



among friends...

“gui angayunka ilai’unka”¹

The Friends of
the Alaska State Museum
Newsletter

Spring 2003
No. 14

Juneau Museum Day Sunday, May 11, 2003

The Alaska State Museum and four Juneau historic sites and museums extend their appreciation to the local community with the opening of summer exhibits, tours with curators, and activities for kids on Sunday, May 11th from 11 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A special invitation to this event is extended to all Friends of the Alaska State Museum and Museum volunteers. This is a great opportunity to enjoy the best of what the museums have to offer before the busy summer season begins. The events and shuttle transportation between the sites are free. A detailed schedule of events being held on Juneau Museum Day is listed on page 4.

Exhibition Openings for Museum Day

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM:
May 11-September 14, 2003

Looking Both Ways: Heritage and Identity of the Alutiiq People is a unique exhibition exploring the traditional lifestyle and rich cultural history of the Alutiiq people of Alaska’s Southcentral coast. The exhibition combines art, archaeology, history and oral tradition to trace the “Alutiiq path” through ancestral generations to contemporary life. *Looking Both Ways* is organized by the Smithsonian Institution’s Arctic Studies Center in cooperation with the Alutiiq Museum and the Alutiiq communities of Kodiak Island, Prince William Sound, the Alaska Peninsula and Cook Inlet.

Case & Draper Photographs, 1898-1920 vividly brings to life the rapid growth of Skagway and Dyea after the discovery of gold in the Yukon. The story is told through the eyes of photographers William H. Case & H. H. Draper with several images drawn for the exhibition. from a recent donation to the State of Alaska of 800 glass plate negatives. The exhibition is organized and traveled by the Alaska State Museum.

Sydney Laurence Paintings from the Permanent Collection features paintings and sketches by Sydney Laurence drawn from the collection of the Alaska State Museum. Highlighting the exhibition are seven recently acquired works by Alaska’s grand master.

JUNEAU CITY MUSEUM:

Solidarity, Secret Rites, and Social Ties
May 11, 2003 - February 14, 2004

The rapid transformation of Juneau from an 1880s mining camp into a stable community was partially achieved through organizations and clubs. In this highly mobile town dominated by single-male immigrants, organizations provided a safety net of stability, security and cohesion. Community spirited organizations also served as a counterbalance to the rough individualism of the frontier American mindset that was based on private ambition and the pursuit of personal wealth. This exhibit will present the role, function and nature of voluntary organizations in helping form the community of early Juneau. Organized by the City Museum with guest curator, June Hall. (More events & information on page 4.)



Above: Raffle recipient Anne Castle displays her new Robert Glen Ketchum photograph (from his Arctic exhibit) with, from left: Rebecca Smith, Dorothy Palmer, Bill Heumann, Andrea Doll, and Renee Hughes.

¹ Gui angayunka ilai’unka means “among friends” or literally, “I am around friends” in the Alutiiq language.
Translations provided by Mary Haakanson

A Letter from the President

Dear Friends: Have you been to your Alaska State Museum lately? It's really a special place. There are always exciting things going on. First Fridays, Youth Activities, and Volunteering in the Store are just a few of the activities that are sponsored by the Friends.

The March First Friday was especially wonderful for me. Early in the morning I received a phone call from one of my favorite second graders, asking if I would come to a potlatch at the Museum. When I arrived at the Museum one of the Elders was telling a story to the children. After the story all the children participated in a dance thanking everyone "gunalcheesh" for sharing. The pride and joy expressed coming from inside of the ClanHouse was very rewarding. Later that same day, it was fun to see so many Friends at the opening of Earth, Fire and Fibre.

Juneau's Museum Day is going to be May 11th, Sunday from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. We hope to see all of you there for the opening of the summer exhibits. Bea Shepard and Ron Klein have been busy curating the Case and Draper photographs. Amy Steffian is coming for *Looking Both Ways: Heritage and Identify of the Alutiiq People*. The Friends will be offering special member programs relating to both exhibits. Please keep an eye on your mail box for announcements.

Thank you to Andrea Doll. She has recently resigned from the Friends Board. As Past President and recently as Treasurer, Andrea has contributed countless hours to the benefit of the Alaska State Museum and the community of Juneau. Her efforts have been greatly appreciated and she will be missed. Andrea, good luck in your next adventure.

If you are interested in participating in any activities, you can call me at 586-5338. The Museum's number is 465-2901. Suzanne is in the Store, or the receptionist can connect you with the person appropriate to your interest. Volunteers are the future of our history. Thank you for supporting our Alaska State Museum.

