

Facing Our History

The theme of this year's Alaska Historical Society conference—Facing Our History—acknowledges that elements of our collective past are controversial, divisive, or open to reinterpretation and that historians should address such difficult topics honestly and directly with recognition of other points of view. Conference presentations will explore some of Alaska's more painful historical themes and events with a mind to bringing hidden truths to light and reaching more profound understandings of our shared history.

2019 Alaska Historical Society conference schedule:

Thursday, September 26

8:30-10:00 AM

Keynote: *Discomfort and Renewal: Decolonizing the Abbe Museum*, Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko, President/CEO, Abbe Museum, Maine

10:30 AM-12:00 PM

Session A: Russian America

Uninhabited Alaska: Counterfactual Reflections on the Russian Colonia Period, Spencer Abbe, Graduate Student, University of Oregon

Kodiak as a Colonial Port: Various Interpretations, Alexander Petrov, Professor, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow

Interactions of the Tlingit, Alutiiq, and Aleut Native Alaskans and the Russians 1784-1804 and in 2004 and 2010, Dawn Lea Black, Researcher, Kodiak

Session B: Historical Preservation

Ghosts in the Attic: The Falcon Joslin House, Angela Schmidt, Film Archivist, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Historic House Museums in Alaska & How to Preserve Them, Janet Matheson, Architect, Fairbanks

Of the Flimsiest Construction: The Discovery Saloon Project, Carol Gales, Nome

Session C: History for the Next Generation

Bristol Bay Student Filmmakers, Marie Acemah, Digital Storytelling Consultant and Director, See Stories, and Katie Ringsmuth, Director, NN Cannery History Project

Who Is Telling What Stories? Digital Storytelling for Equitable History, Marie Acemah, Digital Storytelling Consultant and Director, See Stories, and Deborah Palileo Bitanga, Kodiak

Teaching with Historic Places: Alaska's Matanuska Colony, Darrell Lewis, Historian, National Park Service

12:00-1:00 PM

State of the State:

Ian Hartman, Alaska Historical Society, Hayley Chambers, Museums Alaska
Judy Bittner, State Historic Preservation Officer
Patience Frederiksen, Director, Alaska State Library, Archives and Museums

1:30-3:00 PM

Alaska Historical Society annual business meeting

3:30-5:00 PM

Session A: History and Culture of Kodiak

Historic Bars of Kodiak, Doug Vandegraft, Olympia, Washington

The Latter-day Saints of Kodiak, Fred E. Woods, Professor, Brigham Young University

Labor of the Hands, Tongue, and Psyche of 1.5 Generation Filipina Immigrants in Kodiak Island, Deborah Palileo Bitanga, Kodiak, and Deneila Beltran, Student, Kodiak College

Session B: Bristol Bay: Disaster and Resiliency

The Spanish Influenza Pandemic Hits Bristol Bay, Tim Troll, Executive Director, Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust, and Katie Ringsmuth, Director, NN Cannery History Project

Bristol Bay Salmon Faces its First Collapse, Bob King, Juneau

Session C: Films and Music

Sharing History through Song, Annie Bartholomew, Arts and Culture Producer, KTOO, Juneau

Films shown by Angela Schmidt, Film Archivist, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Friday, September 27

7:00-8:00 AM

Roundtable: Advocacy and Archives

8:30-10:00 AM

Keynote: *Reading Between the Lines of Alphonse Pinart's Travel Journals from 1871-72*, Sven Haakanson, Curator, Burke Museum, Seattle

10:30 AM-12:00 PM

Session A: World War II Aleutian Campaign

History and Protection of the Funter Bay Aleut Cemetery, Daniel Monteith, Professor, University of Alaska Southeast

Facing Divergent Memories of the Aleutian Campaign of WWII, Rachel Mason, Senior Cultural Anthropologist, National Park Service, Alaska Region

Dashiell Hammett's Alaska, Ian Hartman, Professor, University of Alaska Anchorage

Session B: Policy Changes and Reforms

"An Opportunity Unembarassed: " Alaska and the Indian Reform Movement, 1867-1886, Ian Halter, Graduate Student, University of Oregon

