

Spring 2007

# *Among Friends*

The *Friends*  
of the  
Alaska State Museum  
NEWSLETTER

## **The State Museum Celebrates 2006**

- ◆ The Museum had 64,336 visitors from all over the world this year.
- ◆ The Museum's website had an increase of 106,000 worldwide users from 2005, raising the total to 318,524 users for 2006. The visitors were provided with supplemental educational materials, student curriculums, technical resource information on conservation, museum management, and viewed virtual exhibits.
- ◆ The Museum now has 35,715 objects and over 6,259 digital images in the online searchable database—an increase of 1,708 objects from 2005.
- ◆ There were 1,356 objects prepared for six traveling exhibitions that went to 13 separate locations. 61,842 visitors viewed these traveling exhibitions throughout the state. Traveling objects literally doubled the number of people who view the museum's collections.
- ◆ The Museum provided a variety of technical support for institutions, trainings, and workshops, as well as financial assistance through modest grant-in-aid programs. It also helped with collection storage upgrades, gallery lighting renovations, collection management training, interpretation projects, construction of exhibit cases, and strategic planning to assist the more than 80 museums and historical societies in Alaska.
- ◆ In 2006, the Curator of Museum Services and Conservator of the State Museum provided professional training to 176 museum professionals in 15 communities in Alaska.
- ◆ Numerous exciting exhibits could be viewed at the Museum: *Alaska's Watchable Whales*, by John Hyde and Mark Kelley; *The Rie Muñoz Retrospective*; *The Arctic Winter Games* traveling exhibit; *Hal Gage solo exhibition*; *Alaska Positive 2006*; and *Wanda Seamster, James Orvik, and Carla Potter solo exhibitions*; to just name a few. The youth activity program sponsored seven workshops that included *Exploring Art*, *Exploring Beads*, *Exploring Batik*, *Lucky Charms*, *Oil Pastels*, and *the Murder Mystery at the Museum*.



The Friends of the Alaska State Museum is a non-profit organization dedicated to the support of the Alaska State Museum activities throughout Alaska.

**Disclosures**  
**Don Decker Solo Exhibition**  
**March 9, 2007 – April 14, 2007**

Recent works in wood sculpture using rare and antique woods worked with new equipment and techniques.



**Lure of Alaska -**  
**A History of Tourism in the Great Land**  
**May 12, 2007 – October 14, 2007**

The exhibit explores the influence of the tourism industry on the myth and reality of Alaska.

**Arctic Transformations**  
**April 27, 2007 – September 15, 2007**

The Jewelry of Denise and Samuel Wallace features an unprecedented display of the Wallaces' spectacular multi-figured belts and individual pieces of wearable art-necklaces, bracelets, pins, pendants, rings and earrings.

**All Alaska High School Juried Art Exhibition**  
**March 9, 2007 – April 14, 2007**

Annual juried exhibit open to Alaska high school students. Hosted in a different community each year, this is a great opportunity to explore the breadth of up and coming young creative artists.

**Docent Training**  
**Coming in late April - days/times TBA**

Training for people wishing to volunteer in the museum and for returning docents. Curators and guest lecturers will provide information on the Museum's collections, Alaska History, and detailed stories about specific objects, as well as techniques of interpretive communication. Please call Mary Irvine at 465-2901 for information or to register for the workshops.



**Juneau Museum Day**  
**Saturday, May 12 • noon – 5 p.m.**

Juneau's museums open their doors to local residents with free admission, summer exhibition openings, family activities and free shuttle service between the sites. The Alaska State Museum is opening the exhibition, *Lure of Alaska* on Juneau Museum Day.

**A L A S K A**  
**S T A T E**  
**M U S E U M**

SUMMER HOURS:  
 Daily  
 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
 Summer Hours Begin  
 May 15  
 \$5 Summer Admission

MUSEUM CLOSED:  
 May 28, Memorial Day  
 July 4, Independence Day  
 September 3, Labor Day



395 WHITTIER  
 STREET  
 JUNEAU, ALASKA

**465-2901**

**Entering Into**  
**Beverly Cover Solo Exhibition**  
**October 5, 2007 – November 24, 2007**

Traditional darkroom-based black and white photographic exhibition of new works by the artist, "exploring the artist relationship with the natural and phenomenological world."

