



# Museums Alaska / Alaska Historical Society Joint Annual Conference

*"Milestones" and "Gateways: Past, Present And Future"*

**October 1-4, 2014 in Seward, Alaska**



## Schedule of Events

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

All-day Angels volunteer project

*Seward Community Library Museum*

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

8:00 am – 4:00 pm **Registration / Information Desk**

*K.M. Rae Building*

9:00 am – 4:00 pm **Pre-Conference Workshops**

#### **Gallery Exhibits for Community Spaces, Parts I and II**

*Basement, Seward Community Library Museum*

Gallery-style exhibits in archives, libraries and public spaces can help draw new visitors, provide valuable services to local and regional artists, and highlight collections. Modest-sized displays can also be designed to travel to other locations, which furthers the reach of the sponsoring organization. This workshop will help those who are new to exhibits create simple gallery-style exhibits that can be staged in a variety of spaces. Part I from 9 am – 12 pm; Part II, 1 pm - 4 pm.

Participants will learn about modular components, matting and framing standards, use of banners and graphics, installing case displays, the benefits of rail systems, and labels and signage. Security issues and selecting items for display in non-traditional exhibit settings will be covered. Demos will show simple archival mounts and supports for a variety of artifacts including textiles, pottery, baskets, jewelry and paper-based items. These can all be made without carpentry skills, i.e., padded mounts, slant boards and supports from archival materials such as mat board, blue board, Coraplast and Plexi. This project is supported by a Grant-In-Aid from the Alaska State Museum.

**Jeanne Brako**, Curator, Center of Southwest Studies, Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO

**Jack Townes**, Exhibition Designer, Skycraft Designs, Estacada, OR

10:00 am – 12:00 pm **Networking with Grantors**

*Community Room, Seward Community Library Museum*

Meet informally with representatives from Rasmuson Foundation, Alaska State Council on the Arts, Alaska State Museum, Alaska Community Foundation, Museums Alaska, The CIRI Foundation, and more.

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm **Lunch on your own**

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm **Grants Workshop**

*Community Room, Seward Community Library Museum*

Panel discussion and grant tips with representatives from Rasmuson Foundation, Alaska State Council on the Arts, Alaska State Museum, Alaska Community Foundation, Museums Alaska, The CIRI Foundation, and more.

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm **Alaska State Historical Records Advisory Board Meeting**

*2nd Floor Board Room  
Seward Community Library Museum*

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm **Museums Alaska Board Meeting**

*Community Room, Seward Community Library Museum*

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm **Alaska Historical Society Board Meeting**

*2nd Floor Board Room  
Seward Community Library Museum*

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm **Registration**

*Alaska SeaLife Center*

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Opening Reception**

*Alaska SeaLife Center, Rocky Coast*

*Sponsored by Petro Marine Services*



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**8:15 pm – 9:15 pm Readers' Theater**

*K.M. Rae Auditorium*

Join us for a one-hour readers' theater presentation of selected scenes from a full-length play in progress – *And Now the World Again* by Doug Capra – about American artist Rockwell Kent, who stayed on Fox Island in Resurrection Bay during 1918-19 with his 9-year-old son. In addition to his paintings, in 1920 Kent published a book based on his illustrated letters – *Wilderness: A Journal of Quiet Adventure in Alaska*. The play dramatizes much that Kent didn't include in his book, including excerpts from letters he's writing to his wife and his mistress, his 1953 confrontation with Sen. Joseph McCarthy, the humorous exploits of his island host, fox farmer Lars Olson – and Kent's battle with the town of Seward.

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

**7:00 am – 8:00 am Breakfast Roundtables**

**7:30 am – 5:00 pm Registration / Information Desk / Trade Show / Silent Auction**

*K.M. Rae Building*

**7:30 am – 8:30 am Continental Breakfast**

*K.M. Rae Lobby*

*Sponsored by Jaffa Construction*

**8:30 am – 10:00 am Welcome and Keynote Speaker**

*Alaska SeaLife Center, Rocky Coast*

**Shannon Kovac**, RBHS Host Committee

**Mike Navarre**, Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor

**Angela J. Linn**, President, Museums Alaska

**Rachel Mason**, Program Chair, Alaska Historical Society

**Katie Ringsmuth**, President, Alaska Historical Society

**Keynote Address: Dr. Paul Hirt**, Senior Sustainability Scholar and Professor, Arizona State University,  
*Sustainability: Interpreting the Past, Imagining the Future*

**10:00 am – 10:30 am Morning Break**

*K.M. Rae Lobby*

*Sponsored by Workpointe*

**10:30 am – 12:00 pm Concurrent Sessions**

**MA: Evaluating the Visitor Experience**

*Qutekcak Native Tribe Office*

In this session participants will acquire basic tools that introduce the process of evaluating the visitor experience in a museum setting. They will learn about crafting survey questions, analyzing and assessing public programs and getting started in fun and inventive ways that could ultimately lead to measuring visitor satisfaction, mapping activity and determining learning outcomes.

