



MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Education & Early Development

Date: February 13, 2023

Thru: Heidi Teshner, Acting Commissioner

Telephone: (907) 465-2911

From: Dr. Amy Phillips-Chan, Director
Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums

Subject: Agenda 14B. Division of
Libraries, Archives & Museums
Standing Report

ALASKA STATE
**LIBRARIES
ARCHIVES
& MUSEUMS**

DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES, & MUSEUMS

The Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums (LAM) serves to promote and coordinate library services in Alaska, preserves government records, and collects, cares for, and exhibits the diverse cultural and natural heritage of our state. The LAM Division comprises seven main components that cover a broad range of educational programs and activities. These components include Library Operations, Archives, Museum Operations, Online with Libraries, Live Homework Help, Andrew P. Kashevaroff Facilities Maintenance, and Broadband Assistance Grants. The Division supports approximately 50 full-time team members at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building in Juneau and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka.

TEAM TRANSITIONS

Jacki Swearingen retired as a Library Assistant 2 in Historical Collections on November 30.

Jamie Thill has been hired as the Early Literary and Children's Coordinator and started on January 3.

Valarie Kingsland has been hired as the Head of Library Development Librarian 4 and started on January 23.

A SELECTION OF SCHOOL GROUP VISITS



December 14: Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School



January 18: Bristol Bay UAF Legislative Process Class

Thank you
Friends
at the APK



Gail Friday

Harborview Kindergarten
Starr Henry

January 20: Harborview Elementary School (Kindergarten)



January 31: Harborview Elementary School (3rd and 4th Grades)



NEW MUSEUM EXHIBITS



Midnight at the Fireworks Stand (November 4-January 7). A solo exhibition by multidisciplinary artist Alison Bremner Naxshageit from Yakutat opened at the Alaska State Museum on November 4. Bremner's featured artwork included Formline paintings to deer hide and plastic toys, to vintage 1951 Sears, Roebuck & Co. wallpaper collages. Her artwork considers the ways in which western contact continues to shape Indigenous communities, from potlaches to the poverty-to-prison pipeline.

Image: *Lil Baby with the Brass Knuckles*, Wallpaper, 22kt gold leaf on wood board, 2022.



Up Close and Underfoot (December 2-February 4). A solo exhibition by artist Gail Friday from Fairbanks opened at the Alaska State Museum on December 2. Friday's exhibit included 33 vibrant paintings inspired by the boreal forest surrounding her home in Fairbanks. Her paintings combine elements of realism and imagination to portray up close views of fungus, lichen, and leaves in the understory.

Image: *The Burning Cold*, Acrylic on canvas, 40 x 30 in.



Filling Empty Spaces – Attraction and Distraction (January 14-April 22). A solo exhibition by artist Robert (Davis) Hoffmann, Xaashuch’et, originally from Kake, opened at the Sheldon Jackson Museum on January 14. Hoffman is primarily a wood carver and painter but has worked in multimedia sculpture and has recently been experimenting with casting.

Image: *Introspection*, Northwest Coast Formline design painted birch panel.



PRAYER MARKERS – Ecological Relics (February 3-April 8). A solo exhibition of works by artist Jannah Sexton Atkins opened at the Alaska State Museum on February 3. Using found and recycled objects combined with hand-drawn and sculpted elements, Sexton Atkins assembles works that contemplate society’s connection to nature.

Image: *Prayer Marker – Artifacts of Pollinator Networks*, Mixed media assemblage of found and recycled 21st century mass produced metal insectary flower effigy and wood arched altar form with drawer, original graphite, colored pencil drawing of bumblebee, 21st century mass produced decorative paper, paper pulp, powdered pigment, acrylic and industrial media moon and surface relief, fabricated box form from recycled construction remnants.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



October 28: Reclaiming Our Languages with Kaachgóon Rochelle Smallwood (Tlingit). Smallwood, a visual artist, photographer, fashion designer, and Tlingit language enthusiast and scholar, gave a talk titled “Haa Shagóon Yoo X'atángi Yéi Gaxtoosaneix: We Will Save Our Ancestors' Language” as part of the Sheldon Jackson Museum’s Share Your Research/ Share Your Culture Winter Series.



November 17: Historian Eric Schmalz from the United States Memorial Holocaust Museum offered a talk titled “Alaskan Newspapers and the Holocaust: History Unfolded” at the Alaska State Library. Visitors were then invited to view microfilm in the Richard Foster Reading Room chronicling the events of the Holocaust as reported in Alaskan newspapers.



November 18: Native Youth Olympic Games demonstration by Mt. Edgecumbe High School Students. Students introduced themselves to the audience before sharing their athletic skills as part of the Sheldon Jackson Museum’s Share Your Research/ Share Your Culture Winter Series.



November 18: Con Brio Chamber Series newest program "Climate Soundscapes," was held in the APK Atrium on November 18 to a packed crowd. “Climate Soundscapes” blends music by the Juneau Composers Consortium with short research presentations by University of Alaska climate scientists to create new musical compositions about climate change effects and impacts documented by the scientists' research.



December 2: Chilkat Robe Weaving & Update with Laine Rinehart. Artists Laine Rinehart (Tlingit) offered a presentation on Chilkat weaving and shared a visual update on their robe-in-progress from the loom. This presentation was offered as part of the Sheldon Jackson Museum’s Share Your Research/ Share Your Culture Winter Series.



December 2: Artist Gail Priday offered a presentation in the APK Lecture Hall about her work and painting process to coincide with the opening of her exhibition *Up Close and Underfoot* at the Alaska State Museum.



December 3: Artist Gail Priday offered a free holiday printmaking activity for youth ages 7-18 at the Alaska State Museum with sponsorship by the Friends of the Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums.



