

For Immediate Release
Schoharie River Center
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Contact: Ellen McHale, Schoharie River Center

On Sunday, May 19, 2013, the Schoharie River Center is presenting “Schoharie Sings: Folk Music from the Schoharie Hills,” a musical program based on the twentieth century collecting of folklore and folk song in Southern Schoharie County. The program begins at 3:00 p.m. at the Schoharie River Center’s Cultural Center, 2047 Burtonsville Road, Esperance, NY. Admission is free although donations are appreciated.

A hundred years ago, Emelyn Gardner went to Gilboa, NY where she collected legends, tales, songs, games, riddles, and superstitions from the residents of this northern Catskills’ Region. Raised in Central New York State, Gardner had early on been exposed to the telling of folk tales by workers on her family’s farm. She was also inspired by and a student of noted anthropologists of the era such as Franz Boas, who advocated for conducting anthropological fieldwork among America’s rural and urban populations. Gardner’s study, *Folklore of the Schoharie Hills*, published in 1937, showed that the local culture was drawn from the same German, English, Irish, Scots, and African-American influences that appear in Southern Appalachia. Her work is similar to the work showcased in the movie, “The Songcatcher.”

Music historian, Rena Kosersky, joins noted folk musician George Ward, to present a glimpse of Gardner’s collecting work at this program at the Schoharie River Center. Rena Kosersky is a music historian who has served as Music Supervisor for television documentaries seen on PBS and HBO. George Ward, folklorist and folk music collector, is known for his work collecting and performing the music of the Adirondack region as well as music of the Erie Canal. Their joint presentation will take place on Sunday, May 19, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

For further information, please contact the Schoharie River Center at (518) 8785-6889 or consult the Schoharie River Center website at www.schoharierivercenter.org.