**Faith Revell**, Curator of Education & Public Programs, Valdez Museum & Historical Archive

**Lindsay Garrod**, Visitor Services & Programs Manager, Anchorage Museum

**MA: Community Involvement in SLAM Exhibit Development**

*K.M. Rae Auditorium*

The Alaska State Museum is in the process of developing new exhibits on Alaska history and cultures for the SLAM building in Juneau, currently under construction. Co-curators and focus groups from around the state are involved in planning the interpretive content, to ensure the accuracy, relevancy, and appropriateness of the information conveyed to the public. This workshop will describe the "community curatorial process" being used and provide highlights about planning that has occurred to date. Preliminary renderings of the exhibit galleries, and images of key objects, will be shown, and audience members will be asked to critique the work, brainstorm specific problems, and suggest alternative approaches.

**Steve Henrikson**, Senior Curator of Collections, Alaska State Museum

**Sarah Asper-Smith**, Exhibits Developer, SLAM project



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## **AHS: Gateways to Alaska Territory**

*Alaska SeaLife Center, Bear Mountain*

**Moderator: Katie Ringsmuth**

The Territory of Alaska was established with the purchase of "Seward's Folly" in 1867 and ended when Alaska became a state in 1959. These papers are all related to Alaska's territorial period.

**Amber Phillippe** (University of Alaska Fairbanks) - *Paved With Ice: John Muir's Road to the Glacial Gospel*

**Terrence Cole** (University of Alaska Fairbanks) - *The Dawn of the Industrial Age in Alaska: The Fight Over Alaska's Official State Seal*

**William Schneider** - *When the Backyard Became Crowded: Tanana Valley Indians at the Turn of the Century*

## **AHS: Gateways to Seward History**

*Alaska SeaLife Center, Research Theater*

**Moderator: Rachel Mason**

Seward, the "Gateway City," has played a major role in transportation and trade throughout Alaska's history. One of the papers in this panel tells about the remarkable life of a Seward resident, revealed through her memoir; another uses oral histories to examine traditional uses of the Exit Glacier area. A third uses examples from Seward to illustrate the use of photographs to document local history. The fourth paper recounts the creation of a local history-based DVD for use in Seward classrooms.

**Jackie Pels** (Hardscratch Press) – *The Wrong Bay, 1901*

**Karen Brewster** (UAF Rasmuson Library) - *Traditional Uses of the Exit Glacier Area of Kenai Fjords National Park in Seward*

**Doug Capra** - *Shattered Fragments...Broken Mirrors: Using Photographs to Unravel Local Alaska History*

**Marc Swanson** - *The Nuts and Bolts of the Creation of a DVD for Use in Classrooms...and Other Tylenol Moments*

12:00 pm – 1:15 pm **Lunch on Your Own** – or –

**Local Historical Societies Lunch** (2014 survey discussion)

*Community Room, Seward Library Museum*

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm **Concurrent Sessions**

## **MA: Advocacy and Your Institution**

*Qutekcak Native Tribe Office*

This panel discussion will discuss ways in which you can advocate for your institution on local, state, and national platforms, and the importance of each platform. Panel members will discuss ways in which you can work with your community and local officials so that they understand what your institution does and why your organization is important in your community. Information about Museums Alaska's efforts during the January 2014 fly-in, and draft legislation for capital improvement grants, will introduce an important effort to represent Museum and Cultural Center needs in a statewide arena. A recap of the recent American Alliance of Museums, Advocacy Day in February 2014 highlights how important it is to speak up for Alaska and our institutional needs in Washington, DC.