Renee Hughes, President

Friends of the Alaska State Museum Board of Trustees

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Please feel free to contact any of the members of the Friends of the Alaska State Museum Board. We welcome your calls!

Please Note:
Summer Hours Begin
Monday, May 12, 2003
Open 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 pm Daily
General Admission is \$5.
Students 18 and under are admitted free

Friends Plan Museum Expansion Capital Campaign

by **Bill Heumann, Board Member**

The Friends have launched the next phase of their efforts to assist the Museum in expanding its physical plant.

Last year the Friends were instrumental in obtaining a \$1.5 million appropriation from the State of Alaska for the purchase of land for the expansion. The land, located next to the back of the A & P market and contiguous to the existing Museum, has been purchased and is being held for the Museum addition.

The Friends are now developing a fundraising plan for the new facility. The Building Expansion Committee will engage more Friends and other interested individuals in this effort. The Anchorage Fine Arts and Historical Museum and the University of Alaska Fairbanks Museum are well underway in the planning and construction of significant expansions to their Museums. The Friends Board plans to meet with their representatives in Juneau in the near future to learn from their experiences. The Foraker Group, a non-profit consulting organization, is working with the Friends to develop a plan and to make contact with organizations that may be able to assist us.

A request to put \$1.5 million in the Governor's budget has been made by the Department of Education & Early Development for planning and designing the expanded facility that could include space for the Alaska State Historical Library and State of Alaska Archives.

The Friends are excited by the prospect of developing these needed improvements for the State Museum. We will keep you up to date as we make progress and will be calling upon you for your support. For additional information and to help in this effort, contact Bill Heumann, 586-1714, heumenz1@msn.com.

Alutiiq Word of the Week:

Sugpiat: Real People

Gguangkuta sugpiat: We are the real people

Who are Kodiak's Native people? This is a common question. Russian fur traders called them the Aleut, a word derived from a Siberian Native language that means coastal dweller. The Russian's applied this term to all of the indigenous people they encountered, from the Aleutian Islands to Prince William Sound, regardless of their unique cultural heritages. On Kodiak, Sugpiat was the traditional name for the people. Derived from the word suk, which means person, and piat, a suffix meaning real or genuine, sugpiat translates as the real people. Many indigenous societies use similar terms. Yup'ik, the preferred designation of Western Alaskan Eskimos, also means real people, and Unangan, the preferred designation of Aleutian Islanders, translates as "we the people."

Today many Kodiak Natives refer to themselves as Alutiiq, a term developed by Native elders less than 20 years ago. Alutiiq continues to gain popularity as it highlights unique cultural qualities while retaining part of the word Aleut. However, there are still many people who prefer to be called Aleut, or who use the terms Aleut, Alutiiq, and Sugpiat interchangeably.

Events & Information for Museum Day

Sunday, May 11, 2003

(continued from page 1)

Last Chance Mining Museum

Demonstrations for Machinery Fanatics --Don't miss out on the action of a one piston 1905 Gade Hit and Miss gas engine. The engine was donated to the Museum by Bill Heumann and restored over the winter by Bruce Haar and Tom Carson. A bit of history on the engine and operation demonstrations will take place throughout the afternoon.

Alaska State Museum

Mother's Day Outdoor Picnic --- 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., sponsored by the Friends of the Alaska State Museum with chefs Jon Loring, Bill Hudson (?) and FASM board members.

Exhibition Openings and Tours ---

1 p.m.: Ron Klein on 100 Year-Old Photography Magic – a kid-friendly tour of Case and Draper for the whole family.

2 p.m.: *Looking both Ways: Heritage and Identity of the Alutiiq People*, with co-curator, Amy Steffian

3 p.m.: *The Case and Draper Photograph collection* with guest curator, Bea Shepard

4 p.m.: *Looking both Ways: Heritage and Identity of the Alutiiq People*, with co-curator, Amy Steffian (repeat of 2 p.m. tour)

Just for Kids and Kids at Heart

All afternoon Make an Alutiiq Visor
Tattooing -- Alutiiq style

The Juneau-Douglas City Museum

Exhibition opening and tour

12 noon Opening and tour of *Solidarity, Secret Rites, and Social Ties*, with guest curator June Hall.

Opening Reception Noon – 5 p.m.: Opening reception sponsored by local community organizations. Representatives from several of these organizations will also be present.

