

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KEENE VALLEY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECEIVES GRANTS TO IMPLEMENT *ADIRONDACK COMMUNITY* DIGITAL STORIES PROJECT

KEENE VALLEY, N.Y. (TK/TK/19) — The Keene Valley Library Association is pleased to announce it has received three grants to implement *Adirondack Community: Capturing, Retaining, and Communicating the Stories of Who We Are*.

This multi-year local history project collects and organizes audio stories and related photographs from Town of Keene community members through an online platform to share the rich social and cultural history of this community located in New York State's Adirondack Mountains.

These grants include: a Humanities New York Action Grant, following the successful deployment of a 2018 Vision Grant for project planning; the Northern New York Library Network (NNYLN) Innovation Grant; and an award from the Glenn and Carol Pearsall Adirondack Foundation. Project support also includes community gifts and in-kind donations.

Adirondack Community invites Keene residents and visitors to record three- to five-minute stories and share related images that document their experiences in Keene, a town of 1,080 people located in the High Peaks Region. These individual reflections will be available through an online platform to offer a deeper understanding of local history and complement the library's existing archives.

“These grants recognize the value of individual experiences and perspectives from our past and present,” said Keene Valley Library Director Karen Glass. “By collecting first-person accounts on an easily accessible, modern, and engaging platform, we will ensure our history remains alive for future generations.”

In summer 2018, 37 volunteers participated in the planning process through focus groups, demonstrating community support. The library has begun detailed planning for spring 2019 project implementation in partnership with the Keene Public Library.

The digital archive will include stories about arts and culture, work, outdoor recreation, community events and institutions, catastrophes, people, daily life, and natural history related to or occurring within the Town of Keene. Please contact project organizers at myadirondackstory@gmail.com to participate.

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About the Keene Valley Library Association

Founded in 1885, the Keene Valley Library provides a circulating collection and acts as a cultural center for the village's residents and visitors to Upstate New York's Adirondack Mountains. The library's mission is to connect people to ideas, experiences, information, and the community in a comfortable, welcoming setting. The library strives to do this by providing adults and children with a collection of current and relevant books, other media, and local Adirondack historical resources, providing an inviting and lively cultural center evolving as the community grows and technology advances. Learn more at keenevalleylibrary.org.

About Humanities New York

The mission of Humanities New York is to strengthen civil society and the bonds of community, using the humanities to foster engaged inquiry and dialogue around social and cultural concerns. Learn more at humanitiesny.org.

About the Glenn and Carol Pearsall Foundation

The Glenn and Carol Pearsall Adirondack Foundation was founded in December 2000 to improve the quality of life for year-round Adirondack residents with a focus on arts, libraries, history, environment, and health. Learn more at pearsallfoundation.org.

About the Northern New York Library Network

The Northern New York Library Network is a regional multi-type library agency primarily dedicated to cooperatively providing support and services necessary for all of its members to meet their individual goals. The Network serves libraries in the seven counties of Northern New York for the ultimate benefit of the library user. Learn more at nnyln.org.

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LIVING HISTORY WEBSITE LAUNCHES AT KEENE VALLEY LIBRARY EVENT

KEENE VALLEY, N.Y. (6/17/19) — On Saturday, June 15, the Keene Valley Library welcomed 35 members of the public to celebrate the launch of myadirondackstory.org, a website for the multi-year history project *Adirondack Community: Capturing, Retaining, and Communicating the Stories of Who We Are*.

Now, anyone with an Internet connection can access the project's collection of audio stories and related photographs. To date, the website hosts 34 accounts told by Keene residents about the rich social and cultural history of their community in New York State's Adirondack Mountains.

Keene Valley Library Association Director Karen Glass welcomed attendees in the Strickler Family Community Room, a new public meeting space completed in 2018 as part of the library's \$1.5 million capital campaign.

"Stories have the power to both inspire curiosity about what we don't know and bring us closer to the people and places that shape us," said Glass. "This project does that through a modern and universal platform."

A presentation by Grants Manager Jery Huntley described how the project will preserve Keene's living history for future generations. *Adirondack Community* plans to collect more than 100 stories by September as the project continues.

"Two years of planning became real today," said Huntley. "Storytellers start out nervous, but they walk away happy to have entrusted a piece of themselves to future generations."

Those who wish to contribute to the project may contact myadirondackstory@gmail.com. Stories are now available myadirondackstory.org.

This program was funded by Humanities New York with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Glenn and Carol Pearsall Adirondack Foundation, the Northern New York Library Network, and community supporters using the Memria.org platform. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed on myadirondackstory.org do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Glenn and Carol Pearsall Adirondack Foundation, the Northern New York Library Network, nor other sponsors.

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**LOCAL HISTORY PROJECT PRESENTS AUDIO STORIES AT
KEENE VALLEY LIBRARY ANNUAL BENEFIT ON JULY 23**

KEENE VALLEY, N.Y. (7/9/19) — On Tuesday, July 23, the 15th Annual Keene Valley Library Benefit will take place at the Keene Valley Country Club from 5 to 7:30 p.m. *Adirondack Community: Capturing, Retaining, and Communicating the Stories of Who We Are*, a multi-year local history project, will share audio stories at the gala.