**Panelists: Heather Beggs, Jane Lindsey, Patty Relay, Michele Miller**

## **MA: Cost-Effective Commemoration: Utilizing Free, Easy Digital Humanity Resources**

*K.M. Rae Auditorium*

Looking for an affordable way to interpret an event significant to your community? Join Marie Acemah and Della Hall for an overview of affordable digital resources for small museums, whose staff so often wear many hats and have minimal funds. Ms. Hall will give an overview of a variety of digital resources, and give an in-depth explanation on how to create a Historypin account, upload your own pictures, and create a community involvement project. Ms. Acemah will focus on effectively and affordably integrating film in your organization's outreach.

**Della Hall**, Curatorial Assistant, UA Museum of the North, and Collections Manager, Pioneer Air Museum

**Marie Acemah**, independent educational consultant

## **AHS: Commerce and Community: The Value of Objects in the North**

*Alaska SeaLife Center, Bear Mountain*

**Moderator: Katie Ringsmuth**



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Following the Alaska Purchase of 1867, Alaska became part of a rapidly industrializing nation and capitalist society that valued cash profits and material goods. While many viewed Alaska as an untapped source of resources, generations of Alaska Native trade routes and subsistence lifestyles had shaped local commerce in addition to a century of mass fur and salmon harvests. When gold seekers, missionaries and other settlers came to Alaska, the territory stood at the crossroads of diverse economic traditions. Throughout the early 20th century, commerce and goods were not only valued for profits, but commerce created political and social significance that integrated the new territory into an increasingly industrialized world.

**Susannah Dowds** (University of Alaska Fairbanks) - *Bread Baking and Business Savvy: Entrepreneurs in Early 20th Century Alaska*

**Michelle Dent** (New York University) - *Ephemeral Fancywork: The Seward Ladies Auxiliary to the 1909 Alaska Yukon Exposition*

**Douglas L. Vandegraft** (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) - *The Notorious Bars of Alaska*

## **AHS: The Life and Times of Jujiro Wada in Pioneer Alaska Times**

*Alaska SeaLife Center, Research Theater*

**Moderator: Ross Coen**

This panel will present and discuss the story of Jujiro Wada, born of a Samurai family in Ehime, Japan, in the late 1800s. In the early 1900s, Wada carried news of the Fairbanks gold strike to Dawson City. When no gold was found, Wada was jailed and almost lynched by angry unsuccessful gold seekers. The short (5') man ran 50-mile+ marathon races in Nome (1907) and Fairbanks. His long distance mushing took him to Herschel Island and the MacKenzie River Delta. He pioneered the trail now known as the Iditarod Trail (1909). He was grubstaked by many people, including the McIlhenney family of Louisiana Tabasco sauce fame. He died impoverished in 1937 in San Diego.

**Panelists: Tony Nakazawa, Edgar Blatchford, Ron Inouye, Willard Dunham, and Steve Wang**

## **AHS: Extend Your Reach: Making Public Programs Accessible Online and in Schools**

*Seward Library Museum  
Community Room*

**Moderator: Jim Simard**

Held for a day or a week, public programs at museums, cultural centers and Native corporations can have a wider and lasting impact through online resources. Such resources can support cultural revitalization and promote cross-cultural appreciation. This session will present successful examples of programs documented online with short videos and educational materials for the classroom, and recommend websites for hosting resources.

**Dawn Biddison** (Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center) - *Sharing Our Resources*

**Barbara Pajak-Sappah** (dAXunhyuu) - *Eyak: Language Revitalization through Technology*

**Sonya Senkowsky** (Program Manager, Day in our Bay) - *Beyond 'A Day'*

**Sean Asiqtuq Topkok** (Alaska Native Knowledge Network) - *Native Ways of Collaborating*

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm **Afternoon Break**

*K.M. Rae Lobby*

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm **Concurrent Sessions**

## **AHS: Gateways to War**

*Alaska SeaLife Center, Bear Mountain*

**Moderator: Mike Hawfield**

This panel is about different aspects of war in Alaska. One paper tells of a mass exit from Alaska during WW I, another about Japanese fishermen's pre-WW II economic invasion of Alaska waters. The third paper describes the recognition of significant sites from the Aleutian Campaign.

**Beverly Beeton** - *Alaska's Gateways Became Exits During World War I*

**Ross Coen** (University of Washington) - *Owning the Ocean: Alaska Fishermen and the Japanese 'Invasion' of Bristol Bay, 1937-1938*

**John Cloe** - *Gateway to the Thousand-Mile War*



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## **AHS: Gateways to Plans and Designs**

*Alaska SeaLife Center, Research Theater*

**Moderator: Jo Antonson**

The diverse papers in this panel are all related in one way or another to plans and designs—from maps of a growing city to architecture for tourism, and from technological inventions to conceptions of Alaska.

