



2017

**ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE**

MUSEUMS ALASKA

— — — — —

ALASKA HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



**Social Discourse:  
Responding to Our Communities**

**Exploring the Legacy of  
the Alaska Purchase**

September 27-30 | Anchorage, Alaska  
Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center



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**Hosted by**

Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center  
Alaska Aviation Museum  
Alaska Native Heritage Center

**We would like to thank:**

Scott Bartlett & Andrew Goldstein <i>(MA Program Committee co-chairs)</i>	Helen Alten
Tim Troll	Sarah Asper-Smith
Chris Allan	Hayley Chambers
Averil Lerman	Darian LaTocha
Jo Antonson	Vera Lincoln
Karen Brewster	Heather McClain
Kathy Peavey	Michele Miller
Alaska State Museum Grant-in-Aid	Monica Shah
Donna Matthews	Jennifer Treadway

# CONFERENCE DETAILS

## Registration

The registration and information desk will be open in the Museum Atrium from 8 am - 4 pm, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 8 - 10 am Saturday.

## Parking

Parking is available Wednesday and Saturday in the Museum's garage. Please sign your car in at the registration desk. Parking is not available at the Anchorage Museum on Thursday and Friday. We recommend using the Easy Park 5th Avenue Garage located at C and 5th Avenue.

## Continental Breakfast

Continental Breakfast will be available in the Museum Atrium from 7:30 - 8:30 am.

## Transportation

Transportation during the conference will be provided by Premier Alaska Coaches. Check at the information table or online at [maahs2017.org](http://maahs2017.org) for an updated schedule.

## Exhibitors

Exhibitors will be located in the Museum Atrium on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday during conference hours.

## Badges

Badges should be worn at all times during conference events.

## Etiquette

Please show respect for the presenters by taking conversation out of the session area. Turn off or silence your electronic devices.

## Silent Auction

Thank you to the businesses, organizations, and individuals who have made generous contributions to this year's silent auction. Museums Alaska's (MA) proceeds from the auction go directly to the Donna Matthews Professional Development Fund, which supports MA scholarship awards for conference travel and tuition. The money raised for the Alaska Historical Society (AHS) is the principal fundraiser for its many programs. The silent auction items will be in the Museum Atrium. The auction will close at 5:30 pm on Friday.

# ANCHORAGE MUSEUM WELCOME

The Anchorage Museum is pleased to play a role in hosting the Museums Alaska/Alaska Historical Society Joint Conference this year. It is more important than ever to come together to discuss our collective role in a world of advanced technology, changing conversations around cultural capital and cultural legacy, complex economics, and empathy and equity--and in a post-colonial era. I look forward to empowering conversations around relevance and risk and how we can best serve our communities now and in the future. We welcome all of you to Anchorage and to the Anchorage Museum.

**Julie Decker**

Director/CEO

Anchorage Museum



ANCHORAGE MUSEUM

# MUSEUMS ALASKA WELCOME

On behalf of Museums Alaska, I am pleased to welcome you to the 2017 Museums Alaska/Alaska Historical Society Annual Conference. This joint conference always provides rich opportunities for colleagues from across this great land to meet, learn, share ideas, and create lasting connections. Our conference theme this year focuses on social discourse. The museum field is grappling with questions about whether and how to approach divisive issues. With this in mind, our Program Committee has curated a range of sessions that aim to help us navigate how we might approach social discourse in ways that work for our various institutions.

Many thanks to the Museums Alaska Program Committee, the Alaska Historical Society Program Committee, and the Anchorage Host Committee – without all your hard work behind the scenes, this conference would not have been possible!

Looking forward to a great week ahead!

**Molly Conley**

President

Museums Alaska



# ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY WELCOME

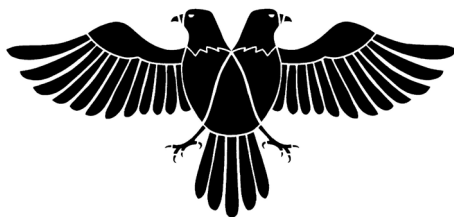
The Alaska Historical Society is delighted to be meeting at the Anchorage Museum with Museums Alaska. This year, 2017, is the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Alaska Treaty of Cession, and over thirty presentations will explore the meaning and impact of that significant event. Fifty years ago, commemoration of the centennial of the purchase led to the founding of our Alaska Historical Society. Since, folks interested in the state's history have gathered each fall to discuss and celebrate Alaska history with colleagues and friends. May we write the same in another fifty years!

Welcome to all and thank you to the conference planners and the Anchorage Museum.

**Chris Allan**

President

Anchorage Historical Museum



# ABOUT THE ORGANIZATIONS

## Museums Alaska

The mission of Museums Alaska is to maintain an association of Alaska's museum professionals and volunteers in order to provide opportunities for improvement of museum and cultural center services in Alaska and to enhance public understanding of the purposes and functions of Alaska's museums and cultural centers.



## Alaska Historical Society

The Alaska Historical Society is dedicated to the promotion of Alaska history by the exchange of ideas and information, the preservation, and interpretation of resources, and the education of Alaskans about their heritage.



# BOARD MEETINGS

## Museums Alaska

Wednesday, 5–6:30 pm | East Conference Room  
Saturday, 8–9 am | East Conference Room

## Alaska Historical Society

Wednesday, 5–6:30 pm | Reynolds Classroom  
Saturday, 8–9 am | Reynolds Classroom

## Museums Alaska Annual Meeting

Thursday, 3:30–5 pm | Auditorium

## Museums Alaska/Alaska Historical Society Joint Board Meeting

Thursday, 5–6 pm | Reynolds Classroom

## Alaska Historical Society Annual Meeting

Friday, 3:30–5 pm | Auditorium





## **Museums Alaska Theme**

### **Social Discourse: Responding to Our Communities**

How can museums be a safe space for expression and social discourse? As museums, we aim to be inclusive, to encourage dialogue, and to support our communities. As our communities' needs change, how do we respond and stay relevant? Given this current political and economic landscape, the museum's role as educator, mediator, and possible agitator becomes all the more important. Should museums remain neutral? How can we responsibly encourage these important conversations through our programming, exhibits and outreach?

## **Alaska Historical Society Theme**

### **Exploring the Legacy of the Alaska Purchase**

Once Alaska was known to the world as Russian America. All of that ended 150 years ago when William H. Seward and Edward de Stoeckl signed the treaty that ceded those Russian possessions to the United States. Since then Alaska has evolved from a military district, to a territory, and finally into the forty-ninth state of the United States. This year the Anchorage Museum is hosting the joint Alaska Historical Society/Museums Alaska annual conference. The 2017 theme—Exploring the Legacy of the Alaska Purchase—invites reflections on how that moment charted a new destiny for Alaska. In particular the theme opens the door for indigenous perspectives on the meaning of this pivotal event. Please join us as we examine how Alaska's history unfolded, is unfolding and may yet unfold since that day in 1867 when Czar Alexander II abandoned North America.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



### **Sean Kelley**

Thursday, September 28  
8:30–10 am | Auditorium

Sean Kelley has run all public programming at Eastern State Penitentiary since 1995, when he was hired as the organization's first full-time employee. He produced the site's award-winning audio tour in 2002, now heard by more than a million visitors. During his tenure he has overseen the selection of, and curated, more than 70 site-specific artist installations.

Mr. Kelley is currently focused on developing programming to address the enormous growth in the U.S. prison population since 1970, and the causes for racial disparities within that population. In 2014 he oversaw the development of a 16-foot, 3,500 pound bar graph on the penitentiary's baseball diamond. The Big Graph illustrates the skyrocketing size of the U.S. prison population in the past 40 years, the racial breakdown of the prison population over time, and the comparison to other nations' prison populations. Mr. Kelley then oversaw the development of a companion exhibit, Prisons Today, Questions in the Age of Mass Incarceration, the nation's first museum exhibit on the subject. It opened in May 2016. This shift toward contemporary relevance has been met with continued growth of the site's audience. Daytime historic site attendance grown by 400% the past ten years. The site's audience has also become more racially diverse over this time, although challenges remain in that area. Mr. Kelley oversees the historic site's special events, including its haunted house fundraiser, Terror Behind the Walls. That event generates in excess of \$2 million net revenue annually.

