



CONNECTIONS & DISCONNECTIONS *in* ALASKA HISTORY

ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY • 2023 CONFERENCE
with the KENAI PENINSULA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
CENTRAL KENAI PENINSULA • OCTOBER 5-8, 2023



Meet the new Alaska Historical Society logo!

In the spring the Alaska Historical Society embarked on an effort to replace our dated logo, which many believed was confusing and more reflective of the Russian czarist era than of the broad diversity of Alaska history we strive to represent.

We contracted with Anchorage graphic designer Emily Tallman of Poetica and spent the summer fine-tuning several concepts. The AHS board unanimously approved the new logo you see now, which Emily calls a Raven Spiral. In Alaska, ravens are widely found, believed to be clever and adaptable and in some Alaska Native cultures, considered the creator of the world and of daylight. Our new Raven Spiral faces forward, its wings in a spiral



Alaska
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

formation signifying movement and the dynamic nature of time. Its wings also suggest pages in a book, the means by which much of Alaska's history is stored and conveyed.

We are elated to introduce our Raven Spiral to you for the 2023 annual conference.

Joining us via Zoom?

For those who registered to participate over Zoom, please refer to the Zoom access instructions that were emailed to you. Can't find the email message? Go to www.alaskahistoricalsociety.org/virtual-conference-information.

If you are having difficulty accessing the conference, please contact Kaila Pfister at kailapfister@gmail.com or 718-753-2015.

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ABOUT THE COVER IMAGES

TOP: *Kenai La Belle* by Fanny Ryland, created for the Paint the Kenai mural project in 2014. A reproduction of the mural is at 205 E. Beluga Ave., Soldotna. The mural depicts the landscape of Kenai through the seasons.

LOWER LEFT: Nome Bering Sea kayak race, early 1900s. Kayak races were a staple of July 4th festivities in Nome's early years. Photo courtesy Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum, McLain 706.

LOWER RIGHT: Alaska Central Railway excursion July 4, 1906. Photo courtesy Resurrection Bay Historical Society, Evans 700.1.7.

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*Kenai
Peninsula
Historical
Association*





Alaska HISTORICAL SOCIETY

With our volunteers and community partners, the Alaska Historical Society is a non-profit, educational organization 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.

Governed by a 15-member board of directors, the society provides a forum and a vehicle to achieve these goals. It publishes the semi-annual scholarly journal *Alaska History* and a quarterly newsletter, holds an annual conference, and advocates for local, state and national cultural programs.



Alaska Historical Society
P.O. Box 100299
Anchorage, AK 99510-0299
www.alaskahistoricalsociety.org
members@alaskahistoricalsociety.org
907-615-1255

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WELCOME!



This year's annual Alaska Historical Society conference continues a long and proud tradition of advocating for Alaska history. From fighting for state resources for historical preservation to keeping federal archives accessible, the AHS reaffirms its dedication to the promotion of Alaska history through the exchange of ideas and information.

The October conference in the Central Kenai Peninsula also is targeted at an additional new goal: to help create a more productive environment in which to arrive at sound public policy. In recent years especially, our civil discourse has deteriorated. By demonstrating how knowledge of history can inform and improve current public policy debate, we hope to raise the level of discussion so an informed public can encourage decisionmakers to draw on history to make fact-based policy that serves a broad diversity of Alaskans.

In addition to nearly three dozen compelling presentations, please participate in our annual business meeting (Oct. 6) and the banquet (Oct. 7) for important updates on society activities. The banquet provides all members an opportunity to celebrate historical accomplishments over the past year and honor those who left a lasting legacy in Alaska history.

Thanks for joining us!

— DAVID RAMSEUR, President



I'm pleased to welcome you to Alaska's Kenai Peninsula.

This year, 2023, marks the Kenai Peninsula Historical Association's 50th anniversary and we are proud to be able to cohost this conference with the Alaska Historical Society.

KPHA's member societies—Cooper Landing Historical Society, Hope and Sunrise Historical Society, Kasilof Regional Historical Association, Kenai Historical Society, North Road Pioneers, Resurrection Bay



Welcome to the 2023 Annual Conference of the Alaska Historical Society! This year we joined with the Kenai Peninsula Historical Association to co-host the AHS conference in the Central Kenai Peninsula. It's our first face-to-face annual meeting since the COVID pandemic, although we are keeping a Zoom option for presenters

and participants. The Kenai Peninsula College is a terrific venue, and the program is full of interesting presentations about Alaska history. One whole day, Saturday, focuses on the Kenai Peninsula and the stories and people that make it unique.

The conference came together with the help of a hardworking planning committee, who set the venue and theme, invited presenters, put together the program, coordinated technology, and set up registration. We are particularly grateful to the amazing local committee, who connected us with people, groups, and businesses on the Kenai Peninsula. Among many other things, the local committee took on the crucial work of organizing lunches, breaks, and the reception and banquet.

We hope you enjoy the conference.

— RACHEL MASON, Conference Chair

Historical Society, and the Soldotna Historical Society—collectively represent a microcosm of Alaska's history and experiences. As historians and preservationists, we share our experiences and collaborate on projects to preserve our past. We encourage the telling and retelling of the Kenai Peninsula's history to make connections with the larger Alaska experience.

This conference provides KPHA the opportunity to celebrate its founding with all of you. Please explore the offerings here on "The Kenai" and have a wonderful time.

— SHANNON KOVAC, KPHA President

Explore regional history

Guided Tour: Holy Assumption Orthodox Church, Kenai

Thursday, October 5 • 3:30–5 p.m.
Leader: Dorothy Gray
Location: 1105 Mission Ave., Kenai



The Holy Assumption of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church is a National Historic Landmark. Construction of the church started in 1894. It is historically significant for its architecture and the interior icons, church objects and

artifacts. Dorothy Gray, Kenai Parish Council member, will lead the tours. She has worked on restoration of the rectory, church, and St. Nicholas Chapel since 1998, and is chair of ROSSIA (Russian Orthodox Sacred Sites in Alaska), a group assisting with preservation of Orthodox properties around the state. Drop in any time between 3:30–5 p.m.; tours last about 20 minutes.

Visit the Cooper Landing Museum

Thursday, October 5 • Afternoon
Location: Sterling Highway Mile 48.7

The Cooper Landing Museum includes the historic post office and several buildings with exhibits. The Cooper Landing Historic District is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Soldotna & Kasilof Museums

These museums will be open Sunday afternoon. Check at the conference information desk for hours.

About Our Theme

Connections and Disconnections in Alaska History

This year's conference theme, "Connections and Disconnections in Alaska History," speaks to how historic developments have had both positive and negative impacts on the territory and state. We hoped the theme would inspire presenters to explore many facets of Alaska. An overview of the conference schedule shows it worked.

Keynote speaker Diane Hirshberg will hone in on Alaska education, especially that affecting Indigenous and rural youth, while examining why many Alaska students struggle to succeed.

Other panels take up Alaska transportation modes and industries and colorful and unorthodox contributors to Alaska history. Even the diversity of Alaska place names reflects our historical connections and disconnections. We're especially pleased with a major focus on Kenai Peninsula history to help us better appreciate this year's conference site.