**Katherine Ringsmuth** (Anchorage Museum) - *From Tents to Towers: A Century of Maps of Alaska's Largest City*

**Heather Feil** (National Park Service) - *Mount McKinley Hotel Power House*

**Charles Hilton** (UAF Rasmuson Library) - *Alaska's Race for the Superconducting Super Collider*

**Forest Wagner** (University of Alaska Southeast) - *Conceptions of Alaska*

## **AHS: Gateways to Libraries and Archives of the North**

*Qutekcaq Native Tribe Office*

**Moderator: J. Pennelope Goforth**

This session will help users get the most out of libraries and archives located in Alaska and Washington.

**Ulyana Korotkova** (UAF Rasmuson Library) - *Circumpolar Libraries: 20th Century Northern Collections & Rarities*

**Rachel Seale** (UAF Rasmuson Library) - *Gateways to Our Archives*

**Anne Jenner** (University of Washington Libraries) - *What's in Seattle? Alaskan History Sources at the University of Washington*

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm **Museums Alaska Annual Meeting**

*K.M. Rae Auditorium*

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm **Museums Alaska / Alaska Historical Society Joint Board Meeting**

*K.M. Rae Auditorium*

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Roving Reception**

*Seward Community Library Museum*

*Museum – Sponsored by Territory Heritage Resource Consulting*

*Library – Sponsored by the City of Seward*

8:00 pm – 10:15 pm **Double-Feature Film**

*K.M. Rae Auditorium*

*"Uksuum Cauyai (Drums of Winter),"* a 1977 ethnographic documentary film by Len Kamerling and Sarah Elder, focuses on dance, music and potlatch traditions of the Yupik people living in Emmonak. The film recently underwent a recent photochemical preservation process (subject of 10:30 am session on Friday). *"The Mystery of the Copper River,"* an award-winning documentary, starts at 9:30 pm. Producer Mikhail Malakov and his fellow adventurers retrace the ill-fated 1848 journey of Russian explorers Rufus Serebrenikov and Alexev Pestruakov who traveled the Copper River country in an attempt to establish relations with the Ahtna people. In Russian with English subtitles.

## **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3**

7:00 am – 8:00 am **Breakfast Roundtable: Museums Alaska Advocacy**

*Breeze Inn meeting room*

7:00 am – 8:00 am **Prana Flow Yoga**

*Seward Community Library Museum, Community Room*

Led by Della Hall, a certified 200-hour Registered Yoga Teacher with Yoga Alliance. She completed her training in Fairbanks in September with Coral Brown in the style of Prana Flow, created by Shiva Rea. Della works at three museums in Fairbanks, and is pursuing her second master's degree in Anthropology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Please bring your own yoga mat.

7:30 am – 5:00 pm **Registration / Information Desk / Trade Show / Silent Auction**

*K.M. Rae Building*

7:30 am – 8:30 am **Continental Breakfast**

*K.M. Rae Lobby*

*Sponsored by ConocoPhillips*





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**8:30 am – 10:00 am Welcome and Keynote Speaker**

*Alaska SeaLife Center, Rocky Coast*

**Shannon Kovac**, RBHS Host Committee

**Jean Bardarson**, City of Seward Mayor

**Andrew Goldstein**, Museums Alaska

**Keynote Address: Dr. Jan Seidler Ramirez**, Chief Curator and Vice President of Collections, National September 11 Memorial and Museum in New York City, *Too Soon? Too Sad? Too Sensitive? Too Sacred? Some Lessons Learned in Creating a Museum of History and Memory at Ground Zero*

**10:00 am – 10:30 am Morning Break**

*K.M. Rae Lobby*

*Sponsored by Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI)*

**10:30 am – 12:00 pm Concurrent Sessions**

**MA: A Tale of Two Preservations: "Uksuum Cauyai: The Drums of Winter" and "Begich and Boggs' Last Night"**

*K.M. Rae Auditorium*

This session looks at two examples of media preservation on the opposite sides of the cost coin. We will discuss the preservation ethics, planning and budget of the 2014 16mm photochemical preservation of UKSUUM CAUYAI (The Drums of Winter), an Alaska film hailed as a groundbreaking cinematic work and selected to the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress. Then, we'll investigate the work being done over the last seven years to preserve the collections of the Nick Begich Scholarship Fund, a privately-held collection of 30 cubic feet of documents, audiovisual media and memorabilia related to the late Congressman. With careful decision-making and judicious spending, the NBSF collections are being opened for research and educational access while remaining in private hands.