Mr. Kelley visits active prisons and writes critically about prison museums and sites of detention. He speaks widely on the responsibility of museums to address controversial and painful subjects, as well as the ethical and management challenges posed by large-scale fundraising events in sites with complex histories. He has served as adjunct faculty at Rutgers University, teaching Museum Studies in the graduate program in Public History.



### **Willie Iggiagruk Hensley**

Friday, September 29  
8:30–10 am | Auditorium

*An Indigenous Perspective on the Alaska Purchase*  
The Iñupiaq scholar, politician, and lecturer Willie Iggiagruk Hensley will share his personal story and views on the legacy of the purchase of Russian America by the United States and its long-lasting influence on Alaska Native peoples. Mr. Hensley authored *Fifty Miles from Tomorrow: A Memoir of Alaska and the Real People* (2009) and has recently written an article entitled "Why Russia Gave Up Alaska, America's Gateway to the Arctic." He will explore what it meant for indigenous people to be caught in the grip of one nation's colonial ambitions and then transferred to the sovereignty of another. Mr. Hensley was also one of the Alaska Native leaders most responsible for securing the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971.

# WEDNESDAY PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

workshops require separate fee/registration

## **Sink Mounts for 2D Object Storage**

8:30 am–noon | Art Lab

\$25

Custom made sink mounts can reshape the way collections managers and archivists utilize flat file storage. Due to their construction, sink mounts provide the ability to safely stack 2D objects without causing damage to delicate surfaces. Sink mounts create microclimates and dust free environments for the long term storage of flat works of art. They can be used to safely store textiles, rare books, paper documents, and unframed works of art. By using sink mounts archivists and collections managers will not only increase their flat files storage capacity but will be able to efficiently store 2D items safely on open shelving. Aside from improving storage conditions, when carefully designed, sink mounts can operate as displays for exhibition needs.

*Darian LaTocha - Curator of Collection,  
Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum*

## **Care of Feathers**

1–4:30 pm | Art Lab

\$25

Nancy Fonicello, an objects conservator in private practice, will teach about the care of feathers. She has taught workshops at numerous museums and cultural centers, most recently at the National Museum of the American Indian and Anchorage Museum. She will cover feathers as an artist material, how they are used, and how to care for

them in a museum setting. Participants will experiment with feathers and learn some cleaning techniques.

*Nancy Fonicello - Objects Conservator*

## **Connecting to Your Audiences**

8:30 am–4:30 pm | Auditorium

\$50

This skill-building workshop is for anyone who delivers interpretive programs or writes messaging for the public. It combines both the theoretical foundations of the profession with practical skills in delivering quality interpretive programming to visitors. Topics include the history, definition, and principles of interpretation; how to make your programs purposeful, enjoyable, relevant, organized, and thematic; how to use tangible objects to connect audiences to intangible ideas; universal concepts in interpretive programs; and how to approach topics that are local, complex, and dynamic in nature. A workbook will be provided to each participant.

*Laurie Stuart - Executive Director,  
Pratt Museum*

# BREAKFAST ROUNDTABLES

## Jumpstart Your Day

Thursday, 7–8 am | Museum Atrium

How do I get it all done? – This breakfast roundtable session will give you a jump start to your day. Learn some tips and tricks to manage a hectic museum schedule. Share your successes and not so successful routines. Let's calm the overwhelm or at least feel like you can manage it.

*Bethany Buckingham - Curator,  
Wasilla Museum*

## Tourism and Historic Communities

Thursday, 7–8 am | Museum Atrium

As more people worldwide visit Alaska, smaller communities (and even larger ones) are working to balance greeting thousands of visitors into their museums and communities with trying to preserve historic parts of the community. This breakfast roundtable will dive into the discussions of how smaller Alaskan communities can leverage visitation. The discussion will also consider how museums and historical societies can assist their communities in getting more support for building infrastructure needs. This roundtable is for both historical society staff and museum staff of any size community although we hope to focus on smaller towns/villages that see a continual rise in tourism each year. A representative from Alaska Tourism Industry Association will be present.

*Sue Deyoe - Executive Director,  
Talkeetna Historical Society & Museum  
Hayley Chambers - Co Presenter*

## Promoting Work-Life Balance

Friday, 7–8 am | Museum Atrium

Prioritizing between your work and your personal life can be a challenge even in the best of times, but is all the more daunting and necessary during times of economic and political uncertainty. Between shrinking budgets, staff shortages, and trying to stay relevant, there is increased pressure for museum workers to do more with less than ever before. Studies show that a poor work-life balance can result in unhealthy levels of stress, unhappiness, and even reduced productivity. Learn actionable tips and share advice with your peers in this lively roundtable session on promoting a healthy lifestyle.

*Hayley Chambers - Senior Curator of  
Collections, Ketchikan Museums*

## Present and Future of Local and Regional Archives

Friday, 7–8 am | Museum Atrium

A breakfast roundtable to discuss the current and future status of archives.

*Ron Inouye - Historian*

## Advocate for Your Museum

Saturday, 7–8 am | Museum Atrium

Roundtable discussion about State and Local Advocacy. How to fight for your museum in these times of economic downturn. Brainstorm ideas and talking points to take to the public to support your museum.

*Patty Relay - Executive Director,  
Valdez Museum & Historical Archive  
Bethany Buckingham - Co Presenter*

# LUNCHEONS

## Strategic Planning for Museums

Thursday, noon–1:15 pm

Museum Atrium

*Food available for purchase or you can have lunch on your own*

Strategic planning is the foundation for success in all organizations. Planning should involve board and the CEO at a minimum, with the board setting direction and the staff implementing that direction through programs and services. The Foraker Group views the strategic plan as a high-level compass setting the direction for an organization's journey of sustainability – not a detailed map showing every landmark along the way. Once the strategic plan is accomplished, then organizations can take the next step of creating annual operating plans to prioritize the goals for the next 12-18 months and tactical work plans for the specific goals. How is strategic planning for museums unique? Learn about the process and share your institution's experience during this spirited roundtable session.

*Jonella White - Lead Capacity Builder,  
The Foraker Group*

## State of the State Lunch

Friday, noon–1:15 pm

Museum Atrium

*Lunch provided by the Anchorage Museum*

Our museums and historical societies, as well as individuals, benefit from the programs and services of the Alaska State Library, Archives and Museums and the Office of History and Archaeology. Our members have been critical to helping legislators—state and national—know how important the programs are to us and our communities. It is a challenging time for these agencies. Judy Bittner, SHPO, Office of History and Archaeology, and Addison Field, Chief Curator, Alaska State Museums, will tell us about current initiatives, budget challenges, and highlight a few accomplishments of the past year. There will be time for you to let these agency reps know of your needs. This session helps the Alaska Historical Society and Museums Alaska plan their advocacy programs for the year.

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# RECEPTIONS

## Opening Reception

Wednesday, 7–9 pm

Anchorage Museum

## Community Reception

Thursday, 6–8 pm

Alaska Aviation Museum

## Awards Banquet

Friday, 6–9 pm

Alaska Native Heritage  
Center

## MA CONFERENCE THURSDAY 10:30-NOON

### **Museum Cleaning Basics** SASC-CCR

Cobwebs in the gallery, dust on the dogsled, mice in storage - a dirty museum results in poor visitor experience and poor collections preservation. In a museum, cleanliness really is next to godliness. Museum Cleaning Basics explores everything you need to know about cleaning your collections. Participants learn when to clean - and when not to clean. They also learn how to make those decisions. Topics range from basic housekeeping to specific techniques for specific objects. You will learn why cleaning is important and how to prevent damage when cleaning. We will look at specific techniques that minimize damage while getting the work done. And we will discuss when to call in a specialist, such as a conservator.