Viewing Alaska's history through the lens of connections and disconnections helps us understand our past and inform discussions and decisions about today and tomorrow.

Welcome Reception

Thursday, October 5 • 5–7 p.m.

Kick off your conference weekend at the welcome reception at the Kenai Visitors and Cultural Center, 11471 Kenai Spur Highway.

Food will be catered by Where It's At, a local company specializing in whole-food, from-scratch cooking, always prioritizing Alaska-grown products. Learn more at www.tinyurl.com/ThursdayReception

We will be welcomed by Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor Peter Micciche and entertained by dancers from Salamatof Tribe Duhdeldiht Youth Services.

The reception is generously sponsored by Nutrien.



Keynote Address

Speaker: Diane Hirshberg

From Sheldon Jackson to the Fight for Tribal Schools: The Unfinished History of Colonization’s Impact on Alaska’s Schools and Students

Across Alaska, students, especially Indigenous and rural youth, struggle to succeed in school, as measured by (admittedly flawed) standardized measures of proficiency such as graduation rates, dropout rates, and achievement test scores. Many factors are blamed for this, from high rates of teacher turnover to poor school facilities to inadequate teaching methods and curricula. However, too many policymakers, researchers, and educators fail to critically examine how historic colonization and assimilation efforts in Alaska created and propagated the current situation. Hirshberg will discuss the history of the schooling system in Alaska including its intended purposes from early territorial days through the residential schooling era to the present, and trace how the contemporary education system continues to reflect and suffer from this oft-unexamined history.

***Diane Hirshberg** is director and professor of education policy at the Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of Alaska Anchorage, and vice-president academic for the UArctic Thematic Network on Health and Well-being in the Arctic. Her research interests include education policy, Indigenous and circumpolar education, and the role of education in sustainable development in*



the Arctic. She co-edited the book Education, Equity and Inclusion: Teaching and Learning for a Sustainable North, published in 2023, which features her co-authored chapter “Adaptation isn’t Just for the Tundra: Rethinking Teaching and Learning in Alaska’s Arctic.” Her current work focuses on the role of education and knowledge sharing in self-determined sustainable development in remote villages and in supporting community efforts to build energy security and sustainability in northern and Indigenous communities. Hirshberg teaches in the Master of Public Policy Program at UAA. She has a Ph.D. in education from UCLA, an MPA from Columbia University, and two bachelor’s degrees from UC Berkeley.

 **BREAK TIME**
10–10:30 a.m.
SPONSOR:
Soldotna Historical Society

SESSION 1: Alaskans Who Shaped Our History

Moderator: Patricia Partnow

The Courage of a Haida Woman: How Agnes McAlpin Won Her Human Rights in Divorce Court

Agnes McAlpin, a Haida woman from Kasaan, made headlines in 1906 when she sued her white husband for divorce in Pennsylvania. She said he had kept her in an attic, never introducing her to visitors and humiliating her. Her husband countered that his Klondike-era marriage to a Native had lowered his status. A boarding school alumna, McAlpin impressed Pennsylvanians with her eloquent testimony. Winning the divorce but never paid alimony, McAlpin returned with her children to Alaska only to be declared an unfit parent by an Oregon boarding school. Her forgotten story of resilience ended with her death from tuberculosis at age 35.

*A former journalist for the New York Times and other outlets, **Marcia Biederman** is the author of four nonfiction books about overlooked American women, described on her website marciabiederman.com. In January 2023, Biederman, a non-Native, presented a talk on her preliminary research to the Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum with the cooperation of Agnes McAlpin's descendants in Ketchikan.*

Auction and book room!

Please visit the conference book room where the Alaska Historical Society's annual silent auction and a bargain book sale will be. There will be copies of the auction catalog on the AHS website and at the conference information table. The auction will close on Saturday at 3:30 p.m. so those with winning bids can collect and pay for their treasures.

Several conference attendees plan to be at tables in the conference book room from time-to-time with publications for sale as well.

Benny Benson's Bilking and Diminution

Benny Benson is among the most famous Alaskans for the handsome flag he designed. He entered a contest that offered prizes and implied celebrity. He won the contest. What is not well known is that much that Benson was promised was often not delivered but was instead bilked—or taken without justification. Instead of celebrity, instead of an increase of fame, diminution—a reduction—has occurred. The author asserts that the bilking and diminution of Benson occurred again and again throughout his life and into his afterlife, and its foundation is based upon the dark color of his skin.

***Michael Livingston** was raised in Cold Bay. He worked in Alaska as a police officer for about 28 years and now is a cultural heritage specialist with the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association. He received his Ph.D. in education from Idaho State University.*

The Best People on Earth: Connections and Disconnections in the Writings of Philemon Tutiakoff

Philemon Tutiakoff (1927–1985) played pivotal roles in Unanga̋ affairs, culminating with efforts to redress the dislocation and treatment of his people during World War II. An unforgettable presence during his lifetime, now almost 40 years after his death his writings—thoughtful, insightful, confrontational, and lively—constitute an unparalleled glimpse into the difficulties experienced by Unanga̋ in the second half of the 20th century and the resoluteness with which these challenges were met.

***Ray Hudson** lived in the Aleutians for 28 years. He has edited and written a number of articles and books about the region.*

SESSION 2: Building Alaska through Industry & Education

Moderator: Pennelope Goforth

Development of Alaska Native Programs at the University of Alaska Anchorage

After passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, the number of Alaska Natives attending college rapidly increased, and then Anchorage Community College began developing programs to support them. These programs continued to expand through the college's merger into the University of Alaska. They ranged from the comprehensive Native Student Services to student organizations to Alaska Native studies programs. This presentation will highlight key individuals and committees/task forces that united university and Native communities and fought to develop Alaska Native programs at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Taiyo Itoh is a doctoral student studying educational policies at the University of Oregon. He works as a research associate in the Office of Institutional Research at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

The Boom and Bust of Bristol Bay's Commercial Salmon Fishery

At the turn of the 20th century, commercial salmon fisheries in the Pacific Northwest collapsed. Cannery operators ventured into Bristol Bay, Alaska, looking to make their fortunes from uncommercialized salmon runs. Cannery operators saw Alaska's fishery as an opportunity, and they headed for Alaska in early spring every year. The success of the Alaska salmon fishery created a boom in the salmon industry and cannery operators flocked to the newfound fishery. Overfishing and poor management harmed the fishery. Alaska statehood in 1959 heralded a new era in salmon management, introducing scientific management techniques.

Bridget Groat is the director of Native American and Indigenous Studies at the University of Wyoming. She grew up in Naknek, Alaska, and received her Ph.D. in 2019 from Arizona State University.

Oral Histories of Workers' Knowledge on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System

How did workers constructing the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System understand their work? And what knowledge did they produce? The TAPS was proposed, debated, constructed, and operationalized in a frenzy of less than a decade. The TAPS was a private infrastructure project of unparalleled public impact. How did workers understand themselves amidst environmental controversy, the oil crisis, a recession, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and ongoing social turbulence? My research is based on oral histories conducted with TAPS workers to tell a history of workers who were integral to shaping American energy, environmental, and economic policy amidst significant sociopolitical and ecological turbulence.