Underpinning the entire presentation is the concept that, though certain situations make large preservation budgets a prerequisite, thoughtful and targeted spending can still make an important difference to achieving media preservation and access goals.

**Bob Curtis-Johnson**, Principal Consultant, SummitDay Media

**Tom Begich**, Executive Director of the Nick Begich Scholarship Fund

**Len Kamerling**, Director of UKSUUM CAUYAI

**MA: Big History, Small Space: A Roundtable Discussion on Exhibits in Small Museums**

*Alaska SeaLife Center  
Research Theater*

Small museums face particular needs when it comes to creating and hosting exhibits: small spaces, small budgets and small staff, but big ideas and big history. This session will explore how small museums can utilize their limited space, budgets and staff to create permanent, temporary or traveling exhibits to showcase their big history and ideas. Speakers will share recent exhibit design projects and discuss various strategies for funding, planning and constructing exhibits in small spaces and with limited resources. Attendees are invited to share their experiences with creating exhibits at small museums in a roundtable discussion.

**Tiffany Brunson**, Executive Director, Kodiak Historical Society

**Anjuli Grantham**, Curator of Collections and Exhibits, Kodiak Historical Society

**Jill Lipka**, Visual Artist and Museum Exhibition Designer

**AHS: Gateways to the Kenai Peninsula and Across Cook Inlet**

*Alaska SeaLife Center, Bear Mountain*

**Moderator: Rachel Mason**

Cook Inlet is one of the aquatic gateways to Alaska. Two of the papers in this panel explore Kenai Peninsula history, one through demography and the other through oral history, while the third looks at a National Historic Landmark on the other side of Cook Inlet.



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**Shana Loshbaugh** (University of Alaska Fairbanks) - *Demographics of the Kenai Peninsula: The History Behind the Numbers*

**Jan Yaeger** (Seldovia Village Tribe) and **Leslie McCartney** (UAF Rasmuson Library) - *Seldovia Village Tribe Project Jukebox*

**John Branson** (National Park Service) - *The Kijik National Historic Landmark*

## **AHS: Gateways to the Gold Rush**

*Qutekcak Native Tribe Office*

**Moderator: Mike Hawfield**

This session reveals some lesser-known Alaska gold rush stories, including papers about involving a whaler and a prince who started a gold rush, "Lucky Swedes" who might or might not be Swedish, and a psychic who told prospectors where to look.

**Chris Allan** (National Park Service) - *The Whaler and the Prince: Tracing the Origins of the Kobuk River Gold Stampede*

**Mary F. Ehrlander** (University of Alaska Fairbanks) - *"Lucky Swedes" at the Nome Gold Rush*

**Rogan Faith** - *Welcome... I've Been Expecting You: Madame Cora--Soothsayer to the Sourdoughs*

**12:00 pm – 1:15 pm State of the State Lunch**

*Dale Lindsey Alaska Railroad Terminal*

*Sponsored by Kenai Peninsula Historical Association*

**1:30 pm – 2:30 pm Concurrent Session**

**MA: Sheldon Jackson: His Impact and Legacy (60 min.)**

*Alaska SeaLife Center, Research Theater*

What made a reporter describe Sheldon Jackson as "short, bewhiskered, and bespectacled" and "by inside measurement a giant"? How did his establishment of the Sheldon Jackson Museum, the first concrete structure in Alaska and the first museum in Alaska, affect Sitka and its community? How did Jackson and the museum impact the Sitka Industrial Training School and its students and the Alaska Native communities beyond Sitka's immediate locality and region? Did Jackson's collecting spurn competition from other locals including Lieutenant George Thornton Emmons or inspire local collectors and artists such as E.W. Merrill and how were his collecting methods different? Was the museum inspirational to others establishing collections and museums throughout the territory, state, and country? These and other questions about Jackson's historical import and legacy will be explored during this session.