*Helen Alten – Director, Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center*

### **Organizational Sustainability through Community Collaboration** 4th Floor

Explore a variety of methods that will empower your organization to succeed in its financial and programmatic goals. We will prompt conversations on how smaller museums can collaborate with other organizations to expand their reach, leverage resources, and increase community impact.

*Laurie Morrow - Executive Director,  
Pratt Museum, Monica Garcia-Itchoak -  
Co Presenter*

# AHS CONFERENCE THURSDAY 10:30-NOON

## SESSION A

### Russian America

Reynolds Classroom

#### Russian American Colonies in 1867:

##### A Baseline

Though the Russian-American Company was ostensibly a trading firm, as an imperially chartered monopoly it had many governmental and social responsibilities in Russia's North American colonies. In conjunction with its social responsibilities it provided transportation support for the colonies' Russian Orthodox mission; collaborated with the Church in maintaining a school system; maintained a medical system; and contributed to the support of a small number of colonial pensioners. With departure of the Russian-American Company following the transfer of Alaska to U.S. ownership, these Company-supported institutions were significantly crippled or entirely swept away. It took time before they were restored or replaced under U.S. rule.

*Katherine Arndt is scholar of Russian America and the Alaskana bibliographer at the University of Alaska Fairbanks's Elmer E. Rasmuson Library.*

#### The Historical and Cultural Heritage of Russia in the North Pacific

This paper assesses how Russians viewed their territories in the North Pacific in the 18th and early 19th centuries and how they see their former territories today. Alaska was ceded 150 years ago, and many Russians are curious to know what has changed since that time. The author of the paper

understands the history and heritage of Russian America as a potential means to lighten and further develop current Russian-American relations.

*Alexander Petrov is Senior Research Fellow, Institute of World History, Russian Academy of Sciences.*

#### Seward and the Tsar: Alaska and Emancipation

Using information drawn from his two books, *The Man Who Sold Alaska* and *The Man Who Bought Alaska*, Michael Dunham will examine the purchase of Russian America and the two major actors in the transaction—U.S. Secretary of State William H. Seward and Tsar Alexander II of Russia. The Tsar is remembered as “Alexander the Liberator” for freeing Russia's serfs in 1861, and Seward played a major role in framing the Emancipation Proclamation and passing the 13th Amendment of the United States Constitution. However, slavery persisted in Alaska and did not fade away until the 1880s.

*Michael Dunham lives in Anchorage and regularly wrote about Alaska history in his 50-year career as a broadcaster and newspaper reporter.*

# AHS CONFERENCE THURSDAY 10:30–NOON

## SESSION B

### Frontier Trailblazers

#### Auditorium

#### Putting Pictures into Motion: “City of Gold” and the Creation of the Modern Historical Documentary

2017 is the 60th anniversary of one of the most influential historical documentaries of all time—City of Gold about the Klondike gold rush. The 22-minute film won first place at the 1957 Cannes Festival for short documentary and captivated audiences around the world. The documentary was built on a rich trove of historical photographs, and director Colin Lowe conceived the innovative trick of slowing panning in and out to recreate the key illusion of motion pictures: motion. When Ken Burns was a young film student in 1970, and he saw City of Gold for the first time, he realized this was a way to make the past come alive.

*Terrence Cole is the author of numerous works on Alaska history and a Professor of History, University of Alaska Fairbanks.*

#### Kate Kennedy in the Klondike, Nome and McCarthy

This presentation will focus on the history of mining in Alaska using the incredible life of Kate Kennedy, a camp follower in the Klondike, Nome and McCarthy mining areas and the restoration of her house in McCarthy as a touchstone for the story.

*Pat Garrett is a retired clinical social worker and comes from a family of miners. She has volunteered at the McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum for nine summers and is currently writing a book about Kate Kennedy.*

#### Escape to Freedom?: Sectional Conflict, Fugitive Slaves, and Black Whalers in Alaska

This paper will explore the history of transnational whaling as it migrated from the North Atlantic to the North Pacific and Alaskan waters. In particular, I will highlight the curious history of African-American whalers, some of whom joined up as crewmates on the ships after having fled slavery in the American South. The black whalers of the Pacific dealt with a foreign and unpredictable environment, harsh discipline, and dangerous work conditions if it meant the chance to leave the South behind for good.

*Ian Hartman is Assistant Professor of History, University of Alaska Anchorage.*

## SESSION C

### Territorial Days

#### Art Lab

#### Alaska Gold for Irish Dreams: The Irish during the Golden Era, 1867-1917

Alaska is studded with the memories of the Irish involvement during its Belle Époque era (1867-1917) from the mining towns of McGrath and McCarthy, to the Sullivan Roadhouse of Delta, Muldoon Road, Mulcahy Stadium and Delaney Parkstrip of Anchorage. The impact of the Irish people and their descendants are still with us, families of the Sullivans and O'Malleys who stayed, and Michael McGowan who took his gold and bought a farm in County Donegal, Ireland, that is still used by his family today. Two indelible characters are a part of gold rush literature: Sam McGee and Dan McGrew.



## AHS CONFERENCE THURSDAY 10:30-NOON

*Sean McGrane has a bachelor's degree in History and a graduate degree in Logistics; he has been a gold miner in the Fortymile and is now the president of the Irish Club of Alaska.*

### **The Centrality of Publicity in the Discourse of Early Territorial Alaska: A Story Told Through Popular Alaskan Archetypes**

In the early Territorial period, many of Alaska's editors, businessmen, and politicians become convinced that Alaska's perceived underdevelopment was primarily due to outside ignorance of Alaskan conditions, resources, and people. As ignorance was the enemy, the solution was therefore to educate outside decision makers and the public through the careful cultivation of favorable publicity. The result was an anxious hypersensitivity to "incorrect" representations and social criticism, an anxiety which often found expression in the various archetypes that populated Alaska's newspapers: the clueless outsider, the virtuous booster, the demonic knocker, the self-serving self-appointed representative, the lying tourist, and the menacing Indian.

*Ghert Abbott is a Ketchikan historian and recent graduate of the University of Alaska Southeast. He is working on a social history of Ketchikan from 1919 to 1931.*

### **Right Beneath Your Nose: The Anchorage Mormon History You Didn't Know**

Most Alaskans do not know that nearly one out of five people in Alaska are Mormons and that their core is in

Anchorage, nor that Alaska is one of the top five states with the most Latter-day Saints within their borders. This presentation will provide an overview from the time Mormon missionaries first arrived in Anchorage until the present culminating in the presence of thousands of Latter-day Saints worshiping in their chapels spread throughout Alaska's most vibrant city. Local LDS edifices include a beautiful Latter-day Saint temple as well as family history centers which provide opportunities for all local citizens to search out their ancestors.

*Fred E. Woods is a professor of religious education at Brigham Young University and is writing a history of the Mormons in Alaska.*

## MA CONFERENCE THURSDAY 1:30–3 PM

### **Neutrality v. Advocacy: Conversations Following the Keynote**

4th Floor

Sean Kelley of Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site in Philadelphia continues the discussion begun in his Keynote presentation. Can we ever be “neutral?” Where is the line between admitting our perspectives and political advocacy? What do we risk when we choose advocacy? And what do we risk when we remain on the sidelines? Bring your real-world examples—good and bad—and be prepared to advocate for your perspective on these timely questions.