**A Sense of Time and Place**  
**Fran Reed Solo Exhibition**  
**October 5, 2007 – November 24, 2007**

"A Sense of Time and Place" features an exhibition of Reed's fish skin baskets and sculptures integrated with large images of three seasons: fall, winter, and summer.

**Earth Fire and Fibre XXVI**  
**November 1, 2007 – January 15, 2008**

Biennial juried craft exhibition showcases Alaska artists working in varied mediums including clay, glass, bone, metal, wood, fiber, skin, and stone. Earth, Fire and Fibre re-examines natural materials and Alaska themes and blurs the lines between art and craft.

**AK State Council on the Arts "Art Bank"**  
**December 7, 2007 – January 15, 2008**

Selections from the Alaska State Council on the Art's Art Bank highlighting and chronicling the development of Alaskan art of the past 30 years.

**YOUTH ACTIVITY**

**Murder Mystery at the Museum!**  
**Friday, March 16, 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.**

*For grades 6-8 only*  
*Limited to 78 students*

*Sign up at school office or call the museum*

Storytelling, artifacts, and imagination will join forces for a "middle schoolers only" mystery event at the the museum. Want-to-be criminologists will begin their investigations on a bus from their school to the museum. Youth will use investigative techniques to gather clues, analyze evidence, and conduct interviews to solve the crime.

Youth Activities are sponsored by **The Friends of the Alaska State Museum**, and partially funded by the City and Borough of Juneau-Douglas through sales tax revenue.

**FREE**  
**ADMISSION**  
 4:00 - 7:00 P.M.

**FIRST FRIDAY**  
 OF THE MONTH  
 in March and April

## Celebrating a successful year at the Friend's Museum Stores



In 2006, the Friends opened the Seward Street Museum Store. Under the expert guidance of the Store Manager, this store has become a wonderful addition to the main Museum Store, to the tourist community, and the family of Juneau. It has provided marvelous opportunities to buy quality gifts for family and friends, attract new customers, and expand operational hours. The store also has a small gallery that is currently exhibiting an historical photo collection focusing on rural schools. These photos were chosen and provided by the Alaska State Library Historical Collection. They include photos from two collections: one the work of George Dale and Evelyn Butler and the other, *Records of Alaska Schools*, that depicts Alaskan schools between 1931 and 1951.

One photo of particular interest to people living in Juneau is of children playing in front of the old Territorial school in Tee Harbor.

What a change it would have been if that school had continued to operate.

It is worth a visit to the new store just to see this picture as well as perusing the other amazing and enchanting photos of children. The show will be up until March 23. The new store is open from 11:30 to 6:30 PM Tuesday through Saturday. After March 23, look for something new coming to the store gallery. It is always worth stopping in to see what's up on the wall!



Alaska State Library - Historical Collections

### *The State Museum's Goals for 2007*

Today there are about 80 museums and historical societies in the State of Alaska. Of the 80, there are six that are accredited by the American Association of Museums (AAM). Accreditation certifies that a museum operates according to standards set forth by the museum profession, manages collections responsibly, and provides quality service to the public. Throughout the United States, there are about 16,000 museums, and approximately 750 have accreditation by the AAM. Because of the uniqueness of Alaska's collections, the goal of the State Museum is to improve the professional standards of institutions in the state to meet the accreditation standards of the AAM. This program has already begun with an accreditation working group teleconference on January 24, 2007, which included Kenai, Kodiak, Haines, Wasilla, Unalaska, Cordova, Sitka, and Juneau-Douglas City Museum.

*(Continued on page 5)*

The Friends' Store located in the Museum continues to thrive as never before. It is still a tiny place, but it is packed with new items selected especially for you. When you visit this store, take time to view the exciting new exhibits in the Museum galleries. Winter Store hours are 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM, but when a new exhibit opens in the Museum, the store extends its hours for you. You can come to the opening and take a look in the Store.



Come and join us at both stores. It is a wonderful way to top off your lunch hour if you have a few extra minutes, or stop in on your way to dinner.

## *What is SLAM?*

The Friends of the Alaska State Museum initiated the effort to raise funds for the expansion of the Alaska State Museum. Museums Alaska, the Alaska Historical Society, and statewide organizations also support this expansion.