Matt McIntosh is an educator, graduate student worker, union organizer, and master's student at the University of Oregon. He once floated the Noatak River from its source to Kotzebue.

NO-HOST LUNCH

Kenai River Campus Café

Friday, October 6 • 12–1 p.m.

Stay on campus for a quick lunch with AHS colleagues at the Kenai River Campus Café. You'll find soup, grilled cheese sandwiches, and other items on the regular cafe menu.

Cafe hours are 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

SESSION 1: Unorthodox Contributors to Alaska History

Moderator: Rachel Mason

Charles Tanqilnguq Hunt and the Village of Caniliaq: Yup'it and Non-Natives at the North Mouth of the Yukon River 1937–1945

Charles Francis (Tanqilnguq) Hunt was the first Native American to be designated a National Conservation Hero with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2000. As the head Yup'ik employee as well as a subsistence hunter on Alaska's Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, he forged links with sport hunters in California, Washington, Oregon and Alaska which helped bring back populations of four species of Arctic nesting geese. This presentation is about Hunt's ancestors at the north mouth of the Yukon River, primarily in the former village of Caniliaq, and about two teachers, a trader, and a priest also in the area.

Cynthia Wentworth, born and raised in Anchorage, is a former economist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She holds a master's degree in cultural anthropology from École Hautes Études Sciences Sociales (School for Advanced Social Science Studies) in Paris, France.

One 1915 Alaskero Has a Name

Oceans and port towns. Sugar plantations and salmon canneries. Diplomats and movie stars. Marriages and secrets. Six wars, six continents, and 100 voyages. All true. This presentation shows how ships and Filipinos changed Alaska, internationally and economically. On April 7, 1915, a square rigger shipped Dionisio Rodill and 99 other Filipinos from San Francisco to Larsen Bay. The salmon they canned shipped globally during World War I. Those same 100 Alaskeros organized Larsen Bay's annual July 4 merry-making. Because Dionisio kept a party photo, today, one of those 100 has a name.

Diane Rodill, Ph.D., is completing an 1894–1977 historical biography, with memoir, of her father, A Filipino Rascal: Philippine Revolution to Korean War. See www.dianerodill.com.

The Continuing Mystery of Mr. Petroff's History, Part II

This presentation picks up the story of Ivan Petroff following the conclusion of "Part I" that was shared during the 2022 Alaska Historical Society conference, with special emphasis on activities in Cook Inlet, the Kenai Peninsula, and the surrounding region. Petroff's various employment with the U.S. Army, U.S. Treasury, and U.S. State Department is explored alongside his work as customs collector, census agent, freelance writer, linguist, historian, and vagabond. Any serious evaluation of Alaska in the late 19th century must come to terms with the sources and enigma of Ivan Petroff, while wrestling with the complex life and motivations of Alaska's first American-era historian and honorary member of the AHS.

Colonel Russ Vanderlugt currently serves as joint director of Plans (J5), Alaskan NORAD Region and Alaskan Command, JBER, Alaska. During his previous assignment he earned an Army-sponsored doctorate in Arctic and Northern History at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. His doctoral dissertation investigated Indigenous–military relations and history in Alaska.

SESSION 2: Paving the Way to Statehood

Moderator: David Ramseur

Reassessing the Alaska Native “Transition” Thesis Between Statehood and ANCSA

This presentation looks at a distinct movement in Alaska’s scholarship between statehood and ANCSA, what I term the “transition” thesis. During those years, a body of acculturation- and modernization-themed studies on Alaska Natives was published which centered culture as the preeminent factor in economic difference. This was a time when Walt Rostow, Alexander Gerschenkron, and David Landes all postulated a European economic culture akin to Max Weber’s Protestant ethic. I argue against some primordial Native culture negatively affecting material conditions, and contend that conditions were worse where American economic and education bodies and institutions permeated northern Alaska communities most acutely.

Ethan Hartwig is a M.A. history student in his last semester at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He became interested in Alaska’s rich history after living in Juneau for several years.

Structures, Skills, and Statehood: How the Second World War Made Alaska Statehood Possible

World War II brought hundreds of thousands of men and women to Alaska to build defense installations and infrastructure, harbors, roads and airfields. While the infrastructure was important to future statehood, the skills of the people who remained or returned after the war were even more important. These people, and their skills, were what made statehood possible. Using personal recollections, memoirs, and other sources, this presentation documents the importance of the talents possessed by those who either maintained or expanded the infrastructure left by the war and helped make post-war Alaska ready for statehood.

Paul Dauphinais is a retired academic administrator who enjoys research after working and teaching history at several institutions including the University of Alaska. He is particularly interested in how everyday individuals, people we rarely read about, make history.

The Legacy of Canadian-American Military Cooperation in Alaska

Canadian and American military members served together defending Alaska in World War II against Japan. Cold War security concerns meant Canadian military contributions to defend Alaska continued. The 1957 North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) agreement ensured the defense of Alaska would be a shared and coordinated military effort. By the early 1980s and continuing today, the Canadians established a permanent detachment in Alaska and embedded their personnel with U.S. forces. This close military connection has weathered the vicissitudes of politics and tight budgets. In fact, this legacy provides a framework for military cooperation in the face of today’s increased security challenges in the Arctic.

Kristi Swain is a retired U.S. Air Force officer whose experience includes assignments in Alaska and at NORAD headquarters in Colorado Springs. She is currently a doctoral student in the Arctic and Northern Studies Department at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.



BREAK TIME

2:15–2:30 p.m.

SPONSORS:

Kenai Historical Society
& North Road Pioneers

CONNECTIONS & DISCONNECTIONS

in ALASKA HISTORY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

3:30–5 p.m.	TOUR – Holy Assumption Orthodox Church, Kenai
5–7 p.m.	WELCOME RECEPTION – Kenai Visitors and Cultural Center. Sponsor: Nutrien