*Sean Kelley - Senior Vice President, Director of Interpretation, Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site, Philadelphia, PA*

### **Story Time Fun with Museum Explorers**

SASC-CCR

When you think of early literacy learning and play, do you think of libraries and schools? What would it look like if these activities took place in the museum? Join us as we share the how and why we worked together across disciplines to create story time programming in the museum that is engaging to small children and their caregivers. We will share the benefits, the challenges, and how our community has responded to our efforts to connect our youngest community members to local history and interests, from the administrative, educational and collections care points of view. While we are a unique institution, with both a library and a museum, other museums can incorporate early literacy, inclusion and play in their spaces to enhance the museum experience for children and their caregivers, as well as educate and inform a hard to reach demographic about the significance and value of museums in order to advance our mission. This fun and interactive session will include a panel presentation with props and takeaways, a breakout activity to brainstorm story time activities, ideas and themes, followed by an opportunity to discuss and explore our ideas and questions as a group. Let's share ideas and strategies that work in the real world!

*Valarie Kingsland - Director, Seward Community Library & Museum  
Annie Martin & Madeline McGraw -  
Co-presenters*

# AHS CONFERENCE THURSDAY 1:30–3 PM

## SESSION A

### Russian America

#### Reynolds Classroom

##### **Nushagak—From Russian Fort to Fish Camp**

This presentation will examine the history of the village of Nushagak on the shores of the Nushagak River in Bristol Bay primarily through photographs and contemporary descriptions. Nushagak was the site of the first Russian trading post in Western Alaska, and was critical in the formation of the Bristol Bay Commercial Fishery.

*Tim Troll is the Executive Director of the Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust, a non-profit organization with a mission to preserve the wildlife habitat, culture, and history of Bristol Bay.*

##### **Fedor Kolmakov, Founder of Aleksandrovskii and Kolmakov Redoubts in Southwestern Alaska and His Descendants in Alaska Today**

Fedor Kolmakov is the seminal figure in the establishment and spread of the Russian fur trade and the Orthodox Religion in Western Alaska. He constructed Alexandrovskii Redoubt at Nushagak in 1818 and remained for 20 years as its manager. This presentation discusses his life and times of Fedor Kolmakov in Western Alaska the search for his numerous descendants in Alaska and the creation of an Alaskan Kolmakov genealogy.

*Beverly Simms has been researching and will soon publish a genealogy of the Fedor Kolmakov's descendants in Alaska, of which she is one.*

##### **John W. Clark in Russian America (1866-1867) and Alaska (1868-1869)**

This presentation examines the early career of John W. Clark, a member of the Western Union Russo-American Telegraph Expedition in Russian America in 1866 and 1867. Clark was a young laborer putting in telegraph poles, building brush camps and hauling freight by baidara. He is best known as the long-time chief trader for the Alaska Commercial Company at Nushagak where he traded throughout the Bristol Bay region. He was a founder of the shore-based commercial salmon industry in the Bay during the late 1870s and is the namesake of Lake Clark.

*John Branson is Historian for the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve and author of many books on the history of Bristol Bay. He received the Evangeline Atwood for Excellence from Alaska Historical Society in 2016*

## SESSION B

### Personal Histories

#### Auditorium

##### **Walter Harper at Mount Hermon School: An Athabascan in Early 20th Century New England**

This presentation will address a chapter in Ehrlander's book Walter Harper: Alaska Native Son. The Irish-Athabascan Harper was the first person to stand atop Denali in 1913. Harper was a trail guide, riverboat pilot, and interpreter for Episcopal Archdeacon Hudson Stuck. He attended the Christian-based Mount Hermon School from 1913 to 1916. Mount Hermon contrasted starkly with the Carlisle model of assimilationist

# 2017 MA-AHS JOINT CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

# WEDNESDAY

# THURSDAY

## FRIDAY

## SATURDAY

7 AM																					7 AM												
8 AM	REGIS- TRATION & INFO DESK OPEN ATRIUM		MA WORKSHOP: SINK MOUNTS ART LAB		MA WORKSHOP: CONNECTING TO YOUR AUDIENCES AUDITORIUM		REGIS- TRATION & INFO DESK OPEN ATRIUM		BREAKFAST ATRIUM		BREAKFAST ROUNDTABLES: JUMPSTART YOUR DAY/ TOURISM & HISTORIC COMMUNITIES ATRIUM				BREAKFAST ROUNDTABLES: PROMOTING HEALTHY WORK-LIFE BALANCE/ PRESENT & FUTURE OF LOCAL & REGIONAL ARCHIVES ATRIUM				BREAKFAST ROUNDTABLE: ADVOCATE FOR YOUR MUSEUM ATRIUM				8 AM										
									WELCOME & MA KEYNOTE: SEAN KELLEY AUDITORIUM				WELCOME & AHS KEYNOTE: WILLIE HENSLEY AUDITORIUM				REGIS- TRATION & INFO DESK OPEN ATRIUM		BREAKFAST ATRIUM		MA BOARD MEETING ECR		AHS BOARD MEETING REYNOLDS		9 AM								
									MORNING "MUG UP" ATRIUM				MORNING "MUG UP" ATRIUM						MA: FACILITATING COMMUNITY 4TH FLOOR		MA: COMMUNITY COLLABO- RATION REYNOLDS		AHS: RUSSIAN AMERICAN EXPEDITIONS REYNOLDS		10 AM								
									MA: ORGANI- ZATIONAL STABILITY 4TH FLOOR		MA: MUSEUM CLEANING BASICS SASC-CCR		AHS: RUSSIAN AMERICA REYNOLDS		AHS: FRONTIER TRAIL- BLAZERS AUDITORIUM				AHS: TERRI- TORIAL DAYS ART LAB						11 AM								
11 AM											LUNCH: STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR MUSEUMS MUSEUM ATRIUM <i>lunch available for purchase or on your own</i>				LUNCH: STATE OF THE STATE MUSEUM ATRIUM <i>Lunch provided by the Anchorage Museum</i>				MA: MUSEUM Q&A 4TH FLOOR		CLOSING COMMENTS AUDITORIUM		NOON										
1 PM																							1 PM										
2 PM			MA WORKSHOP: CARE OF FEATHERS ART LAB		MA WORKSHOP: CONNECTING TO YOUR AUDIENCES AUDITORIUM				MA: NEUTRALITY VS ADVOCACY 4TH FLOOR		MA: STORY TIME FUN SASC-CCR		AHS: RUSSIAN AMERICA REYNOLDS		AHS: PERSONAL HISTORIES AUDITORIUM		AHS: BUSINESS & POLITICS ART LAB		MA: CONSER- VATION ON THE MOVE 4TH FLOOR		MA: SUP- PORTING MUSEUMS ART LAB		AHS: ALASKA PURCHASE/ ALASKA NATIVES AUDITORIUM		AHS: FAR NORTH PERSPEC- TIVES REYNOLDS		AHS: FINANCIAL PLANNING SASC-CCR		POST CONFERENCE TOURS				2 PM
3 PM							AFTERNOON "MUG UP" ATRIUM																				3 PM						
4 PM							MA ANNUAL MEETING AUDITORIUM		AHS: RUSSIA/ ALASKA PURCHASE REYNOLDS		AHS: FISHERIES 4TH FLOOR		AHS: CLOSE- FOCUS HISTORIES ART LAB		MA: PEACE OF MIND THROUGH INVENTORY 4TH FLOOR		MA: INVESTI- GATING INNOVATIVE INQUIRY SASC-CCR		AHS ANNUAL MEETING AUDITORIUM				4 PM										
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## AHS CONFERENCE THURSDAY 1:30–3 PM

industrial schools for Native Americans by preparing its few Native students for continuing in the professions and returning to their home communities to fill leadership positions. The paper will analyze Harper's experience at Mount Hermon.