Alaska's Oil Spill Response Planning Standard: History and Legislative Intent, Betsi Oliver, Outreach Coordinator, Prince William Sound Region Citizens' Advisory Council

Session C: Waterways

Skin, Bark, and Wood: Indigenous Watercraft Heritage of Alaska, Angela Linn, Senior Collections Manager, University of Alaska Museum of the North
The Consumerization of Alaska's Rivers, Mark Rice, Historian, Office of History and Archaeology

12:00-1:00 PM

The 19th Amendment and Suffrage for Women, Anjuli Grantham, Alaska State Museum, and Barbara Hood, Anchorage

1:30-3:00 PM

Session A: Canadian Military in Alaska

The RCAF in the Aleutian Campaign of World War II, Karen Abel, Co-leader, WWII in the Aleutians Expeditions
The RCAF in Alaska: How History Informs Today's NORAD Fight, Brigadier General Scott Clancy, Royal Canadian Air Force

Session B: Unusual People in Unusual Places

"On a Hill Above a Northern River": John Haines's Homestead, Maureen Long, Professor, Yukon College
Frank's Follies: The Life, Times and Misadventures of Pilot Frank Dorbandt, Leanne Prax Williams, Graduate Student, University of Alaska Fairbanks
The Seward Statue and the Seward "Shame Pole": Passion and Evidence in Historical Interpretation, Terrence Cole, Fairbanks

Session C: Exploration

Woman of Unalashka, Toby Sullivan, Executive Director, Kodiak Maritime Museum
At the Corner of Venia Minor and Kandalehin Streets, Gary Paulus, Aleut Community of St. Paul

3:30-5:00 PM

Session A: Race and Ethnicity

Untold Stories: Race, Ethnicity and the Alaska-Yukon Gold Rushes, Tamara Holman, Archaeologist, Anchorage
The Davis Case: The Last Potlatch, "Old Quarrels," and School Segregation in Sitka, Rebecca Poulson, Sitka
Race, Tunnel Vision, and Injustice: The Trial of Austin Nelson, Averil Lerman, Anchorage

Session B: Cold War

Alaska's Nuclear Legacy, Anastasia Tarmann, Librarian, Alaska Historical Library and Shelby Surdyk, Juneau

Session C: National Parks in Alaska

Overused, Overlooked, and Overrun – Post-World War II Changes to Alaska's National Parks,

Heather Feil, Architectural Historian, National Park Service, Alaska Region
For the Love of Freedom: Miners, Trappers, Hunting Guides and Homesteaders in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Karen Brewster, Research Associate, Oral History Program, University of Alaska Fairbanks, and Barbara Cellarius, Anthropologist, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Saturday, September 28

7:00-8:00 AM **Roundtable:** Special Initiatives (Women's Suffrage and ANCSA commemoration planning, History Day in Alaska)

8:30-10:00 AM

Session A: Assimilation and Survival

The Rise of English-only Language Policies in Alaska, Jennifer C. Stone, Professor, University of Alaska Anchorage
Tongue Lashing, McKibben Jackinsky, Homer
Survivance: Past and Continuous Trauma and Resistance in Southeast Alaska, Anastasia Tarmann, Librarian, Alaska Historical Collections

Session B: Resources and Commercial Opportunity

Soft Gold: Sea Otters in Alaska History, Shana Loshbaugh, Fairbanks
A History of a Bristol Bay Cannery, John Branson, Historian, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
When "Sitka Ice" Was King, Chris Allan, Historian, National Park Service, Alaska

Session C: Japanese Americans in Alaska

Place Naming in Race: History of Japanese Alaskans in Local Perspectives, Yuko Kugo, Graduate Student, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Tabi wo suru ki or Traveling Tree: Hoshino Michio's Alaska, 1973-1996, Taiyo Itoh, Graduate Student, University of Alaska Fairbanks, and Pierce A. Bateman, Historian, U.S. Army Fort Wainwright
Embracing Japan: Japanese Business in Post-World War II Alaska, Pierce A. Bateman, Historian, U.S. Army Fort Wainwright

10:30-11:30 AM

Keynote: *Asking the Uncomfortable Questions*, Sven Haakanson, Curator, Burke Museum, and Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko, Abbe Museum