



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** State Board of Education & Early Development  
**Date:** November 11, 2022

**Thru:** Acting Commissioner Heidi Teshner  
**Telephone:** (907) 465-2911

**From:** Clint J. Farr, Division Operations Manager, Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums  
**Subject:** Agenda 16B. Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums Standing Report

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### Staff Comings and Goings

**Anastasia Tarmann** left her Librarian 2 position in Historical Collections on September 7.

**Sorrel Goodwin** has been promoted to the School and Tribal Library Coordinator Librarian 3 position starting September 19.

**Patrick O'Neal** has been hired as a Librarian 2 in Information Services with a start date of October 3.

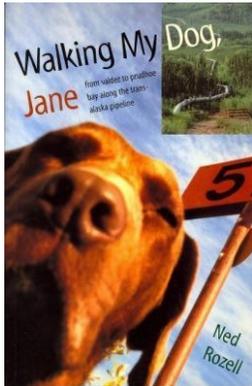
**Mary Irvine** has been promoted into the Museum Curator 2 for Outreach Services with a start date of October 31.

**Adriana Botelho Alvarez** has been hired as the Collections Access Curator 1 for the State Museum, start date to be determined.

**Patience Frederiksen** retired as Division Director on October 14 after a 33-year career with the State Library and the Division.

**Dr. Amy Phillips-Chan** has been hired as the Division Director with a start date of November 14.

## Events



**July 22, online** - Ned Rozell conducted a reading of his highly rated “Walking My Dog, Jane”. A science writer from the University of Alaska Fairbanks Geophysical Institute, author Rozell is well-known for making science accessible and fun with the “Alaska Science Forum.” In this book, he moves into a different realm, sharing perhaps one of the longest dog walks ever, as he and Jane walk across Alaska, following the path of the trans-Alaska pipeline. Along the way, he describes the wildlife and scenery of remote Alaska, as well as the people that make those places home.

**August 11** – We recently received the following: “This is just a quick note of thanks from a New York-based researcher, back from my first trip to Alaska (Ketchikan), gratefully finding useful information on Chronicling America. I’m currently working on a proposal for a book about an Alaska Native woman named Agnes Young McAlpin (1881–1916), who courageously fought back after her White husband, who married her in Wrangell during the Klondike gold rush, but later regretted his interracial marriage and kept her virtually hidden in the attic of his Pennsylvania home. Against all odds, Agnes made her presence known to the community, recruited pro bono lawyers, and won her freedom in a sensational divorce case. Her descendants now live in Ketchikan. Thanks to your digitized Alaska newspapers, I found tons of useful information in historical editions of the Stikine River Journal, the Fort Wrangel News.”



**August 19 – September 10** – Percy Avugiak, an Inupiaq and Yup'ik artist who was raised in Chertofnak, presented three events for the Sheldon Jackson Museum in August and September:

- August 26 and 27 - Northern Lights Landscape Painting Class
- August 27 - Yup'ik Masks & Teasing Masks artist talk
- September 10 - Artist Talk on artifacts from SJM's collections



**August 25** - the National Endowment for Humanities recently announced that Alaska would receive a 4th grant in the National Digital Newspaper Project, covering 2022-2024. This means that the Alaska Digital Newspaper Project will be able to add an additional 100,000 pages of Alaskan newspapers to Chronicling America!



**August 31** – Intrepid board members from the Friends of SLAM and four staff members did landscaping work at the APK. We filled four 55-gallon bins of invasive alder, fireweed, and other opportunistic plants, trimmed the trees, and generally spruced up the grounds. APK looks a whole lot less shaggy as we head into winter!



**September** – Members of the Friends of the Wasilla Library, the Wasilla City Council, the Mat-Su Health Foundation, the Wasilla Noon Rotary, and the Wasilla Library came out to celebrate the new StoryWalk. A StoryWalk is a fun, educational activity that places a children’s story, that is taken apart, and places the pages along a popular walking route, maybe in a park or other popular community areas. Funding for the StoryWalk came from the Mat-Su Health Foundation and Alaska State Library’s American Rescue Plan Act grant.



**September 2** – During First Friday, the public could decorate a miniature paper mug at our Museum Mug Up! Use of historic salmon can labels from the Alaska State Museum was encouraged as inspiration. This Youth Art Activity is partially funded by the citizens of the City and Borough of Juneau through sales tax revenues and is sponsored by the Friends of the Alaska State Library, Archives, and Museum.



**September 17** – Debra Dzijuksuk O’Gara gave a talk entitled “Tillie Paul Tamaree: Educator and Tribal Historian.” Matilda (Tillie) Kinnon Paul Tamaree was raven from the Teeyhittaaan Clan of Wrangell. Tillie was Debra’s Great Grandmother. She was born in 1864 and died in 1955. Though Debra never met her in person, her spirit and life accomplishments have and continue to provide Debra with inspiration and guidance in my life. In her 91 years, Tillie was a teacher, translator, historian, and activist for native and civil rights.