*Mary Ehrlander is director of the Arctic and Northern Studies Program and Professor of History, University of Alaska Fairbanks.*

### **Conducting Oral Histories as a Powerful Way to Connect Secondary School Students to the Past**

Oral histories can be a powerful way to connect students to the past. In February and March of 2017 students at Highland Academy Charter School in Anchorage conducted a series of interviews at the Chester Park Senior Housing Cooperative. The students gathered the life histories of the residents and connected the events in their lives with major events U.S. and Alaskan history. The students went on to create slideshows, podcasts, and short documentaries for the Chester Park community. Although fewer than 25 students participated in the project, it was largely successful and holds the potential for expanding scope and number of participants in the future.

*Simon Gorbaty is a newly minted Social Studies/History teacher with the Anchorage School District. He conducted his student teaching at Highland Academy Charter School.*

### **Cannery Life on the Nushagak: The Story of Ella May Nielsen Nelson Adkison, 1910-1983**

Ella May Nielsen Nelson Adkison was a Danish/Yupik woman who was born, raised and lived most of her adult life in canneries on the Nushagak River. Ella spent time in the Kanulik, Scandinavian, and Pacific American Fisheries canneries. The story will be shared by Ella's granddaughter, Mary Nelson Dinon, and will include private family photos of the area.

*Mary (Nelson) Dinon was born and raised in Dillingham to a Canadian mother and Alaskan Native father. She followed her mother into a nursing career and currently works for the Southeast Alaska Native Health Consortium in Klawock, Alaska.*

## **SESSION C**

### **Business and Politics**

#### **Art Lab**

### **Alaska's Oldest Company: How the Alaska Commercial Company Shaped the Territory**

This presentation offers a fresh look at the founders of the Alaska Commercial Company—San Francisco Jewish financiers and a New England businessman—who influenced economic development in the new American era. Goforth will include newly recovered information on Hayward M. Hutchinson, who purchased the Alaskan assets of the Russian American Company which became the foundation of the Alaska Commercial Company.

## AHS CONFERENCE THURSDAY 1:30–3 PM

*J. Penelope Goforth is a writer and researcher who specializes in Alaska maritime history. She is a member of the Alaska Historical Society, Puget Sound Maritime Society, and Oregon Historical Society and is currently at anchor with her two cats at Cook's Inlet at Anchorage, Alaska.*

### **One Man's Attack on the Company That Built a Territory, Ernest Gruening Against the Alaska Steamship Company: 1939-1971**

On November 9, 1955 at Alaska's Constitutional Convention former territorial governor Ernest Gruening gave a powerful and rousing keynote address. Gruening spent nearly a quarter of his speech launching an attack against the 1920 Jones Act, which he called "discrimination uniquely against Alaska." His fury was not so much with the Jones Act but with the Alaska Steamship Company, which he briefly mentioned near the end of his address. This paper argues that while Gruening's attacks on Alaska Steamship Company were not unfounded, his hatred for the company failed to acknowledge its significant contribution to the pre-statehood Alaskan economy and infrastructure development.

*Pierce Bateman is a graduate student in the Arctic & Northern Studies Program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.*

### **The Alaska Railroad and Mount McKinley National Park**

One hundred years ago, the original version of Denali National Park and Preserve was established (then known

as Mount McKinley National Park). Park interpreters and historians often center the park's creation story around conservationist Charles Sheldon and his quest to save the region's Dall sheep; however, there is a key advocate in the park's establishment that deserves more attention: the Alaska Railroad. Before 1917, railroads were vital to creating national parks and to the formation of the National Park Service agency. In 1916-1917, that trend continued in Alaska and resulted in Mount McKinley National Park.

*Erik Johnson is a historian for the National Park Service at Denali National Park and Preserve. He serves on the Alaska Historical Society board of directors.*

# AHS CONFERENCE THURSDAY 3:30-5 PM

## SESSION A

### **Russian America & Alaska Purchase**

Reynolds Classroom

#### **Destination—Sitka: ‘Special Correspondents’ and the Race to Report on the Transfer of Russian America to the United States**

American newspapers wanted to be the first to announce the October 18, 1867 transfer of Russian America to the United States, and for this they needed a “special correspondent” in Sitka. Telegraph lines had only recently reached British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest, so to “scoop the story” a reporter needed to file a dispatch by any means necessary. This presentation profiles the New York Herald and Alta California correspondents who witnessed Alaska’s first days as a United States possession and then raced southward to report.

*Chris Allan is a historian for the National Park Service and president of the Alaska Historical Society.*

#### **Lost in Place: Revisiting Alaska’s Fabled Russian Fort**

According to legend, in 1648 the survivors of a Russian shipwreck drifted to the shores of what is now Alaska and built a fort along the “Kheuveren River.” Believing it might be the fabled fort, in 2009 Russian adventurers sought to locate a “fortification” on the Yukon River observed by Lavrentiy Zagoskin in 1844. This paper discusses past research tied to the so-called “Kheuveren Legend” and details what is known about the reported Yukon River fortification.

*Ken Pratt is the ANCSA Program Manager for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (Alaska Region) and has an enduring interest in Russian America and Alaska Native history.*

#### **The Transformation of Sitka, 1867-1877**

The decade following the transfer of Russia’s possessions in Alaska to the United States saw a complete transformation of Sitka—from a Russian company town built of logs, whose leaders had to defer to the Tlingit, to a recognizable American frontier town where the Tlingit people were marginalized and impoverished. This presentation uses memoirs, newspapers, and government records to examine the complex and sometimes violent social, political and economic interactions of the Tlingit, the Army and other Americans, and the “Creoles”—the people in Sitka of mixed Russian and Alaska Native descent.

*Rebecca Poulson is an artist in Sitka, Alaska working on a book about Sheldon Jackson School and College. She is on the Alaska Historical Society board of directors and is a member of the Alaska Historical Commission.*

## SESSION B

### **Alaska’s Fisheries**

4th Floor

#### **Changing Tides: Alaska Natives in the Bristol Bay Salmon Fishery**

Alaska Natives in Bristol Bay played a significant role in shaping the Bristol Bay commercial salmon fishery. Although they were often denied entrance to the fishery industry, World War I and especially World War II created a need for labor. Finally allowed to fish the cannery sailboats, Alaska Natives proved to be

## AHS CONFERENCE THURSDAY 3:30-5 PM

adept fishermen. Although often the underdogs in the fishery, Alaska Natives held their own, engaging in both the drift and setnet fisheries. Statehood and then limited entry greatly impacted how Alaska Natives engaged in the fishery as the right to fish became a commodity instead of a birthright.

*Bridget Groat is a doctoral student at Arizona State University where she studies Native American History with a focus on Alaska, history of the American West, and environmental history.*

### SESSION C

#### Close-Focus Histories

##### Art Lab

#### **Walking on the Wild Side: Juneau's Downtown and South Franklin Street in the 1940s**

Bars, pool halls, bawdy-houses, flop-houses, cafes, and stores crowded downtown Juneau and South Franklin Street in Juneau in the 1940s. The largest city in Alaska at the time, Juneau hummed night and day, bustling with steamers, navy ships, airplanes, fishermen, miners, and longshoremen. Drawing on interviews, newspapers, photographs, and the police blotter, downtown life in Juneau 80 years ago can be vividly imagined, highlighting the distinct features of that time and that place.

*Averil Lerman is an Anchorage attorney and historian who is writing a book about a 1946 Juneau murder and the two men who were hanged for it, the last men hanged in Alaska. She serves on the Alaska Historical Society board of directors.*

#### **Hearts of Courage: The Survivors of the 1943 Gillam Crash**

On January 5, 1943 a Lockheed Electra with six onboard departed Seattle destined for Anchorage with a scheduled fueling stop at the Annette Island airfield. The pilot was the legendary Harold “thrill-em, chill-em, spill-em, but no kill-em” Gillam. Experiencing a loss of power to the left engine the plane crashed 30 miles southeast of Ketchikan and east of Annette Island. One of the passengers that day was Joseph Tippetts, a CAA employee returning to his home in Anchorage. This presentation by Tippetts’ son will tell the story of the crash, the fate of Harold Gillam, the courageous survival experiences of four men and their miraculous ultimate rescues.