Just for Kids and Kids at Heart

12 noon-3 p.m Make a Wonder Turner (thaumatrope). Invented in 1826, thaumatropes were one of the toys that kids played with before there was TV and was thought to be the first motion picture.

The Russian Orthodox Church

Church tours throughout the afternoon.

House of Wickersham

Russian tea, sourdough cookies, a spectacular view and tours with the house caretaker all afternoon.



Above: Jan Criswell uncoils a cooked root so it can be pulled through an ena to strip off its bark, as part of a demonstration preparing spruce root for basketry at a children's program at the Museum, September 28, 2002.

The Kids Program at the Museum

by Cristine Crooks

The Museum Youth Activity Program is wrapping up its sixth successful year. A grant from the City and Borough of Juneau sales tax revenue allows the Friends of the Museum to organize the sessions that serve between 300-400 school-age children on scheduled weekends or school holidays. The activities change each year and are inspired both by upcoming temporary exhibits as well as the rich permanent exhibits of the museum. The goal of the programs is to provide opportunities for youth to explore the arts through educational hands-on activities. Activities are designed by the selected artists to stimulate individual creativity, contribute to positive self-esteem, and develop a lifelong appreciation for museums.

During this past school year we have conducted the following five programs.

September: Using the museum's collection of Tlingit art and the first juried show Tlingit Art in At'ooow, students chose between two activities. Mick Beasley demonstrated and instructed in Northwest Coast form line. Janice Criswell did a live demonstration of harvesting and preparing spruce root, and a small spruce root object was woven.

(Kids Program continued on Page 5)

A Letter from the Editor



Dear Friends,

During the past winter, the Friends Board has been working extra hard to articulate our mission and goals. You will find an article in this issue soliciting your input written by Pam Knapp. Fellow board member Bill Heumann has also written about some of our program plans to expand our present museum.

Every time we have had an exhibit regarding our native peoples, we have learned how diverse their languages are. When we had the Yup'ik mask exhibit here, I was surprised to learn that 20,000 people speak this language. However, only half of them also speak and understand English.

On Easter Sunday, our local newspaper supplement featured the importance of retaining native languages and used Washington State as the example of programs there. We are excited to share with you our Alutiiq exhibit from Kodiak Island. There are only twenty-five fluent speakers of Alutiiq left. A 25 year-old dictionary and nine videotapes with language lessons to help them preserve their identity are all they have. The plan to train and preserve their language has been written by Shauna Hegna of the Alutiiq Museum. You may get further information from this source from their website: alutiiqmuseum.com.

The co-curator of our Alutiiq exhibit has helped the docents and members of the Friends understand Alutiiq history, crafts, archeology, music, hunting, clothing and much more. We are very proud of this new exhibit. Amy Steffian and Aron Crowell have been involved in this project for a number of years. We hope the proposal for the Alutiiq Museum will be funded this summer.

Come to our Open House on Sunday, May 11th and celebrate Juneau's Museums. See you at the Museum.

Marjorie W. Schmiede, Newsletter Editor

Kids Program (continued from Page 4)

November: The photographic exhibit, Alaska Positive, provided the incentive for local photographers to demonstrate their art forms in a Photography Fair. Students had thirteen activities to choose from, including: photo-journalism, video storytelling, hand-coloring photographs, digital photography, photo montage and lens exploration. Artists were: Ron Klein, Jeff Brown, Joe Sonneman, Shar Fox, Michael Penn, David Job, David Sheakley and Damon Stuebner.

February: The Earth, Fire and Fibre exhibit provided the creative ideas to help students turn earth elements into art. Ceramicist Lisa Blacher and fiber artist Cristine Crooks helped students create their own take-home art.

March: Our Spring Drawing Club during spring break provided older students the opportunity to attend three consecutive sessions for in-depth practice in the basics of drawing from observation. Local artists Kathy Hocker and Constance Hartle helped students explore the natural world outdoors and create drawings.

The Friends of the Alaska State Museum have applied for the grant for 2003-2004. We hope to be awarded sufficient funds to carry on this exciting and successful program for the youth of our community. Volunteers will be needed next year to help coordinate, assist the artists, and collect supplies for the activities. Contact co-chairs Lisa Golisek (465-2901) or Cristine Crooks (364-2290).

Flyers are sent home with students through local schools during the school year. The Youth Activities programs are partially funded by the City and Borough of Juneau-Douglas through sales tax revenue



Friends Buy Defibrillator for Museum

The Friends recently purchased a new machine for the Alaska State Museum called a “defibrillator.” Such devices are used to send a jolt of electricity through a heart attack victim’s body and revive them. All Security and Visitor Services staff will be trained on the defibrillator and will be able to use the device by the start of the summer 2003 summer season.