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

8:30–10 a.m.	<p>KEYNOTE LECTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Diane Hirshberg – From Sheldon Jackson to the Fight for Tribal Schools: The Unfinished History of Colonization’s Impact on Alaska’s Schools and Students
10–10:30 a.m.	BREAK – Sponsor: Soldotna Historical Society
10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.	<p>SESSION 1: ALASKANS WHO SHAPED OUR HISTORY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Marcia Biederman – The Courage of a Haida Woman: How Agnes McAlpin Won Her Human Rights in Divorce Court » Michael Livingston – Benny Benson’s Bilking and Diminution (remote) » Ray Hudson – The Best People on Earth: Connections and Disconnections in the Writings of Philemon Tutiakoff (remote) <p>SESSION 2: BUILDING ALASKA THROUGH INDUSTRY & EDUCATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Taiyo Itoh – Development of Alaska Native Programs at the University of Alaska Anchorage » Bridget Groat – The Boom and Bust of Bristol Bay’s Commercial Salmon Fishery » Matt McIntosh – Oral Histories of Workers’ Knowledge on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System
12–1 p.m.	NO-HOST LUNCH – On site at Kenai River Campus Café
1–2:15 p.m.	<p>SESSION 1: UNORTHODOX CONTRIBUTORS TO ALASKA HISTORY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Cynthia Wentworth – Charles Tanqiilnguq Hunt and the Village of Caniliaq: Yup’it and Non-Natives at the North Mouth of the Yukon River 1937–1945 » Diane Rodill – One 1915 Alaskero Has a Name (remote) » Russell Vanderlugt – The Continuing Mystery of Mr. Petroff’s History, Part II <p>SESSION 2: PAVING THE WAY TO STATEHOOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Ethan Hartwig – Reassessing the Alaska Native “Transition” Thesis Between Statehood and ANCSA » Paul Dauphinais – Structures, Skills, and Statehood: How the Second World War Made Alaska Statehood Possible » Kristi Swain – The Legacy of Canadian-American Military Cooperation in Alaska
2:15–2:30 p.m.	BREAK – Sponsors: Kenai Historical Society and North Road Pioneers
2:30–3:45 p.m.	<p>SESSION 1: COLORFUL CHARACTERS IN EARLY 20TH CENTURY ALASKA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » David Greenham – The Last School Teacher in Council, Alaska (remote) » Jackie Pels – Two by Land, One by Sea: Nipper, Kusko, and Patsy on the Job » Leanna Prax Williams – Whose Territory? The Civil Aeronautics Board in Alaska, 1938-1958 <p>SESSION 2: GUNBOATS, MISSIONS AND TOURISM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Dan Monteith – From “Gunboat” Frontier to “Civil” Control: The Beginning of Social Injustice for the Tlingit in Southeast Alaska » Rebecca Poulson – Presbyterians in Tlingit America » Bill Youngs – Early Alaska Tourism and the Encounter with Alaska Natives
3:45–4:15 p.m.	BREAK – Sponsors: Kenai Historical Society and North Road Pioneers
4:15–5:45 p.m.	ANNUAL AHS BUSINESS MEETING
6:30–8 p.m.	FILM – Steve Kahn and Anne Coray: <i>Rebuilding Brown</i>

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

KENAI PENINSULA DAY

8–9:30 a.m.	SESSION: PLANES, TRAINS AND POWER <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Pierce Bateman – The Air Passenger Crossroads of the World: Anchorage in the Age of the Jet Set, 1946–1991» Ian Hartman – Reflections on 100 Years of the Alaska Railroad» Philip Wight – Children of the Midnight Sun: A History of Alaskan Electrification
9:30–10:00 a.m.	BREAK – Sponsor: Resurrection Bay Historical Society
10 a.m.–12 p.m.	KENAI PENINSULA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MEETING <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Cooper Landing, Hope, Kasilof, Kenai, Nikiski, Seward, Soldotna historical societies
12–1 p.m.	NO-HOST LUNCH – On site food trucks Promethean Cuisine and Wok N’ Roll FILM – Jeanette Pedginski: <i>Nourishing the Kenai</i>
1–3 p.m.	SESSION: LIVING ON THE KENAI PENINSULA <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Adam Dunstan – Exploring the Relationship Between Salmon and Kahtnuht’ana Dena’ina Communities in the Nineteenth Century: A Cultural Keystone Species Approach» Jonathon Ross – Tikahtnuht’ana Etnena: Qbeŋnenqultses (Cook Inlet Dena’ina Territory: From When Things Have Been Happening to the People)» Doug Baily – The Tanker <i>Rebecca</i> Incident: Alaska Comes of Age as an Oil State» Joshua Wisniewski – “Fish Aren’t Money”: Stories of Stewardship, Responsibility and in Defense of an Alaska Small Boat Fishing Way of Life» Marilyn Sigman – Shifting Baselines and Response to Ecological Change in Kachemak Bay, Alaska
3–3:30 p.m. 3:30–5 p.m.	BREAK – Sponsors: Hope/Sunrise Historical Society & Cooper Landing Historical Society SESSION: ALASKA PLACE NAMES <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Roger Pearson, Gregory Weissenberg and Michael James Letzring – Russian Alaska: Toponymic Perspectives» Gerrit Verbeek – Choss Lore: An Atlas of Geographic Naming History in Southcentral Alaska» James Kari and Gerad M. Smith – Discussion of the Kari-Smith Atlas of Alaska Dene Place Names
6–9 p.m.	BANQUET – Paradisos Restaurant, Kenai

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

8–9:30 a.m.	SESSION: LOST ALASKANS AND PROJECT JUKEBOX <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Ellen Ganley and Shir Lev Bach – Finding the Lost Alaskans: Volunteer and Researcher Experiences with the Morningside Hospital History Project» Karen Brewster – Conversations About Change: Observations of Environmental Change and Effects on People at Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Skagway, Alaska, and Bering Land Bridge National Preserve in Nome, Alaska (remote)
9:30–9:45 a.m. 9:45–10:45 a.m.	BREAK – Sponsor: Kasilof Regional Historical Association SESSION 1: WORKSHOP <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Freya Anderson – Copyright Q & A SESSION 2: EARLY CARTOGRAPHY AND COMMERCIALIZATION <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Jared Freedline – Early Alaskan Identity: Views from Early Alaskan Cartography» Penelope Goforth and Leslie Fried – From Purchase to Prosperity: The Jewish Founders of the Alaska Commercial Company and Their Contributions to the Acquisition in America’s Last Frontier
10:45–11 a.m.	BREAK – Sponsor: Kasilof Regional Historical Association
11 a.m.–12 p.m.	AHS – Going Forward <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Will Schneider, Bathsheba Demuth, Ian Hartman, Molly McCammon – An Introduction to the Critical Issues Lecture Series» David Ramseur – 2024 Alaska Historical Society Conference

SESSION 1: Colorful Characters in Early 20th Century Alaska Moderator: Erik Johnson

The Last School Teacher in Council, Alaska

William “Bill” Park, a World War I veteran from Pennsylvania, traveled to Alaska aboard the SS *Yukon* in June of 1935. He worked in mining and lumber camps before heading to Fairbanks in 1937 to get more education. By 1939 he was teaching. After stints at Ophir, Larsen Bay, and Flat, he was appointed in 1947 as the teacher for the few students of Council. He enjoyed the pace of life and the students. Park taught at the Council school through 1950, the year the U.S. Census announced that the once thriving community had a population of zero. Park’s colorful letters to his siblings and his many photos are the basis for the presentation.

David Greenham grew up learning about his great-uncle Bill and his Alaska adventures. For the past 20 years or so, Greenham has collected a couple hundred “Uncle Bill” letters and photos from relatives and has been transcribing the letters and digitizing photos. Greenham is the executive director of the Maine Arts Commission, an educator, and a historical researcher who lives in Gardiner, Maine.

Two by Land, One by Sea: Nipper, Kusko, and Patsy on the Job

“We’d like to speak to Ralph Soberg” ... a call 10 years after my stepfather had died. The Alaska Department of Transportation was planning to replace a bridge he had worked on in the mid-1930s: “We know the technical details—we’re hungry for stories.” A man I contacted who had worked with Dad in various years spoke for many: “What I know about the Iliamna bridge I read in Ralph’s book!” I propose to share with AHS some stories from *Bridging Alaska*, long out of print, in tribute to various crews’ persistence and ingenuity in extremes of weather and landscape (and absence of safety measures).