*John Tippetts was born in Anchorage in 1941 and has an MBA from UCLA. He had a 42-year career associated with American Airlines, including a final 17 years as the President/CEO of the American Airlines Federal Credit Union.*

#### **A Winter at the Russian House**

“Alaska became a state in 1959, and I became 21,” David Leuthe wrote in his pending memoir, *The 50-Year Summer*. On short acquaintance he became “obsessed,” he says, with the Russian settlement of Alaska. After graduation from Wisconsin State in 1962, having studied every Russian topic offered, and after “another salmon season at Kenai Packers,” he enrolled at the University of Washington and settled into the Russian House, a community of language scholars and eccentrics, among them legendary cook Pavla Constantinevna



## AHS CONFERENCE THURSDAY 3:30-5 PM

and David's "prodigy" roommate Duncan Ward Smith, who was studying Chinese, not Russian. It was a pivotal winter.

*Jackie Pels was born in Seward and reared mostly in coastal Alaska. As Hardscratch Press, she and her designer partner, David Johnson, have published more than two dozen books of memoir and community history.*

## MA CONFERENCE FRIDAY 10:30-NOON

### **Thinking Inside the Box**

Auditorium

In this hands-on session, we will share some methods for making custom boxes and storage trays for collection objects. Participants will make a basic box or tray, and learn about several variations and inserts that can be incorporated to customize the container to the needs of the object(s) being housed.

*Jan Yaeger - Curator, Seldovia Museum  
Madeline McGraw, Bethany Buckingham, Selena Ortega-Chiolero, Sue Deyoe - Co-presenters*

### **Engaging Communities: Programs at the Anchorage Museum**

4th Floor

Through exhibit and outreach programs, museums have opportunities to initiate and encourage ongoing conversations and creative expressions, engaging and supporting the diverse communities of Alaska. In this session, attendees will have the opportunity to learn about examples at the Anchorage Museum and to brainstorm ideas for their organizations among museum professionals, drawing on a wide range of experience to get started on developing successful programs.

*Dawn Biddison - Museum Specialist,  
Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center at the  
Anchorage Museum, Sonya Kelliher-Combs,  
Angela Demma, Hollis Mickey - Co-presenters*

# AHS CONFERENCE FRIDAY 10:30-NOON

## SESSION A

### **Russian America & Alaska Purchase**

Reynolds Classroom

#### **The Law of Unintended Consequences: The Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act as a Legacy of the Alaska Purchase**

Because Congress made no treaties with Alaska Native people, because treaty-making ceased in 1871, and also because Congress undertook no comprehensive land disposition in Alaska until the statehood act, the Native claims settlement act and the Alaska lands act, most of the land in Alaska was subject to aboriginal title, title legitimized by the Supreme Court in 1941. Thus land was available, unreserved and unoccupied, for the conferring of Native title in 1971. Had Congress made treaties with Alaska Natives following the purchase, Alaska Natives today would likely be living on traditional reservations, little land would be in Native title, and Alaska Natives would not be fully integrated into the economic, social and political life of Alaska.

*Stephen Haycox is the Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Alaska Anchorage. He received the 2016 James H. Ducker Historian of the Year Award from Alaska Historical Society.*

#### **Melting the Ice Curtain: Contemporary Alaska-Russia Relations Since the Alaska Purchase**

As Americans mark the 150th anniversary of the United States' purchase of Alaska, an extraordinary aspect of that history is the effort by Alaska and Soviet citizen diplomats

to help end the Cold War. Their work in melting the Bering Strait "ice curtain" ushered in a 30-year era of perilous yet prolific progress to bridge a gap in superpower relations, a model sorely needed today. Journalist and political aide David Ramseur will detail the importance of this fascinating era which he documents in his new book *Melting the Ice Curtain: The Extraordinary Story of Citizen Diplomacy on the Russia-Alaska Frontier*.

*David Ramseur is a visiting scholar in public policy at the University of Alaska Anchorage's Institute of Social and Economic Research; he also reported on politics for the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner before serving as an aide to Alaska Governors Steve Cowper and Tony Knowles and to Anchorage Mayor and U.S. Senator Mark Begich.*

#### **Envisioning Alaska: the Artistic Legacy of Russian America**

Between 1743 and 1867 over a dozen artists travelled to Alaska on voyages sponsored by the Russian Crown and the Russian-American Company. Their pencils and brushes captured peoples and places of Alaska. Published in the accounts of scientific expeditions, these images captivated readers in Russia, the United States and Europe, and "delivered" Alaska to the world's capitals, shaping public and political opinions about Alaska and forging powerful perceptions about its cultural and socio-political identity. This paper will discuss the role of this artistic record in the history of Russian America and introduce a new website dedicated to this legacy.

*Evguenia Anichtchenko is Russian-American historian and anthropologist, who has called*

# AHS CONFERENCE FRIDAY 10:30–NOON

*Alaska home for over a decade. She is Executive Director of the Sitka Maritime Heritage Society.*

## **SESSION B** **Facing Controversy** **SASC-CCR**

### **“They Burned It Down”: Housing Discrimination in Mid-Twentieth Century Anchorage**

As Anchorage expanded in the 1940s, the city was unprepared for the influx of new residents, and as housing became an increasingly valuable commodity, racist attitudes manifested towards people of color restricted their purchase and rental access. These attitudes explicitly existed through the 1960s, in defiance of legal precedence and state law. In one notable instance, an African-American couple’s house was burned to the ground after they attempted to integrate an Anchorage neighborhood. A review of racist housing covenants, whites-only classified ads, oral histories, and African-American newspapers provides rich documentation regarding the pervasive nature of mid-century Anchorage housing discrimination.

*David Reamer is a public history graduate student at Southern New Hampshire University. He is currently researching African-American Anchorage history, LGBTQ homeless issues, and baseball.*

### **The Mount McKinley-Denali Controversy and the U.S. Board on Geographic Names**

For thousands of years, the highest point in North America has been known by Native Alaskans as Denali. In 1898, the name Mount McKinley was first applied to Federal maps of Alaska.

In 1975, Governor Jay Hammond of Alaska requested that the government officially change the name to Denali. However, the U.S. Board on Geographic Names did not process the proposal due to the actions of congressmen from Ohio who wanted the mountain to be forever named McKinley. In 2015, a visit to Alaska by President Obama and Secretary Sally Jewell provided an opportunity for the Board on Geographic Names to finally help resolve the issue.

*Douglas Vandegraft is the Chief of the Mapping and Boundary Branch for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and a member of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. Doug lived in Alaska for many years and currently resides in Virginia.*

### **Alaska’s Oil: A Taxing History**

Since territorial days, Alaska’s politicians and the oil industry have sparred over the state’s tax on its oil resources. From subtle maneuvering to outright bribes, oil companies and their lobbyists have influenced elections, legislators, and governors in their effort to pay as little as possible for the privilege of extracting Alaska’s most valuable natural resource. This paper examines newspaper accounts, legislative hearings and reports, and Alaska history books to construct a narrative of the people and politics involved in the state’s long and contentious oil tax battle—a battle that continues in the halls of Alaska’s capitol today.