The benefit is a fundraiser for the non-profit Keene Valley Library Association. *Adirondack Community* collects and organizes audio stories and related photographs from Town of Keene community members through an online platform to share the rich social and cultural history of their home in New York State’s Adirondack Mountains.

“This event is a joyful celebration of the people and community that treasure our library,” said KVLVA Director Karen Glass, “As well as an essential source of funding to support our collections, programs, and newly renovated building.”

The 15th Annual Benefit will include live music [from TK], a 50/50 raffle, and silent auction featuring [TKdescription]. [TKfood and beverage?] *Adirondack Community* organizers will be on hand to sign up storytellers and share the 55 three- to five-minute stories collected since April.

“These stories illuminate the fleeting moments that form our shared history,” says KVLVA Grants Manager Jerry Huntley. “A person’s individual voice offers emotion and detail that headlines never fully capture, and gives listeners a deeper understanding of the past.”

Contact *Adirondack Community* at myadirondackstory@gmail.com or listen to stories at at myadirondackstory.org. Call 518-576-4335 or visit keenevalleylibrary.org. to purchase benefit tickets at \$40 for an individual, \$70 for a couple, and \$50 at the door.

Adirondack Community is supported by Humanities New York, which is designed to ensure that all New Yorkers may access the tools and experiences of the humanities, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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KEENE VALLEY LIBRARY HONORS VOLUNTEER STORYTELLERS
Local residents preserve community history with online collection of audio stories

KEENE VALLEY, N.Y. (9/16/19) — More than 45 people gathered at the Keene Valley Library on Saturday, September 14, to celebrate the growing online collection of audio stories available through *Adirondack Community: Capturing, Retaining, and Communicating the Stories of Who We Are*.

Adirondack Community is a multi-year local history project that collects and organizes audio stories and related photographs from Town of Keene community members through an online platform to share the rich social and cultural history of this community located in New York State's Adirondack Mountains.

Since the project launch in late spring, more than 100 volunteer storytellers have recorded 125 three- to five-minute stories. “We are preserving individual and community stories before they are lost,” Keene Valley Library Director Karen Glass said. “This project can bring us closer and help us stick together through tough times.”

Stories will be added year-round. The entire collection is available to hear at myadirondackstory.org, where stories are sorted into eight categories—the most popular of which are outdoor activities, people, and catastrophes. This website also hosts the “My Adirondack Story” podcast archive. Keene residents and visitors may contact myadirondackstory@gmail.com to share their stories about life and times in the town.

“We owe the project’s success to our volunteer storytellers,” Jery Huntley, the *Adirondack Community* project lead, said. “Their enthusiasm and generosity has created a valuable community resource.”

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ADIRONDACK COMMUNITY STORY PROJECT AVAILABLE TO YOU AT HOME
Local history project marks 160 audio stories shared by volunteers.

KEENE VALLEY, N.Y. (4/2/20) — *Adirondack Community* storytellers have recorded 160 first-person accounts about life in the Town of Keene, yesterday and today, and there are opportunities for you to participate in this Keene Valley Library project, as you protect your families by staying home.

Adirondack Community: Capturing, Retaining, and Communicating the Stories of Who We Are, is a multi-year local history project that collects and organizes three to five minute audio stories and related photographs from Town of Keene community members through an online platform to share the rich social and cultural history of this community located in New York State's Adirondack Mountains.

“This is an opportunity to record history in the making. Twenty-five years from now, when people want to know what daily life was like during Covid-19, they will be able to find it in the stories we recorded,” says Keene Valley Library Director Karen Glass.

Go to myadironackstory.org. The Catastrophe category has numerous heart-warming stories and there are also two podcasts dealing with local catastrophes. Seven other categories — arts and culture, work, people, outdoor activities, daily life, community, and the natural and man-made environment — also demonstrate the grit our Adirondack neighbors are made of. Some stories are even about emergency services and first responders, who we thank today with every breath.

“We are home, worrying about our families here and far away, wondering what comes next. We may find some comfort in hearing about catastrophes and how our community has come together, time and time again,” says Jery Y. Huntley, the *Adirondack Community* project lead. “The history and lived experiences shared in the first 160 stories demonstrate how this project will preserve Keene history for future generations, especially the challenges we are currently facing and have overcome.”

Do you have a story to tell, especially about what we are facing today? Just email myadironackstory@gmail.com to receive a link with instructions on how to tell your story. Telephone help is also available.

Adirondack Community, found at myadironackstory.org, was initially funded by Humanities New York with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Glenn and Carol Pearsall Adirondack Foundation, the

Northern New York Library Network, and now by community supporters, using Memria.org. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed on myadirondackstory.org do not necessarily represent those of sponsors.

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