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Happy Retirement!

A Fond Farewell to Laurie Longfield



Laurie was born and raised in Schenectady, but she has lived in many East and West Coast locations. She joined New York Folklore in 2009, enriching the organization through her many prior years of learned experience in the arts, banking, and finance.

In her 16 years at New York Folklore, Laurie did many things that aren't listed on her job description. She not only provided her managerial skills to New York Folklore, but Laurie was also the "face" of the gallery to the numerous artists whose work was exhibited here. She strove to display the consigned artwork in the best possible light. The Gallery of Folk Art was known by the rest of the New York Folklore staff as "Laurie's Gallery." Thanks to Laurie's keen eye, today's gallery is a place of warmth and welcome, from holiday decor to the plants that flourish under her hand. Many a child (and adult!) have been delighted by the candy, which can always be found on her desk!

Laurie is an institution of her own in our Jay Street Community. As any staff member will tell you, members of the public are often taken aback to find someone else sitting at her desk—when Laurie has taken a well-deserved vacation day. She has many visitors who stop by regularly to chat—including artists, residents

of Jay Street and downtown Schenectady, and members of Schenectady's Ambassador Program, which provides hospitality and assistance to visitors to downtown Schenectady. Always willing to talk, she welcomes visitors into the New York Folklore space and is on a first-name basis with many. Over the years, she has shared a wealth of information about the Schenectady community to visitors, drawing on her own roots in the area.

Over the years that Laurie worked for New York Folklore, her responsibilities increased as the organization's needs changed. She became the official proofreader for press releases and marketing materials, and regularly provided design and layout expertise for printed matter. As the Administrative Manager for *Voic-*

es: The Journal of New York Folklore, she worked with authors to obtain permissions for publishing, for use of photographs, and made sure they received their complimentary copies for publishing in the *Journal*. Her proofreading skills proved valuable to checking proofs of the *Journal*, also. And she fielded requests for articles from older volumes sought by the public. Laurie also became New York Folklore's "safety officer" and ADA Compliance Officer.

We sincerely wish all the best for her well-deserved retirement! We hope that Laurie, an innovative cook and avid reader, will now have more time to pursue the things that she loves and will continue to stay in touch with us and with New York Folklore. ▼



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