*Lisa Weissler is a 36-year veteran of Alaska politics and has worked as assistant attorney general, staff counsel to the House Democratic Majority, and a policy analyst in the Office of the Governor. Recently she served as a legislative assistant, assisting in yet another rewrite of Alaska’s oil and gas production tax.*

# AHS CONFERENCE FRIDAY 10:30-NOON

## SESSION C

### General Session

#### Art Lab

#### Reflecting on the Kenai Peninsula History Conference—Lessons from a Sesquicentennial Gathering

In 2017 about 120 people gathered in Soldotna for a local history conference associated with the statewide Sesquicentennial observations. As project director for the conference, I want to share highlights, disappointments, and potential lessons for raising Alaskans' awareness of history in their own communities. This was the first locally focused history meeting on the peninsula since 1974, and it sold out. Partner organizations and volunteers made the venture successful, but conspicuous gaps in content and participation existed. The presentation will share two unexpected opportunities that grew out of the conference project, report to the state historical community on what happened there, and brainstorm ways to help future history outreach efforts.

*Shana Loshbaugh was the project director of 150 Years: Kenai Peninsula History Conference.*

#### New Deals, Old Murals, and Artists from Outside: Arthur Kerrick's Alaskan Landscapes

"Art Kerrick was a big man—big in stature both physically and artistically," wrote friends of Kerrick in 1963 for a posthumous exhibit. The artist first visited the Alaska Territory with the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Alaska Art Project in 1937, and in 1942

was commissioned to paint a mural that still hangs in the Anchorage Historic Federal Building. This presentation will explore the Alaskan Landscapes Kerrick painted, what this body of work says about the artist, how WPA artists saw the Alaska territory, and what a canvas mural conveys about nationalism.

*Anne Rittgers is a graduate student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, pursuing a degree in Arctic and Northern Studies. Her work has focused primarily on Alaska history, politics, and economics.*

#### Perspectives on Sexual and Domestic Violence in Rural Alaska

Alaska's rate of reported sexual assault is nearly three times the national average, and underreporting may be as high as 70 percent. In rural communities, the rates of both sexual and domestic violence are higher still. My research explores how survivors, elders, and professionals view the issues surrounding this violence in remote communities through oral history methodology. I also will present preliminary findings, which include historical, intergenerational trauma. My research aims to shed light on the sources of this trauma and allow survivors and professionals working in the field to share their thoughts on solutions.

*Katie Hayden was born and raised in Lake Minchumina; she graduated with a Biology degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Since that time has spent her summers working for the Department of Fish & Game at remote weir camps across Alaska.*

## MA CONFERENCE FRIDAY 1:30-3 PM

### **Conservation on the Move** 4th Floor

Since spring of 2016, the Anchorage Museum has been planning for the deinstall of our oldest and largest gallery (over 1,400 objects), carried it out, moved all into storage, were on display for a year, and prepared new objects and art for installation in new spaces at the museum. During this time, we have had many conservators and mount-makers working on the project. In this session hear about the variety of treatments, and some useful tips on how to accomplish this on a smaller scale.

*Monica Shah - Director of Collections and Chief Conservator, Anchorage Museum, Sarah Owens, Nicole Peters, Nancy Foncello, Camilla Van Vooren, Michele Austin-Dennehy - Co-presenters*

### **Supporting Museums and Cultural Heritage Through Legislation** Art Lab

Schoolhouse Rock! gives us the three-minute version of how a bill becomes a law in Congress, but what does the process look like when you dig into the details, especially in Alaska, which has a 90-day regular legislative session? We will present examples of legislation at different stages and discuss process and strategy for being successful advocates for your issue. We will tackle questions like: How does the committee process work and how do you keep your bill from dying in committee? What about building coalitions and advocating for your issue? What are some of the tools you already have (powerful stories about your work) and how do you make them work for you (turning those stories into compelling testimony)? What are some tools you can add to your toolbox -- Bill Tracking Management Facility, anyone? By demystifying the legislative process, we aim to make Alaska's museum professionals more comfortable advocating on behalf of their work and institutions.

*Bianca Carpeneti - Legislative Aide Representative Ivy Spohnholz (HD 16) - Co-presenter.*

# AHS CONFERENCE FRIDAY 1:30–3 PM

## SESSION A

### **Alaska Natives & Alaska Purchase**

Auditorium

#### **Exploring the Legacy of Tlingit Kooteeya: The Stories of Two Iconic Taanta Kwaan Poles**

Two iconic Tlingit Kooteeya or poles have the figures of Seward and Lincoln at the top. Many Euro-Americans have woven their stories about these poles; however, these poles are more about symbolic representation of the United States and Euro-Americans than they are about Seward and Lincoln. In recent years these poles have taken on new histories and the Seward pole will be rededicated in May 2017 with the erecting of a new pole. The legacy of these two poles will be explored.

*Daniel Monteith is a Professor of Anthropology, University of Alaska Southeast. He has worked with numerous Native organizations doing ethnographic and ethnohistorical research.*

#### **An Interpretation of What the Chiefs Said on Living Free: A Koyukon Perspective on the Alaska Purchase and the Legacy of the Tanana Chiefs**

The village of Tanana is situated at the confluence of the Tanana River and Yukon River, nearly dead center on a geographic map of Alaska. In 1867 this area was known by the Dine nation as Nuchalawoyya, and it was here leaders met on an annual basis to conduct the business of governing the nation. This presentation will focus on the perspective of a descendant of two of the original Tanana Chiefs—Chiefs Charlie and William and the Interpreter

Paul Williams—on land claims and the concept of Russia's "sale" of and America's "purchase" of the great land we call Alaska.

*Guy Peters is a Koyukon from the village of Tanana and descendant of Paul Williams, and Chiefs Charlie and William. His parents were involved in the original land claims meeting held in Tanana.*

*Hild Peters is Guy's wife. She is a graduate of the Arctic and Northern Studies program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She presented the life story of the Reverend Helen Peters at the MA/AHS meeting in Cordova.*

#### **Russian Influence on the Language and World-View of the Yup'ik People**

Language borrowings is a result of cross-cultural contacts and can produce changes in the recipient culture world view. The Yup'ik language borrowed more than 200 Russian words both in their forms and in their meanings. But there are also a large number of semantic borrowings when a Native word is assigned a new meaning under the influence of Russian culture. These semantic borrowings have religious meanings and they reveal changes in the religious world-view of the Yup'ik people.

*Irina Sheina is a professor at the Institute of Foreign Languages at Ryazan State University, Dr. of Linguistics, Head of the Russian America Center.*

# AHS CONFERENCE FRIDAY 1:30–3 PM

## SESSION B

### Far North Perspectives

Reynolds Classroom

#### The Significance of the Arctic in American History

How does the Arctic fit into the greater narrative of North American history? Frederick Turner's 1893 thesis discussed a vanishing frontier but did not consider the circumpolar north. The United States staked its claim in the Arctic through its purchase of Alaska just 25 years prior to Turner's thesis but struggled to understand the continuity and change of cultures along its far northwestern American frontier. Just as Turner's thesis sought to explain the growth of American civilization, understanding the significance of the Arctic helps us interpret Alaska's place in American history.

*Russ Vander Lugt is an Army Officer and doctoral student in Northern Studies at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. His studies focus on military-indigenous relationships and policy in the Arctic from the nineteenth century to the present.*

#### God Proposes, Man Disposes—Climate Change and the Arctic Sublime

As attention to climate change grows, the polar bear has emerged as the vulnerable victim of the industrialized world. Images of suffering polar bears widely circulated by print and digital media raise concerns among Americans about the survival of the species and the loss of its habitat. Given the ferocity of this predator at the top of the world, why is it that the polar bear has emerged as the ultimate identifiable victim in dialogues surrounding the global climate crisis? To answer this

question, this paper will look back to the 19th-century—the golden age of Arctic exploration—when the Arctic, and therefore the polar bear, first entered the American public imagination.