In 2002, the state acquired a 1.8 acre vacant lot contiguous to the Museum campus in downtown Juneau with a \$1.5 million appropriation from the Alaska Legislature. In 2005, additional funds were appropriated for a Needs Assessment and to begin design. The plan is to consolidate the collections of the Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums into one building — a modern facility designed to properly showcase Alaska's past and protect its heritage for the future.



The new State Library, Archives & Museum would provide a cornerstone campus in the heart of the Capital City. The facility is envisioned as a dynamic public cultural center and major research institution for the State of Alaska.

The collections presently held in Juneau by the Alaska State Library, the Alaska State Archives, and the Alaska State Museum are located in three different sites, and are housed in buildings that are insufficient in size, lack proper security, or are structurally deficient—or all three. The collections share similar basic needs: all must be stored under controlled environmental conditions, there must be adequate storage capacity to meet present and future needs, and the space has to be sufficiently secure to protect the collections without unduly restricting access.

The combined State Libraries, Archives & Museum (SLAM) facility will:

- ◆ Preserve and protect collections held by the Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums
- ◆ Provide educational opportunities for students
- ◆ Better connect the collections statewide for all residents
- ◆ Provide conditions for increasing revenues during the tourist season
- ◆ Enhance management efficiencies
- ◆ Vacate valuable office space within the State Office Building

Help get the word out about SLAM and what it is to everyone. Watch for more newsletters as we keep you up to date on SLAM! The first and most important step toward success is that feeling that we can succeed.

## F r i e n d s ' H a p p e n i n g s

What a wonderful year this has been for the Friends of the Alaska State Museum (FASM)! The opening of a new Museum store, many exciting First Friday receptions for new exhibitions, Museum Day, and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, just to name a few events. FASM also provided hospitality for the Museums Alaska/Alaska Historical Society Joint Conference held in Juneau. During the conference, FASM ran a booth to let people peruse the many and varied Museum publications. FASM also gave all the conference attendees a red and black tote bag printed with the Museum Conference logo in which to carry conference materials.

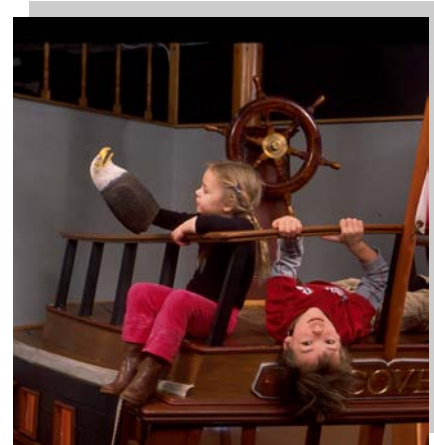


The biggest change this past year was the Board's request for support on a bylaws change. The proposed bylaws change eliminated term limits for Board positions. As you recall, the bylaws change was suggested because of the difficulty of getting new members for a working board. The Board was happy to see a letter to the editor in the paper on November 17, the day before the annual meeting, asking people to vote "no" on the change. The well-written letter suggested that there were many people who would like to be on the Board and volunteer in the Museum. When the letter appeared, many Board members were hopeful that there would be a strong turnout at the annual meeting with many new volunteers and Board members. In the end, there were only 15 FASM members who attended the meeting. Most of those present were either current Board members or Museum staff. A number of proxies were received by mail allowing for business to be conducted. A total of 99 votes were made on the Bylaw change: 89 voted for the bylaw revision, 6 opposed, and 4 abstained. The Bylaws revision passed. The revisions reads: *"There shall be eleven (11) members of the Board of Trustees, each serving a three-year term. Four (4) members shall be elected at the annual meeting of each year for two consecutive years and the third year; three (3) members shall be elected to maintain the board at eleven (11) members. The Chief Curator of the Museum or his designee shall serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees."*