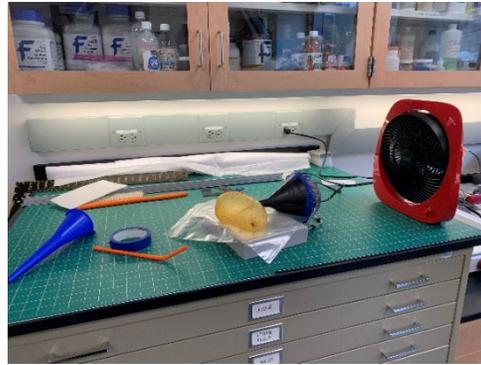


**September 24** – As part of the Alaska Native Artist Residency Program, Debra Dzijuksuk O’Gara (Tlingit, Yup’ik, Irish) gave a talk entitled “Cultural Significance of Ravenstail and Chilkat Weaving” in-person at the Sheldon Jackson Museum. Debra Dzijuksuk O’Gara is Tlingit, Yup’ik, Irish and raven from the Teeyhittaaan Clan of Wrangell. She is a ravenstail and Chilkat weaver.



**September 24 and October 1** – Artist Debra Dzijuksuk O’Gara offered a two-part ravenstail weaving class. Students made either a ravenstail pouch or wall hanging.

**September 29** – Conservator Ellen Carrlee ran into an inflation problem while preparing museum objects made out of gut for our exhibit next summer. The seal gut canteen and the caribou bladder are normally stored in a dried out, shriveled condition. She carefully hydrates the objects to return them to their normal shape, but to maintain translucency for display she could not stuff them out with crumpled tissue or other filler. How to prevent collapse to the deflated state upon drying? For the exhibit, Ellen needed them to be in their full-size condition, so she and exhibit designer Aaron Elmore developed a straw, funnel, and fan system to exert gentle positive air pressure in the objects while the gut dried in the inflated shape. Rube Goldberg has nothing on the State Museum!



**September** – In 2016, artist Walter Gordinier designed and installed two stone and glass discs, which are located near the plaza at the APK Building. The central strips were designed in layers of shimmering glass but were severely vandalized by a person pounding the strips with rocks in a sad exploration for gold. Since we have seen children slide down the discs, staff had to remove all the broken glass for safety. The artist has closed his studio due to health issues and indicated that we could come up with replacements. The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Division of Facilities Services, worked with Island Construction to come up with this alternative: steel strips treated with a heat torch to develop a patina, which changes in different light conditions.



**October 7** – Mug Up Closing Weekend with Filipino educator, poet, activist, and former Cannery worker Oscar Peñaranda. Oscar worked in Alaska canneries for fifteen seasons, and his stories, poems, and essays have been published nationally and internationally. He is a recipient of the prestigious award Gawad ng Alagad ni Balagtas, by the Writers Guild of the Philippines, for his lifetime achievements in promoting and pioneering the institutionalization of Philippine Studies, Philippine-American Studies, and

Philippine Languages Studies in the United States. This program is organized in partnership with Filipino Community, Inc. in celebration of Filipino American History Month and sponsored by the Friends of the Alaska State Library, Archives and Museum.

**October 7** – For 60-70 years, Alaskans who were declared insane were sent to Morningside Hospital, an asylum in Portland. They are forgotten Alaskans, plucked out of their homes and communities, their names and fates buried in handwritten court docket books. Records held at the Alaska State Archives can be searched to find family members who were committed to Morningside. On October 7, retired judge Niesje Steinkruger and State Archivist Karen Gray held a training workshop for anyone who wanted to search for their family, tribal, village, or community history. These docket books record births, deaths, marriages, adoption, inquests, wills, village boundaries, estates, licenses, criminal cases, lawsuits, and territorial justice and record keeping that is not available anywhere else.

**October 8** – Bristol Bay Night – At 2 pm, Mug Up project leader and Alaska’s state historian Katie Ringsmuth gave a lecture, moderated by Bob King, titled “How to Eat Canned Salmon,” on the history

of marketing salmon. At 6 pm, Katie gave a second lecture, “Cannery and the Influenza Pandemic of 1919.”



**October 8** – Native Artist-in-Residence Debra Dzijuksuk O’Gara (Tlingit, Yup’ik, Irish) gave a talk on a selection of artifacts from the Sheldon Jackson Museum’s permanent collection.

**October** – KTOO has started a new series titled ReVision, which shares authentic stories about real Alaskans that counters the sensationalism of a lot of reality television programming. The first episode in this series is their documentary Weaving Our Identity, which they produced in collaboration with our Spirit Wraps Around You exhibition from summer 2021. You can watch at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUA2j6f7L9E>.