



Pamela Yameen
President

Marcia Sharp
Vice-President

Heather McMann
Treasurer

Karen Van Welden Herman
Secretary

Board of Directors

Jim Beauchesne

Joseph Bella

Linda Carpenter

Sarah Hansen

Ellen Minzner

Richard Padova

Chet Sidell

Eartha Dengler
Founder

Barbara Brown
Executive Director

Fact Sheet – Eartha Dengler

- Born 1922 in suburb of Hamburg, Germany
- Former resident of Andover, Mass. for more than three decades
- Currently resides in St. Louis Park, Minnesota
- Lived through World War II in extreme hardship and deprivation. Became refugee to escape war-torn area where she lived. She put 4-year old daughter on bicycle and peddled 40 miles to escape, dodging bombs along the route.
- Applied for visa to leave Germany in 1945, but visa not granted until 1951, when she and her husband, Claus, and their daughter Ann immigrated to the U.S.
- Worked as sewing machine operator in factory in New London, Connecticut.
- Daughter Claudia born in 1952; son Thomas in 1961
- Active in protesting Vietnam War, antiballistic missile manufacturing at Raytheon in Andover. Also active in Civil Rights efforts to bring equality both to housing programs, jobs, and migrant workers., supporting the United Farm Workers Union
- Obtained records of immigrant women who lived at the YWCA in Lawrence, the first archival research materials on immigrants to Lawrence; was beginning of her vision for Immigrant City Archives, which today is known as Lawrence History Center, Immigrant City Archives. Worked tirelessly for years to make her dream a reality.
- With seed money from the then owner of the Andover Book Store, Jerry Cross, and the Lawrence *Eagle Tribune*, she received a matching grant from the National Historic Preservation and Records Commission and began, saying, “Then I could buy a telephone.” She received incorporation papers for archives in 1978. “That was the first official action to preserve the history of Lawrence,” Dengler said.
- YWCA donated office space. Then archives moved to the Lawrence Public Library. Finally she acquired the historic property of the Essex Company in Lawrence, which currently houses the Lawrence History Center, Immigrant City Archives. It draws people, even some from foreign countries, seeking to piece together their family histories, scholars, authors, and documentary producers.
- Volunteers were backbone of organization as they are today.
- With the Lawrence Heritage State Park, she developed a Lawrence history curriculum that is used in Lawrence public schools, giving hundreds of students an understanding of the city’s place in history.
- Obtained B.A. degree from University of Massachusetts, Boston and masters’ degree in Library Science from Simmons College in Boston at the age of 53.
- Worked as librarian at Andover’s Memorial Hall Library while studying for higher education; also worked for Merrimack Valley Textile Museum in North Andover
- Retired as Director of the Lawrence History Center, 1995