Defibrillator technology has made great strides in recent years, and lightweight Automatic External Defibrillators (AED’s) have become standardized and almost expected at public facilities with a large number of visitors. The Alaska State Museum hosts an average of 700 people per day during the summer, a total of approximately 72,000 visitors annually.

Because of the Friends nonprofit status, the AED purchase price of \$2,200 was just over half of what it would normally cost. Dr. Anne Standerwick, a physician with Juneau Medical Clinic, signed the prescription required to purchase the AED.

Lisa Golisek, Security and Visitor Services Coordinator, put the price tag in perspective, stating, “I’m relieved that this machine will be available on site. We have 700 visitors per day on a daily basis, and the risk of someone experiencing cardiac arrest at our facility is very real.” Golisek added that during the staff’s CPR and first aid refresher course last year, she was surprised and impressed to learn how many more lives are saved with AED intervention by onsite responders during the first ten minutes after a heart attack. All gallery staff are currently trained on the AED device.

Studies show that defibrillation dramatically improves heart attack survival rates. Without defibrillation, survival rates plunge 7 to 10 percent for every minute that passes. With CPR alone fewer than 5 percent of heart attack victims survive, but with the addition of defibrillation more than 40 percent recover.

Last August, the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center made front page news when a Forest Service naturalist used a defibrillator to save a tourist’s life. The defibrillator had been at the Glacier Visitor Center exactly one week when a man collapsed

suddenly on a bus tour to the glacier. The man’s heart had stopped completely, but the device brought back a timid rhythm. When an ambulance arrived, the patient was given another shock and stabilized. He spent two days in intensive care at Bartlett Regional Hospital, and then flown to a Seattle hospital.

Alaska State Museum Security staff will be happy to show you the new device when it arrives, if you’d like to see it! Just identify yourself as a Friend, and say that you are interested in seeing the AED that your membership dollars and patronage in the Store helped to purchase.



Volunteer at the Alaska State Museum

Museum Docents are volunteer guides who bring the Museum alive and provide personally meaningful and enjoyable experiences for visitors. Each Museum docent introduces visitors to cultures and history of Alaska during tours, and invites visitors to participate in discussion as they learn about Alaska through the exhibits. The training combines “in-the-gallery” instruction on the artifacts and displays, a workshop on techniques for conducting effective tours, practice tours, and an optional two-week apprenticeship with an experienced docent. Training is usually in April, but there is already an “interested parties” list started for next year. Inquire about becoming a docent by calling Mary Irvine at the Museum. Your museum can use your unique expertise and background!

Greeter Program at the Museum

Goodwill ambassadors at the Museum, also known as greeters, welcome visitors to the Museum and answer their questions. It’s easy and it’s fun! Prior experience is not required. However, a smile and excellent communication skills, as well as a desire to heighten our visitors’ experiences are necessary. Individual training is offered between May 1 and May 15. Greeters are needed May 18 through August 31. Weekend and day shifts. Call Lisa Golisek at 465-4809.

To the Membership...

from Pam Knapp, Board Member

The following is a statement of the mission and goals of the Friends of the Alaska State Museum as proposed by the Board. If you have any comments or recommendations concerning this proposal, please submit them to any Board member before June 19th. At that time the Board will review all suggestions and pass on a final draft.

Mission:

The Friends of the Alaska State Museum support the mission of the Alaska State Museums to identify, collect, preserve and exhibit Alaska's material, natural and cultural history and provide public access to the services and collections of the Alaska State Museums.

Goals:

1. Enhance statewide outreach through a statewide membership campaign, improved marketing and improving partnerships with other museums' advocacy groups, community groups and the university system.
2. Enhance local and statewide educational programs to interpret and disseminate the history of the State, its people and its resources and to support other museums in these efforts.
3. Support the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development's efforts to plan for and secure funding to expand the existing Juneau facility.

Activities for 2003-2004:

1. Conduct a statewide membership campaign supported by improved marketing and partnerships with other museum advocacy groups, community organizations, and the university system.
2. Support temporary and permanent exhibits through opening receptions, dissemination of information about exhibits; providing funding for exhibits to travel and developing and printing exhibit catalogues and support materials.

3. Develop an advocacy campaign with the Alaska State Department of Education to secure funding to expand the existing Juneau facility.