Jackie Pels, born in Seward, is a graduate of Kenai Territorial High School and the School of Journalism at UC Berkeley. As *Hardscratch Press*, she and her designer partner David Johnson have published 30-plus books of memoir and community history, including her own *Unga Island Girl: Ruth’s Book*; *Any Tonnage, Any Ocean*; *Family After All: Alaska’s Jesse Lee Home (Vol. 2, Seward)*, and *Framed by Sea & Sky: Community Art in Seward, Mural Capital of Alaska*.

Whose Territory? The Civil Aeronautics Board in Alaska, 1938-1958

The Civil Aeronautics Board brought a new level of economic regulation to commercial air transport in Alaska just before World War II. In the following decades, however, the CAB repeatedly handed down decisions demonstrating profound ignorance of the territory’s conditions and development, issued from their headquarters in distant Washington D.C. Elected officials and other aviation stakeholders objected vociferously to the CAB’s out-of-touch rulemaking, suggesting that the board’s decisions ran counter to its foundational goal of fostering air commerce. This presentation outlines Alaskans’ reactions to these decisions, as found in the archival records of Alaska’s politicians and aviation stakeholders.

Leanna Prax Williams studies Alaska aviation history and culture in the UAF interdisciplinary studies Ph.D. program. She is this year’s winner of the Alaska & Polar Regions Collections and Archives McCarthy Research Award, which supported this research project.



BREAK TIME

3:45–4:15 p.m.

SPONSORS:

Kenai Historical Society
& North Road Pioneers

SESSION 2: Gunboats, Missions and Tourism

Moderator: Angela Schmidt

From “Gunboat” Frontier to “Civil” Control: The Beginning of Social Injustice for the Tlingit in Southeast Alaska

This paper and research have been in progress for the past 30 or more years. Many historians have written about the “gunboat” era of rule in Southeast Alaska, when villages were bombed and set afire. Far less has been written about the “civil” territorial government. This research will explore the legal punishment levied against the Tlingit clan leaders who attempted to assert their land and resource rights.

Daniel Monteith is a professor of anthropology at the University of Alaska Southeast. His research interests have been social justice issues and community history in Southeast Alaska.

FILM: Rebuilding Brown Friday, October 6 • 6:30–8 p.m.

While rebuilding a historic log cabin in the wilds of Alaska, an intrepid husband-and-wife team restores not only the cabin but the colorful character of the man who built it. Old timers who remember Brown Carlson share stories of his feats and foibles. Carlson was the first permanent European settler on Lake Clark, arriving in the area circa 1906.

Anne Coray is the author of the novel Lost Mountain and several poetry collections. She also co-edited the anthology Crosscurrents North: Alaskans on the Environment. Anne and Steve divide their time between Homer and Anne’s birthplace on remote Lake Clark (Qizhjuh Vena) in southwest Alaska.

Steve Kahn is a lifelong Alaskan. He is the author of The Hard Way Home: Alaska Stories of Adventure, Friendship, and the Hunt. Steve and Anne have collaborated on many projects including the book Lake Clark National Park and Preserve (Alaska Geographic, 2009).

Presbyterians in Tlingit America

Sitka’s Presbyterian mission began in 1878, a decade after the transfer of Alaska from Russia to the United States, in a period of profound transition that culminated in the Alaska we know today. Most people, even now, accept the missionary account of this period at face value. This paper will look at missionary and other documents, and the economic, social, geographic and historical context of southeastern Alaska of the late 1870s, for a more complete picture of this pivotal period.

Rebecca Poulson is an artist and writer in Sitka who has been working to record and to share Sitka’s history. She is on the boards of the Sitka Maritime Heritage Society and the Alaska Historical Society, publishes “The Outer Coast” calendar of art and poetry, and is a member of the Alaska Historical Commission.

Early Alaska Tourism and the Encounter with Alaska Natives

During the 1880s and early 1890s American tourists “discovered” Alaska, often taking part in grand tours that included Yellowstone and Yosemite, then proceeded by boat to Alaska. In addition to seeing abundant wildlife and fine glacial landscapes that John Muir lauded as equivalent to many Yosemite, they encountered Native Alaskans. I will provide examples and explore the nature of these experiences, evaluating the “authenticity” (or lack thereof) of the encounters. For comparison, I will describe the way that modern national parks are moving toward providing greater Native agency in managing the tourist experience in the parks.

Bill Youngs is a professor of American history at Eastern Washington University, where he teaches several environmentally-themed courses, notably “The History of National Parks” and “The History of the American Wilderness.” He has published five books and is currently working on an anthology of Klondike gold rush narratives.

Annual Business Meeting

To join via Zoom: www.tinyurl.com/AHS-bizmtg23

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Welcome Remarks *David Ramseur*
Introduction of 2022–23 Officers and Board of Directors
2. Approval of Minutes of 2022 Annual Meeting *Angela Schmidt*
Secretary’s Report
3. Treasurer’s Report *Erik Johnson*
4. Program Reports:
 - Board of Directors Election *Michael Hawfield*
 - Membership *Jo Antonson*
 - Newsletter *David Ramseur*
 - Alaska History* *Ross Coen*
 - Website *Kaila Pfister*
 - Social Media *Erik Johnson*
 - 2023 Conference *Rachel Mason*
 - Advocacy *Molly McCammon*
 - State Library, Archives and Museums *Amy Phillips-Chan*
 - Office of History & Archaeology *Judy Bittner*
 - Critical Issues Lecture Series *Will Schneider*
 - Alaska History Day *Leanna Prax Williams*
 - Records and Collections *Jo Antonson*
 - Other
 - United States 250th Anniversary . . *Erik Johnson & David Ramseur*
 - Non-profit Sponsor Projects *Jo Antonson*
 - Logo Redesign *David Ramseur*
 - Memorials (to be presented at banquet) *Angela Schmidt*
 - Awards (to be presented at banquet) *David Ramseur*
5. Other Business
 - 2024 Conference Location *David Ramseur*
 - Member Remarks *David Ramseur*
6. Adjourn *David Ramseur*

SESSION: Planes, Trains and Power

Moderator: Erik Johnson

The Air Passenger Crossroad of the World: Anchorage in the Age of the Jet Set, 1946–1991

Long considered the “Air Crossroad of the World,” today Anchorage claims this title because of the amount of global air cargo that passes through its airport each year. Until 1991, however, the city was not a cargo crossroad, but rather one for passenger travel. This paper explores the history of Anchorage as a global passenger crossroad in the post-World War II period and argues that the international connections made at Anchorage reshaped the trajectory of Alaska’s economy, politics, and culture that characterize the city and state today. Furthermore, this paper proposes a framework of analysis for airports as historical places.

Pierce A. Bateman is a historian who writes about Alaska, the Arctic, and the modern world. He is currently a doctoral candidate studying history at the University of Oregon and works as an instructor for the University of Alaska Fairbanks Community and Technical College.

Reflections on 100 Years of the Alaska Railroad

Long before it was known as Anchorage, the Indigenous Dena’ina lived and subsisted in the region for more than a thousand years. But over the last one hundred years, the Alaska Railroad has been a durable presence in Anchorage and a pillar of the territorial and then state economy. The people who have worked for the Alaska Railroad have participated in the social and cultural life of Anchorage. This paper highlights a few of the pivotal moments in the railroad’s hundred-year history and highlights a few individuals whose stories convey the impact that the railroad has had upon our state.