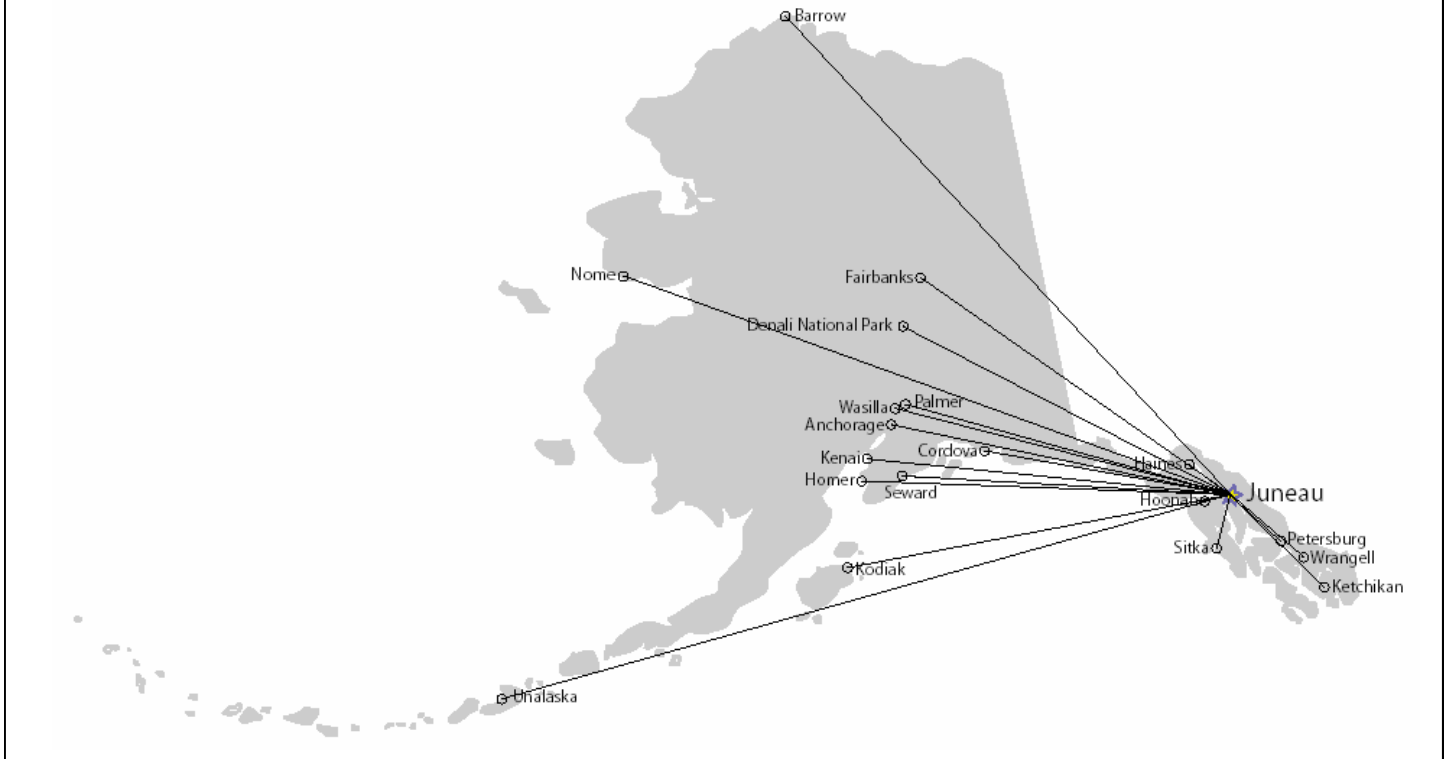
Anyone interested in volunteering with the Friends – either as a Board member or in some other capacity would be very welcome. Come and fill out an application for the Board, become a hospitality volunteer, or help in the Museum shops. This is our Alaska State Museum, and by working together we can add to every visitor's experience whether they are a tourist or an Alaskan.

*(2007 Goals, Continued from page 3)*

The Museum will continue to produce and provide the State with fine exhibits that will be traveling to our other Alaskan museums as well as having shows in Juneau. The youth activity programs are well underway for 2007. Children greatly benefit from the chance to come to a museum, work with different artists, and learn about expressing their own ideas. The Museum's hands-on-collection will continue to be available to provide educational benefits for all Alaskan children. Our website will continue to grow to encourage people all over the world to understand Alaska's history and to honor Native people and our original settlers.



The Alaska State Museum provides  
education and help all across Alaska.



Non-profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 76  
Juneau, AK 99801

Visit The Friends Alaska State Museum web site at [www.foasm.org](http://www.foasm.org)  
**The Friends Alaska State Museum**

Board: Renée Hughes, President; Ben Brown, First Vice President; Pam Knapp, Second Vice President; Rebecca Smith, Treasurer; Virginia Palmer, Secretary  
Marjorie Schmiege, Kai Augustine, Dorothy Palmer, Mike Travis, Mary Keele, Lissa Kramer