Remember, your contributions are valuable to the Membership. Submit any comments or recommendations to the Museum Board before June 19, 2003. Thank you for your continued involvement.



Above: Gail Smith, Membership Chair

Do You Like To Shop? This could be the volunteer experience you've been waiting for.

Museum Store Clerks

The Friends of the Alaska State Museum Store seeks people to work in the Museum Store who are shoppers at heart with a taste for quality Alaska merchandise, from books and jewelry to Alaska-made arts and crafts. Store volunteers work in pairs and are provided training in merchandise, sales and cash register operation. Call Suzanne Nedrow at 465-4845 or email her at TheStore@alaska.net

The Little Shop Around the Corner...

Suzanne Nedrow, Museum Shop Manager

As the new store manager for the Friends, I am looking forward to the upcoming busy season. There have been a few changes in the technical management of the Store, namely the introduction of a computerized point of sale system which should make this summer easier and more profitable for the Friends (and ultimately the Museum). Everyone can depend on the fact that the graciousness and hospitality that the Store is known for have been maintained.

I thank everyone I've met so far for the warm welcome I've received, and I am looking forward to meeting even more Friends members.

Remember, the store is an integral part of the Museum's education mission, and we are here to help educate everyone about Alaska. I've included some fascinating facts about baleen basketry. If you have any questions that I can help you with please contact me. Come in and see what we've got in the Museum Store this Spring!

Some Interesting Facts about Baleen Basketry

During the late 1800s bowhead whales were among the many whales hunted by men from the American East Coast. When the market for baleen and other whale products began to dwindle at the turn of the century, whaling Captain Charles Brower commissioned several baskets from Inupiaq men. Captain Brower had long admired the grass baskets made by local women, many of which he had purchased to take home as gifts. Feeling that there was a market for baskets in that region of the United States, he commissioned several baskets made of baleen, and a new art form was born.

Later in the century, when tourists started visiting Alaska in larger numbers, baleen basketry was one of the art forms that was developed as "tourist art." Until recently, tourist art has often been dismissed by scholars of American art. Today many art forms that were formerly disdained by scholars and collectors, including baleen basketry, are highly prized.

We have an assortment of baleen baskets in the Museum Store. For more information about baleen basketry, read Molly Lee's book *Baleen Basketry of the North Alaskan Eskimo*, also available at the Museum Store. Remember, all FASM members (and that means you) have a 10% discount at the Museum Store.

New Art Exhibits on Museum Web Site

The Alaska State Museum has recently added two new art exhibits to its list of exhibitions available for viewing on the Internet. The two exhibits highlight the work of contemporary Alaska artists Carol Lee Hilgemann of North Pole, and Don Mohr of Anchorage. They may be viewed online at: (www.museums.state.ak.us/online.htm)

The exhibits are virtual versions of recent solo exhibits by the artists at the Museum. The online visitor can see images of the art installed in the galleries and click on individual artworks to see enlarged views and details. Interviews with the artists are cross-linked to artworks to illustrate points in the discussion. Biographical material on the artists is also provided.

Carol Lee Hilgemann's exhibit, *Rescued and Reincarnated*, features numerous examples of the artist's work in assemblage, the making of sculptural objects by combining bits and pieces of found materials and objects purchased in second-hand and antique stores. Many of the objects contain autobiographical elements as well as comment on the roles of women in our culture. Hilgemann states: "Assemblage is an art form reflective of our consumer culture (involving) recycling and renewing. I enjoy juxtaposing objects, utilizing an object other than for its intended purpose, and adding that unexpected twist or bit of humor."

Assemblage is also a key element of Anchorage sculptor Don Mohr's work. His exhibiting, *...is this not an urgent matter?*, the title of which is taken from a poem by a Buddhist monk, consists of a half dozen works that incorporate scavenged industrial materials and high-tech fabric to fill a gallery space,

with some pieces projecting off the walls and onto the floor.

In the course of his interview, Mohr says: “I am drawn to science and scientific instruments... I use these types of found objects in a good deal of my work. They are not about nostalgia for the past. They are about measurement and decay. They are about precision and failure.”

The new exhibits join a growing list of online exhibits available on the Museum’s web site, including the Alaska Positive photographic exhibit and earlier solo artist exhibitions. In addition, the Museum has extensive materials available on two other exhibitions that featured Alaskan quilts and the history of Alaska’s flag. These exhibits are supplemented with interactive and curriculum materials to enable use by classroom teachers and home schoolers. For further information, you may contact the Museum at 465-2901.