Ian C. Hartman is an associate professor and chair of the Department of History at the University of Alaska Anchorage. He researches and teaches on topics related to Alaska and the American West. He recently partnered with the National Park Service to write a history of Blacks in Alaska. He also has worked with the Anchorage Museum on exhibitions and continuing education courses, most recently on an exhibit that explores the history of the Alaska Railroad.

Children of the Midnight Sun: A History of Alaska Electrification

Alaska’s electrical history traces back to at least 1893, when a Juneau merchant named Willis Thorp installed a water wheel and produced electricity from Gold Creek. A decade after Thomas Edison electrified Manhattan with the first commercial generating station in 1882, Juneau became one of America’s first electrified cities. This presentation, adapted from a forthcoming edited volume by University of Alaska Press, traces the electrification of Alaska and demonstrates how electricity became not only a crucial innovation for Alaska’s development, but also how Alaska impacted (and continues to influence) the electrification of the United States.

Philip Wight is an assistant professor of history and Arctic and Northern Studies at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He is an environmental and energy historian and focuses on histories of infrastructure, mobility, and climate.



BREAK TIME

9:30–10 a.m.

SPONSOR:

Resurrection Bay Historical Society

MEETING: Kenai Peninsula Historical Association Saturday, October 7 • 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

The Kenai Peninsula Historical Association's fall meeting will postpone its regular business following the president's and treasurer's reports and review of their last meeting minutes. After introducing the purpose and activities of the KPHA, each member group—Cooper Landing, Hope/Sunrise, Kasilof, Kenai, North Road Pioneers (Nikiski), Seward and Soldotna historical societies—will talk about the organization, summer activities, and winter plans.

NO-HOST LUNCH

Food Trucks

Saturday, October 7 • 12–1 p.m.

Grab lunch from food trucks coming to the Kenai Peninsula College campus—just for us!—and catch a film, *Nourishing the Kenai* (see next page).

PROMETHEAN CUISINE creates eclectic and eccentric food choices. Learn more at www.prometheancuisine.com.

WOK N' ROLL features Asian fusion, barbeque and Filipino dishes. Get a preview at www.facebook.com/soldotna.ak.us/.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7 • KENAI PENINSULA DAY • 1:00– 3:00 P.M.

SESSION: Living on the Kenai Peninsula Moderator: Shana Loshbaugh

Exploring the Relationship Between Salmon and Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina Communities in the 19th Century: A Cultural Keystone Species Approach

This paper adopts a Cultural Keystone Species model to examine the plethora of roles played by luq'a (salmon) in Kahtnuht'ana (Kenai River) Dena'ina communities prior to the development of the commercial salmon industry in the late 19th century. In addition to being a dietary mainstay, salmon were a major factor in the location and timing of qayeh (village) sites, naming of months and clans, hunting of land mammals, and sukdu/storytelling. This approach broadens our understanding of Dena'ina/salmon relationality in this time period and highlights the applicability of the Cultural Keystone Species model for ethnohistorical research.

Adam Dunstan is an anthropology professor at Kenai Peninsula College. He researches Indigenous knowledge, environmental policy, and the anthropology of religion, among other topics.

Tikahtnuht'ana Ełnena: Qbełnenqultses (Cook Inlet Dena'ina Territory): From When Things Have Been Happening to the People

This presentation will highlight some of the local Kenai connections and disconnections in Tikahtnuht'ana Ełnena (traditional Cook Inlet Dena'ina territory), which shed light on how colonialism, industrialization and global conflict have impacted the Tikahtnuht'ana (Cook Inlet Dena'ina people).

Jon Ross sh'izhi. En'ushen Dena'inaq' sh'izhibhdilan. Sh'itsatna Yaghanen Ht'ana ghila. Dena'inaq' ełnenaq' yeshdu ch'q'u ghetnuh. In English: My name is Jon Ross. My Dena'ina name is En'ushen. My ancestors are the Kenai Peninsula people. I live and work on the land of the Dena'ina.

The Tanker Rebecca Incident: Alaska Comes of Age as An Oil State

The 1957 discovery of oil near Kenai enriched Alaska, contributed to gaining statehood, and introduced oil spills and damage to fishing gear to Cook Inlet. When in 1968 the tanker *Rebecca* was observed discharging oily sludge into Kachemak Bay, Governor Hickel ordered state troopers to

LUNCH HOUR FILM: Nourishing the Kenai

Saturday, October 7 • 12–1 p.m.

Nourishing the Kenai is a 25-minute documentary filmed and produced by Emrys Eller, who grew up in the central Kenai Peninsula. The film features farmers of all age groups, wild harvesters and local food professionals. We sought to create an emotionally moving piece which promotes local healthy food and ancient food traditions, not through facts and logic, but through the audience's emotional and instinctual longings. This approach crosses the boundaries between all demographics and political affiliations, making it an effective vehicle for societal

change. Connections and disconnections may be addressed through the topic of feeding our communities in sustainable ways.

Jeanette Pedginski represents the Kenai Local Food Connection, a non-profit organization composed of people who are passionate about eating locally grown and sustainably harvested food. They engage in activities which support their belief that eating healthy food is foundational to supporting healthy communities.

seize the tanker and arrest the captain. The legal proceedings which followed this first oil spill addressed by the State of Alaska disclosed that the state had no applicable laws to deal with oil spills and pollution. The incident and the response by the Legislature marked Alaska's coming of age as an oil state.

Doug Baily of Homer engaged in oil exploration in Alaska before becoming a lawyer in 1965. He was district attorney in Anchorage in 1968 with principal responsibility for designing and conducting the state's legal case against the Rebecca and her captain. He was attorney general of Alaska at the time of the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

"Fish Aren't Money:" Stories of Stewardship, Responsibility and in Defense of an Alaska Small-Boat Fishing Way of Life

Fishermen's life stories from across the Gulf of Alaska provide unique perspectives on Alaska's commercial fisheries within a historic context of technological change, management regimes, personal values and diverse histories of place. Their stories illustrate the increasing marginalization of small-boat fishermen, in part driven by rationalization, individual quota share and limited entry programs that have restricted access and opportunity for small-scale fishermen. They also provide hope and illuminate the possibilities that equitable, open-access, small-boat fisheries offer as a viable and sustainable alternative to the expansion of corporate-owned fisheries and increased commodification of our ocean commons.

Josh Wisniewski is a small-boat commercial fisherman, poet and oral historian. He lives near Seldovia on the south side of Kachemak Bay.

Shifting Baselines and Response to Ecological Change in Kachemak Bay, Alaska

The phenomenon of shifting ecological baselines—the perceptions of individuals about what is “normal,” enhanced, or diminished within the context of their own lifetimes and of natural resource managers who rely on scientific data gathered after the colonization of Alaska—confounds our potential cultural and societal resilience to human-caused rapid global warming. Humans have occupied Kachemak Bay for at least 8,000 years according to archaeological evidence. The oral histories of the Dena'ina and Sugpiat/Alutiit extend their presence in their traditional territories into time immemorial. What can a deep historical dive into shifting ecologies and cultural responses tell us about human resilience?