**Jacqueline Fernandez**, Curator, Sheldon Jackson Museum

**2:30 pm – 3:00 pm Concurrent Session**

**MA: How to Collect Artist Intent for Museum Care & Display Statewide? (30 min.)**

*Alaska SeaLife Center  
Research Theater*

The generosity of the Rasmuson Foundation and active solo artist exhibitions in museums statewide have led to many excellent collections of contemporary art in Alaskan collections. Some artworks, such as Kat Tompka's adhesive tape work or Nancy Burnham's quill and wax pieces, are fragile by nature. Other contemporary artworks have elaborate installation requirements. Outdoor and public art pieces are vulnerable due to environment. Agents of deterioration sometimes get the upper hand. In these cases, we try to contact the artist for input on conservation and display techniques. How can we as a statewide community of professionals gather and share the most relevant details of artist intent to care for and exhibit these artworks over the next 500 years? This session presents some of the challenges and invites an open discussion of how we might design a system to meet these future needs in a coordinated way.

**Ellen Carrlee**, Conservator, Alaska State Museums

**Jacqueline Fernandez**, Curator, Sheldon Jackson Museum



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## 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Concurrent Sessions

### **MA: Drawing Upon the Collections and Visual Thinking Strategies**

*Alaska SeaLife Center, Bear Mountain*

This session offers an array of innovative hands-on ways to teach using museum collections. Paired with a vivid imagination, Maite Agopian will engage participants in fun new methods. Faith Revell will share a signature VMHA program that weaves artifacts, history, culture and art-making and will facilitate a "Visual Thinking Strategies" (VTS) session using historic photographs that requires close observation, critical thinking, and evidentiary reasoning to support hypotheses of "what is going on in the picture." VTS is founded on the research of cognitive psychologist Abigail Housen and educator Philip Yenawine.

**Faith Revell**, Curator of Education and Public Programs, Valdez Museum and Historical Archive

**Maite Agopian**, Museum Educator/Program Coordinator, UA Museum of the North

### **AHS: Historical and Contemporary Importance of the Alaska Halibut Fishery**

*K.M. Rae Auditorium*

**Moderator: Anjuli Grantham**

A great deal has been researched and written on many fisheries in Alaska but the halibut fishery has often been overlooked in terms of research and its importance. This session includes current research on the historical significance of the fishery in order to better inform contemporary biological research.

**Maggie Nga Chan** (University of Alaska Fairbanks) - *Ethnohistory of Halibut fishing in Southeast Alaska*

**Elizabeth Figus** (University of Alaska Fairbanks) - *Historical Perspectives on the Commercial Fishery for Pacific Halibut* (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) *in Southeast Alaska*

**Daniel Monteith** (University of Alaska Southeast) - *An Ethnohistorical Examination of the Significance of Halibut for the Tlingit*

### **AHS: Gateways to Disaster**

*Qutekcak Native Tribe Office*

**Moderator: Karen Brewster**

2014 marks the 50th and 25th anniversaries of the 1964 Earthquake and the 1989 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, both of which greatly impacted the community of Seward. While tragedy usually surrounds disasters such as these, these events also tell us something about who we are as Alaskans and as communities. Through this lens of disaster, whether medical, physical, emotional or financial, the presentations in this session present personal and photographic recollections of the past, as well as demonstrate the resiliency of the human spirit.

**Tim Troll** (Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust) - *Bristol Bay and the Spanish Influenza Epidemic*

**Alicia Zorzetto** (Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council) and **Leslie McCartney** (UAF Rasmuson Library) - *Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Project Jukebox*

**Eric Wohlforth** (Wohlforth, Brecht & Cartledge) - *Financing 1964 Earthquake Reconstruction: LBJ, Egan and Congress*

### **AHS: Tokens and Medals: How They Reflect Alaska History (60 min.)**

*Seward Community Library Museum  
Community Room*

**Moderator: Ron Inouye**

Two token dudes will tell all about collecting. As professionals with extensive experience, Kaye Dethridge of "Alaska Tokens" and Dick Hanscom of "Alaska Rare Coins" will talk about how they became interested in collecting and relate stories about the histories they learned about the people, places and events represented or commemorated in coins, bingles, paper and other collectibles. The dudes may be joined by a mysterious, female super collector.