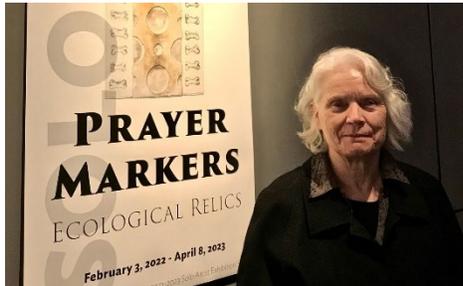
January 13: Scholar and author Marcia Biederman gave a talk titled “The Courage of Agnes Young McAlpin: The Forgotten Story of a Haida Woman Who Won a Fight for her Human Rights” as part of the Sheldon Jackson Museum’s Share Your Research/ Share Your Culture Winter Series.



January 14: Opening Reception and Artist Talk for the Alaska Native Artist Solo Exhibition by Robert (Davis) Hoffmann, Xaashuch’et (Tlingit): *Filling Empty Spaces – Attraction and Distraction* as part of the Sheldon Jackson Museum’s Share Your Research/ Share Your Culture Winter Series.



January 21: The Friends of the Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums (FoSLAM) held its Annual Meeting in person and via Zoom on January 21 at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building. Division Director Amy Phillips-Chan and Chief Curator Addison Field offered presentations on division activities, followed by a hands-on tour of cultural heritage objects made from marine mammal intestine in the Alaska State Museum’s conservation lab.



February 3: Artist Jannah Sexton Atkins offered a public presentation in the APK Lecture Hall on the sculptural works in her exhibit *PRAYER MARKERS – Ecological Relics* opening that evening at the Alaska State Museum.



February 3: Researcher Jan Steinbright offered a presentation titled “Out of Roots, Bark, Grass, and Baleen: Alaska Native Basketry Stories,” as part of the Sheldon Jackson Museum’s Share Your Research/ Share Your Culture Winter Series.

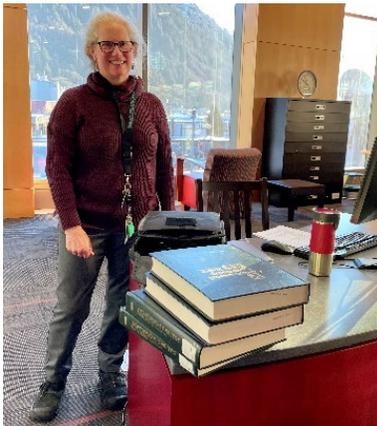


February 11: Over 200 guests attended a special concert in the APK Atrium featuring the incredible flute and piano music of Sally Schlichting and Sue Kazama. The concert was offered as part of the Con Brio Chamber Series with support by the Friends of the Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums.

DIVISION TEAM BUILDING



December: A Holiday Afternoon at the APK. LAM team members gathered for food and conversation in the Atrium.



January: Alaska State Library Documents Librarian Kathleen Fearer offered a presentation on the Alaska State Publications Digital Library for the January 2023 LAM All-Staff Meeting.



February: Alaska State Library Continuing Resources Librarian Daniel Cornwall provided a presentation for the February 2023 LAM All-Staff Meeting on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and distributed by LAM.

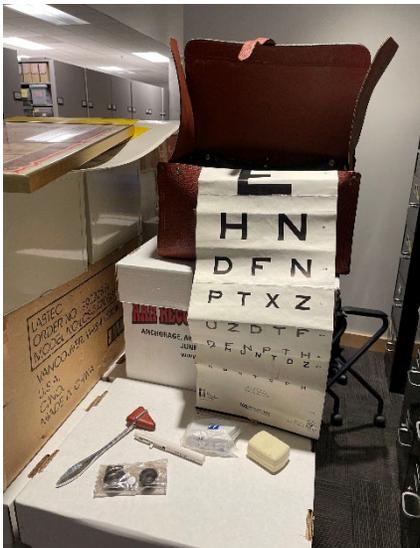
NEW NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS



Alaska State Library Historical Collections: Film reels from 1937 to 1941 taken by Phil Schoen of the northern fur seal industry on St. George Island in the Pribilof Islands. The films show life on St. George Island, herds of northern fur seals, harvesting the seals, and a 4th of July picnic with Unangan workers and the crew of the U.S. Coast Guard.



Alaska State Archives: Nome Territorial Court records from the early territorial period thru early statehood (1899-1959) discovered in the Nome Court House. The records include probate/estate, insanity, criminal & civil dockets, adoptions, guardianships, civil case files, birth & death records, and various correspondence of commissioners.



Alaska State Archives: Public Health Nursing section records from the territorial period through statehood (1930-2010) found in the basement of the now closed central administrative office in Juneau. The collection includes photographs, ephemera, artifacts, reports, correspondence, and publications documenting history of public nursing in Alaska, and specifically in rural areas throughout the state.



Alaska State Museum: A pair of painted wood panels titled *This One* by Fairbanks area artist Sara Tabbert. The Friends of the Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums and Museums Alaska collaborated to make the purchase of this piece possible. The purchase was delayed to allow the artist to recover from a devastating fire that consumed her studio and artwork.

SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM: SITKA



January 22-23: Conservator Ellen Carrlee traveled with a conservation intern to help clean the main exhibit gallery of the Sheldon Jackson Museum. Staff of the Sheldon Jackson Museum and a group of dedicated volunteers joined the conservators to carefully vacuum and dust the ceiling, cases, mats, kayaks, and other fragile heritage items on display.



February 9-11: Division Director Dr. Amy Phillips-Chan traveled to Sitka to meet with the Sheldon Jackson Museum team and local educational and cultural organizations including Mt. Edgecumbe High School, The Sitka Tribe of Alaska, and The Sitka Sound Science Center. An open house at the museum with local community members was held on February 11 followed by a meeting with the Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum.