two years, funded by a grant from the Hoyt Foundation, Tina will be conducting a full assessment of community needs in Broome County, developing best practice recommendations for grant making and community impact evaluation and assisting us, as well as other funders, in making funding decisions that truly make a difference. Please join us in welcoming Tina to the Community Foundation.

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