*Carolyn Kozak is a graduate student in Northern Studies at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She has worked for Anchorage Museum and has research interests in circumpolar history, political communication, and image literacy.*

## SESSION C

### Financial Planning for Non-Profits SASC-CCR

#### Creating Your Own History in Alaska: Help Historical Societies and Museums Grow in Tax-Smart Ways

A little more than a year ago, the Alaska Historical Society opened an endowed fund with The Alaska Community Foundation. The idea: create a permanent endowment so that AHS activities will be supported now and long into the future. Local historical societies and museums also have the opportunity to create a sustainable source of revenue for their organizations. This session will explore what it means to create an endowment and look at ways to grow these fund. Participants will also learn how to personally give in tax-smart ways through current and estate gifts.

*Beth Rose is Alaska Community Foundation's VP of Philanthropy and External Relations and works with individuals, nonprofits and corporations who wish to make a difference in Alaska through philanthropy.*

*Katie St. John is Alaska Community Foundation's Director of Program and Grants, and works with nonprofits and donors on the management of their funds and on strategic grant-making.*



## MA CONFERENCE FRIDAY 3:30-5 PM

### **Peace of Mind Through Inventory**

4th Floor

The Haines Sheldon Museum completed its first full collection inventory in over 25 years this winter. Staff were trained by an inventory expert, created pertinent forms, reorganized storage and developed workable procedures, which will be shared with participants. The process created a confidence in the staff - both over the process of inventory and the peace of mind that came when it was confirmed that almost all the artifacts were documented in our PastPerfect database. Out of 3000 objects, only 20 were problematic. The inventory also provided data on condition and housing that can be used for future grants and fundraising.

*Helen Alten - Director, Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center, Sarah (Aly) Zeiger, Regina Johanos, Peggy Schaller - Co-presenters*

### **Investigating Innovative Inquiry: Topics in Museum Education**

4th Floor

Alaskans are a vibrant, creative group of people with unique needs based on geography, economics, and accessibility. Alaska's small museums are meeting the challenges of engaging with visitors, both near and far, in exceptional ways. Join professionals from the Alaska Aviation Museum, Pratt Museum, Valdez Museum and Historical Archive, the Wasilla Museum and Visitor Center, and the Wells Fargo Museum to learn new ways to meet the educational goals of your community and how to creatively build successful educational programs in a small museum.

*Kelly Gwyn - Educator, Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum, Laurie Morrow, Chessie Sharp, Faith Revell, Bethany Buckingham, Tom D. Bennett, Alex Taitt - Co-presenters*

## MA CONFERENCE SATURDAY 9:30-11 AM

### **Facilitating Community Dialogue on Challenging Topics**

4th Floor

As leaders in community inclusion and co-creation efforts, museums must remain relevant and resilient through socially just programming that spans multiple boundaries. As leaders, museum staff and board members must move towards, not away, from challenging topics. Courageous and authentic programming inspires the public to trust museums, zoos, aquariums, and nature centers as sources of information. In an increasing divisive context, however, our staff need to be trained in more than objective information delivery. They must also be prepared to facilitate the potentially emotional and transformative impacts of community dialogue. This session will spend 45 minutes examining the techniques and lessons-learned from programs such as the National Network on Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation, the National Association for Interpretation, and the Heritage Leadership in Education program at the University of Missouri St. Louis. The second 45 minutes will be used for facilitated dialogue(s) that examine how program managers can utilize difficult emotions, such as vulnerability, grief, and anger, as constructive opportunities for transformative interpretation.

*Laurie Stuart - Executive Director,  
Pratt Museum*

### **Community Collaboration in Exhibits**

Reynolds Classroom

Exhibits that engage and inspire are often the result of community collaboration from the beginning. Three exhibits - "Strung Up and Reconfigured: Puppetry from Haines and Beyond," "White Fang: When Hollywood Came to Haines," and "Across the Shaman's River" - show different ways the community collaborated and became involved with an exhibit, which resulted in record numbers of visitors. In the first, a guest curator was solicited from our community to work with staff and 100 puppeteers. In the second, oral histories and objects were solicited, and then the community helped write the text and exhibit labels using Post-It notes. In the third, elders, artists and historians met regularly to develop a mind map of the exhibit that was then fleshed out by a community member and by oral histories of elders.

*Helen Alten - Director, Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center, Madeline Witek, Zach James, Byrne Powers - Co-presenters*

## SESSION A

### Russian American Expeditions

Auditorium

#### Russian American Expeditions

##### of Dr. Mikhail Malakhov

In 2009 Dr. Malakhov launched a series of expeditions to Alaska to investigate the routes of Russian exploration and trade, beginning with the journeys of Laverntiy Zagoskin in Western Alaska from 1842-1844. Malakhov hails from the City of Ryazan, the Russian home of Zagoskin. Malakhov will describe his investigations and observations over the last eight years, including his 2017 expedition from Dillingham on the Nushagak River to Aniak on the Kuskokwim River. He will also describe the efforts in Russia, and Ryazan in particular, to remember their history in Alaska.

*Malakhov is himself a famous explorer having been to the North Pole more than 30 times. His government awarded him its highest honor—Hero of the Russian Federation—for his courage and determination, the first civilian to be so recognized.*

**MA CONFERENCE SATURDAY 11-11:45 AM**

**Museum Q & A**  
4th Floor

QUESTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

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# ON-GOING EVENTS

## Posters

Museum Atrium

### The Future of Historical Newspapers: Access & Preservation through Digitization

Newsprint is one of the most underrated historical primary sources. Think of it: daily or weekly records of events, statistics, and biographical information for 120 Alaskan communities since 1866. Plus, free access to researchers, genealogists, and students, worldwide. The Alaska State Library Historical Collections is currently working to increase access to Alaska’s historical newspapers through the NEH grant-funded National Digital Newspaper Program. The Alaska State Library Historical Collections will add 100,000 digitized pages of Alaskan newspapers to Chronicling America by August 2018. Chronicling America is a national Internet-based, text searchable database run by Library of Congress.

*Anastasia Tarmann is a librarian at Alaska State Library Historical Collections in Juneau and Alaska NDNP Project Director.*

*Leah Geibel is an archivist working as the Project Coordinator/Newspaper Librarian for the Alaska NDNP with the Alaska State Library Historical Collections.*

### Alaska History in Stamps

Alaskan philatelist Chet Waluk will present a view of the Alaska Purchase era through stamps and postal material of the day as well as through commemoration efforts in later years. His poster include an original portrait of William H. Seward and the Secretary of State’s signature.

*Chester Waluk collects stamps related to Alaska history and is active with the Alaska Philatelic Collectors’ Club.*

## Films

Museum Atrium

*Films will be presented on a loop in the atrium throughout the conference and the audio can be experience through headphones that will be provided.*

### The 1974 Kenai History Conference

20 minutes  
*Shana Loshbaugh*

### Pierre Berton’s “City of Gold” and Precursor

22 minutes  
*Terrence Cole*

### Documentary: Saint Herman - “The Baptizer of Russian America”

25 minutes  
*Dr. Mikhail Malakhov*

### Alaska’s Reel History: Films Celebrating the Purchase Centennial

32 minutes, two films  
*Damon Stuebner and Angela Schmidt*

### Melting the Ice: Launching Mormonism in Alaska

30 minutes  
*Fred Woods*

# POST CONFERENCE TOURS

## **Dena'ina History Tour**

Saturday, 1-4 pm

\$60

Join Aaron Leggett of the Anchorage Museum for a trip through Anchorage and surrounding areas learning about the historic Dena'ina places, names, and early history of the Anchorage Area. Cost includes transportation.

## **Alaska Museums Tour**

Saturday, 1-4 pm

\$60

Visit the Alaska Heritage Museum in the Wells Fargo Building and the the Alaska Museum of Science and Nature for an intimate look at their collections. The Alaska Heritage Museum boasts the largest private collection of its kind in Alaska and the Alaska Museum of History and Science chronicles Alaska's unique geological, cultural and ecological history. Cost includes transportation.