**Kaye Dethridge** (Alaska Tokens)

**Dick Hanscom** (Alaska Rare Coins)

## 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm Afternoon Break

*K.M. Rae Lobby*

*Sponsored by Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI)*





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3:30 pm **Silent Auction ends**

*K.M. Rae Auditorium*

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm **Concurrent Sessions**

**MA: When Heritage Hurts**

*Alaska SeaLife Center, Research Theater*

The interpretation of history can take many tones: celebratory, commemorative, biographical, even inflammatory. Ultimately, a museum's goal is to present a balanced viewpoint, yet we all have personal bias. How do you work within a community to objectively tell a complex story? One solution is to assemble an advisory group of stakeholders to determine the story that needs to be told. When, as in the case of community disasters, the history is a painful one, this often presents challenges. Traumatic events may leave many constituents unwilling to participate, and extreme viewpoints must be balanced by placing the museum in a mediatory position.

Part of this session will focus on exhibitions by the Valdez Museum in which advisory groups played a key role in interpretive development. Exhibitions and programs focusing on topics such as the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, the 1964 Good Friday Earthquake, and the looting of Alaska Native heritage sites will be featured through the lens of interpretive collaboration with stakeholders, giving insight into an exhibit development process centering on community dialogue. Additionally this session will explore lessons learned during recent exhibitions at the National September 11 Memorial Museum by Dr. Jan Seidler Ramirez.

**Andrew Goldstein**, Curator of Collections & Exhibitions, Valdez Museum

**Jan Ramirez**, Chief Curator & VP of Collections, National September 11 Memorial and Museum

**MA: Social Media 3.0: Using Social Media to Tell Your Story**

*Alaska SeaLife Center, Bear Mountain*

Whether you want to share collections not on display or tell visitors about a new exhibit, blogs can take the place of more traditional – and expensive – forms of publicity. In this session, we'll look at an example of an exhibit blog that commemorated a milestone event, leading to increased awareness of the installation and even connections with artifact donors. We'll also examine ways social media can be used to drive people to your blog. Participants will start their own blog and examine elements of what makes a good post.

**Angela Linn**, Senior Collections Manager, UA Museum of the North

**Theresa Bakker**, Media Coordinator, UA Museum of the North

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm **Alaska Historical Society Annual Meeting**

*K.M. Rae Auditorium*

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm **Roundtable**

**AHS: Plans for the Alaska Gallery at the Anchorage Museum** *Seward Community Library Museum, Community Room*

**Moderators: Aaron Leggett and Katie Ringsmuth**

An open discussion with historians and other cultural specialists, soliciting their suggestions and input on plans to develop the Alaska Gallery at the Anchorage Museum. Participants are asked to think about their favorite stories about Alaska that may not be familiar to the public.

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm **Awards Banquet**

*Dale Lindsey Alaska Railroad Terminal*

*Sponsored by First National Bank Alaska*

## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4**

7:00 am – 8:00 am **Breakfast Roundtable: The Future of Museums in Alaska**

*Breeze Inn meeting room*

8:00 am – 1:00 pm **Registration / Information Desk / Trade Show / Silent Auction**

*K.M. Rae Building*



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**October 1-4, 2014 in Seward, Alaska**



8:00 am – 9:00 am **Museums Alaska Board Meeting** *Seward Community Library Museum, Community Room*

8:00 am – 9:00 am **AK Historical Society Board Meeting** *Seward Community Library Museum, 2nd Floor Board Room*

8:00 am – 9:30 am **Continental Breakfast** *K.M. Rae Lobby*  
*Sponsored by Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI)*

9:30 am – 11:00 am **Concurrent Sessions**  
**MA: Museum Q&A, Slide Show with Refreshments** *K.M. Rae Auditorium*

**AHS: Gateways to Seward Artists and More** *St. Peter's Episcopal Church (limited accessibility, stairs required)*  
**Moderator: Jim Simard**

St. Peter's Episcopal Church is graced by a painting by Jan Van Empel. The first presentation tells of Van Empel's life and work, and invites participation from audience members in piecing together the artist's biography. The second paper is about Rockwell Kent, another artist associated with Seward. The third, a bonus addition to the panel, tells of the birthplace of William H. Seward.

**Catherine McCracken** (solo practitioner mediator and trainer) – *Searching for Van Empel*

**Lisa Guffey** - *Rockwell Kent: A Realist, Encouraging Alaskan Artists in an Age of Abstraction*

**Russell W. Vanderlugt** (U.S. Army) – *Born in a Barn? The Birthplace of William H. Seward*

**AHS: Opening the Gates** *Qutekcak Native Tribe Office*  
**Moderator: John Cloe**

The papers in this session are all, at least metaphorically, about opening gates. Building the Alaska Railroad opened a gate to the Interior, while the beginning of aviation was another important transportation gateway. The Head Start program, established to provide a gateway to education to disadvantaged children, has a distinctive history in Alaska.