Marilyn Sigman is a former director of the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies in Homer and marine education specialist for the University of Alaska Fairbanks Alaska Sea Grant program. She is the author of the book Entangled: People and Ecological Change in Alaska's Kachemak Bay.



BREAK TIME

3–3:30 p.m.

SPONSORS:

Hope/Sunrise Historical Society & Cooper Landing Historical Society

SESSION: Alaska Place Names

Moderator: Philip Wight

Russian Alaska: Toponymic Perspectives

Donald Orth's *Dictionary of Alaska Place Names* listed virtually all the existing toponyms in Alaska as of the late 1960s. It also featured geographic and historical notes on the toponyms. To date, limited historical-geographical research has emerged from this exceptional resource. This paper views Alaska's pre-1867 Russian toponyms from three perspectives: geographical, historical, and linguistic. Additionally, locational data is digitized, making it available for geographic information systems (GIS) analysis. The study identifies Russian toponyms from three time periods: pre-1799, 1799 to 1867, and post-Russian Alaska, 1868 to the present. Only transliterated Russian toponyms have been used in the study.

Roger Pearson is a professor of geography emeritus, University of Alaska Fairbanks, and senior fellow, Institute of the North.

Gregory Weissenberg is a retired Kenai Peninsula Borough School District high school teacher of history and Russian and is now an independent researcher.

Michael James Letzring is a geospatial analyst, Arctic Coastal Geoscience Lab, University of Alaska Fairbanks. His 2022 doctoral dissertation examined the 1903 Alaska Boundary Dispute through GIS-based analysis of historical cartography.

Choss Lore: An Atlas of Geographic Naming History in Southcentral Alaska

Choss Lore is a free, public, digital atlas which presents the stories behind geographic place names between the Susitna and Copper rivers including the Kenai Peninsula and Prince William Sound. The project provides a platform to teach local history in an entertaining, comprehensive, and memorable way. This presentation will include a selection of interesting stories and discuss research methods and the future of the project.

Gerrit Verbeek is a resident of Anchorage with interests in history, languages, mountaineering, cartography, and data engineering. He currently works as a municipal planner for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

Discussion of the Kari-Smith Atlas of Alaska Dene Place Names

In 2012–2013, Kari and Smith began expanding Kari's Alaska Dene place names lists and databases. With over 12,500 named features in 12 contiguous languages, the *Alaska Dene Place Names Atlas* appears to be the world's largest cumulative, revisable web map for a single Indigenous language family. The rule-driven Dene place names typically are in sets of three or more highly memorable names. Additions to the webmap can come from archival sources or audiotapes of expert Dene speakers. We are exploring several licensing and user agreements with Esri so the Dene web atlas can be available to the public or for university coursework.

James Kari is a professor of linguistics emeritus at the Alaska Native Language Center, UAF.

Gerad Smith, Ph.D., is currently an assistant professor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Anthropology & Geography Department. He has 15 years of experience working across Alaska as an archaeologist and has worked closely with Kari to map traditional place names in the state since 2012.

Conference Banquet Saturday, October 7 • 6–9 p.m.

Join us for our conference banquet at Paradisos, 815 Frontage Road, Kenai. Our annual awards and memorials will be presented.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 • 8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.

SESSION: Lost Alaskans and Project Jukebox

Moderator: William Schneider

Finding the Lost Alaskans: Volunteer and Researcher Experiences with the Morningside Hospital History Project

The first part of the presentation will give an overview of the Morningside Hospital History Project since start-up in 2005. The second part focuses on community archives. The MHHP's practice of guerilla virtual reunification is a unique digitization strategy which demonstrates a new avenue for collecting a community's history outside the walls of professional archives. This strategy, however, sacrifices sustainability for independence. The third part of the presentation deals with current and future challenges to the project. Among the many questions is whether it is possible to continue without a more traditional "home" for the project, such as a state agency or university. How do we preserve project research and the patient database?

***Ellen Ganley** was the CEO of Information Insights prior to retirement. She has been a part of the Lost Alaskans/Morningside Hospital History Project since 2005.*

***Shir Bach** is a recent graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he received his master's in library science. Bach has been studying Morningside since he stumbled across the Lost Alaskans website in 2021, and he wrote his undergraduate thesis and master's paper on the topic.*

Conversations About Change: Observations of Environmental Change and Effects on People at Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Skagway, Alaska, and Bering Land Bridge National Preserve in Nome, Alaska

In 2018 and 2019, the National Park Service teamed up with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Oral History Program to record conversations with long-term residents and NPS employees in Skagway and Nome about their observations of environmental change and effects on people in their distinct coastal regions. The different geography, landscape, and lifestyles influenced how people talked about their surroundings, but there also were common themes discussed in both communities. This presentation will highlight some of the stories as viewed through the lens of environmental themes. The full interviews are available on the Observing Change in Alaska's National Parks Project Jukebox website: <https://jukebox.uaf.edu/akparkchange>.

***Karen Brewster** is a research associate with the Oral History Program/Project Jukebox at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She has conducted oral history interviews around Alaska for over 25 years on a variety of historical and cultural topics, has served on the Alaska Historical Society board, and is the author of three life histories about pioneering Alaskans.*



BREAK TIME

9:30–9:45 a.m.

SPONSOR:

Kasilof Regional Historical Association

SESSION 1: Workshop

Presenter: Freya Anderson

Copyright Q&A

Though often rightly seen as confusing or complex, at its heart copyright is about fairness, creation, and progress. Keeping that in mind, this will be a practical discussion of options in real-life situations. I will go over some basics and share a bit about the Copyright First Responders Alaska group, but mostly, this workshop will address copyright and related issues by discussing real-life issues, so bring your copyright questions and conundrums to share. You will not

walk away with legal advice, but will end up with a toolbox of ideas, sources, and possible approaches.

Freya Anderson has been working at the Alaska State Library since 2000 in different positions, but one common thread has been her passion about copyright law, particularly in a research and cultural heritage setting. While she has participated in copyright training with lawyers and national experts, she prefers to discuss real-life options for librarians, archivists, and researchers.

SESSION 2: Early Cartography and Commercialization

Moderator: Michael Hawfield

Early Alaskan Identity: Views from Early Alaskan Cartography

This paper examines the similarities and differences between Russian, English, French, and American cartographers during the 1500s–1800s. Some of the cartographers discussed in this paper are Jean Denis Janvier, Didier Robert de Vaugondy, A.W. Greely, Catherine II, Empress of Russia, and George Vancouver. With these cartographers and maps, we can see a nation's influence on the identity of Alaska and how international relations and policies influence the image of Alaska in governments worldwide.

***Jared Freedline** is a graduate student at the University of Central Florida. He studies early American and world cartography, and his thesis is on early Floridian cartography.*

From Purchase to Prosperity: The Jewish Founders of the Alaska Commercial Company and their Contribution to the Acquisition of America's Last Frontier

The arrival of the ACC in 1868 profoundly altered the lives of the Indigenous peoples of the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands. Severing them from the Russian model of serfdom and connecting them to western capitalism, ACC operated as more than a fur trading company. In the absence of U.S. civil government, it built infrastructure (schools, wharves, warehouses, and roads) and administered justice. Showcasing the new virtual exhibition of the Alaska Jewish Museum, this presentation looks at the Jewish founders of the ACC and how the three principles of Judaism—charity, education, and social justice—played a major role in the administration of ACC stores in Alaska then and now.