**Andrew Higgs** (Northern Land Use Research Alaska), **Josh Reuther** (UAF-Museum of the North), and **Chris Wooley** (Chumis Cultural Resource Services) - *Gateway to Nome: James L. McPherson's 1914 Alaska Railroad Reconnaissance Survey from Cook Inlet to Iditarod*

**Benjamin Widman** (Western History Association) - *Redefining Distance: Alaskan Aviation's Social, Cultural, and Economic Impact, 1920-1960*

**Emily Kathryn Main** (University of Alaska Fairbanks) - *The History of Head Start, from the War on Poverty Through the 21st Century: Alaska's Link to Nearly 50 years of Early Childhood Education in the United States*

**AHS: Writers' Workshop** *Seward Community Library Museum, Community Room*  
**Facilitator: Michelle Lee Dent**

Join New York University Professor Michelle Dent for a 90-minute writing workshop where you will have the opportunity to try out some of your new ideas about this year's conference theme, Gateways: Past, Present and Future. Through a series of guided prompts, workshop participants will write about topics related to the theme. They will also have a chance to explore new approaches to longstanding research topics, and they may even find themselves delving into family history and memoir. Want to experience the surprising new insights that will occur to you by participating in this impromptu writers group for writers of all levels? The workshop will be an excellent opportunity to play around with prose, to push through writer's block, to experiment with evidence and ideas, and to risk sharing your writing with new and familiar peers and colleagues. Historians, storytellers and artists from a wide range of traditions, including oral history, poetry, textile arts, and the visual arts, are welcome. Museum professionals with an interest in hosting similar workshops at their home institutions are also encouraged to attend. Registration required; maximum 15 participants.



# Museums Alaska / Alaska Historical Society Joint Annual Conference

*"Milestones" and "Gateways: Past, Present And Future"*

**October 1-4, 2014 in Seward, Alaska**



11:30 am – 12:00 pm **Closing Comments**

*K.M. Rae Auditorium*

**Willard Dunham**, RBHS President

**Katie Ringsmuth**, President, Alaska Historical Society

**Angela J. Linn**, President, Museums Alaska

12:00 – 3:00 pm **Cannery Initiative**

*Seward Community Library Museum, Community Room*

**Moderator: Anjuli Grantham**

The Alaska Historical Society is planning for a Cannery History Initiative Project, which will empower communities around Alaska to document, preserve, and interpret the places and stories related to the history of commercial fisheries.

## **Post-Conference Tours**

*Sign up online or at the Registration Desk for these exciting adventures.*

### **Seavey's IdidaRide - \$69**

1:30 – 3:00 pm

IdidaRide Wilderness Tour is all about the dogs. It features an exhilarating 2-mile sled dog ride on a wheeled sled to the base of Resurrection Mountain. You'll also enjoy a tour of the racing kennel, at which time you can cuddle with husky puppies and get a behind-the-scenes look at how the Seavey family trains for the Iditarod Sled Dog Race. You'll be indoors and dry if it rains. Shuttle provided. Meet in the K.M. Rae Lobby.

### **Seward Walking Tour - \$10**

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Learn highlights of Seward's 111-year history through the important buildings and notable events pointed out during this 2-hour walking tour led by historian Lee Poleske (weather permitting). You'll see the Ballaine House, historic churches and businesses, and learn about the town's flooding problems with Lowell Creek. Hear stories about a bank robbery, a fatal shooting, a presidential visit and devastating downtown fires. Along the waterfront the focus will turn to the railroad, the Iditarod Trail, the Lowell homestead, the founders and the 1964 earthquake. Meet in front of the Seward Senior Center, 336 Third Ave. (corner of Third and Jefferson)

### **Boat Tour of WWII Military Sites in Resurrection Bay \$69**

1:00 – 4:00 pm

Depart from the Seward Small Boat Harbor on a Major Marine Tours vessel for a 3-hour trip in Resurrection Bay. In addition to viewing wildlife, glaciers and amazing scenery, passengers will learn about the various military facilities constructed here during World War II as part of the effort to protect the port of Seward and its vital transportation facilities. Tom Osborne, a seasonal interpretive ranger for Kenai Fjords National Park, will share his insights of the military history of Resurrection Bay. A snack bar and full beverage service available onboard. Pack a lunch if you'd like.