***J. Penelope Goforth** is a former journalist who has written articles and a book, *Sailing the Mail in Alaska*, about maritime history. She has lived and traveled throughout the Aleutian Islands, Bristol Bay and Southeast Alaska for many decades.*

***Leslie Fried** was born in Tel Aviv, Israel, and came to New York at the age of six. In addition to her position as curator of the Alaska Jewish Museum in Anchorage, she is a writer who turned to poetry after 30 years as a scenic artist in theater and film and a muralist working in paint and plaster. Recently, she published her first book, *Lily Is Leaving*, through Alaska's Cirque Press.*



BREAK TIME

10:45–11 a.m.

SPONSOR:

Kasilof Regional Historical Association

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 • 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Alaska Historical Society — Going Forward

Moderator: David Ramseur

An Introduction to the Critical Issues Lecture Series

This session addresses critical thinking and how history can speak to issues we face today. The goal is to encourage appreciation of multiple perspectives, reasoned weighing of facts, and the importance of civil discourse. This session introduces the upcoming year-long Critical Issues Lecture Series planned by the Alaska Historical Society in partnership with Cook Inlet Historical Society and the Anchorage Museum. Panelists in this session will draw on the historical record to provide perspectives on topics such as the Ameri-

canization of Alaska, Native sovereignty, conservation and development, and climate change.

***Will Schneider** is emeritus professor, University of Alaska Fairbanks.*

***Ian Hartman** is associate professor of history and department head, University of Alaska Anchorage.*

***Molly McCammon** is senior advisor, Alaska Ocean Observatory System.*

***Bathsheba Demuth** is dean's assistant professor for history and environmental studies, Brown University*

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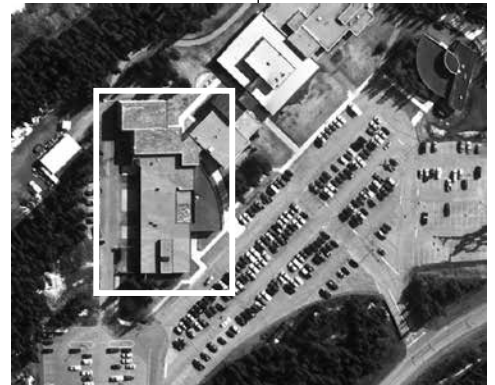
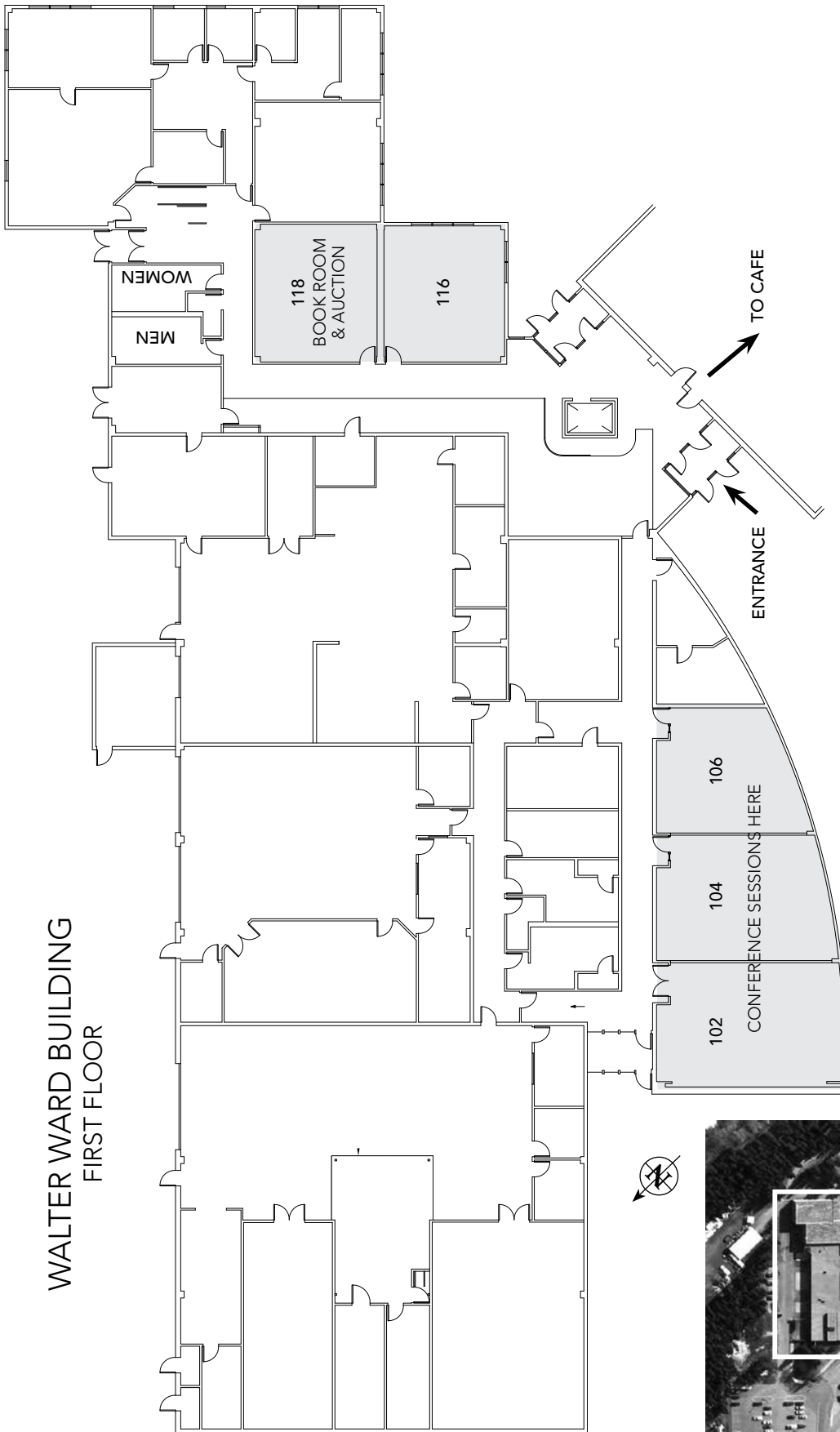
If you found this program interesting, you like working on projects that promote history, and you think it would be fun to meet with like-minded folks, please join or renew your membership in the Alaska Historical Society. There is a lot to share, from advocating for preservation of our treasures to compiling position papers on pressing issues such as the role of controversial monuments and statues. Lend your skills to building programs on history and help us reach out to local historical societies to spread their news. Get in on the fun!

It is easy to join or renew by going to www.alaskahistoricalociety.org and then to Membership & Giving. Or send a check to AHS, P.O. Box 100299, Anchorage, AK 99510. Memberships are for January 1–December 31 each year. Membership levels include:

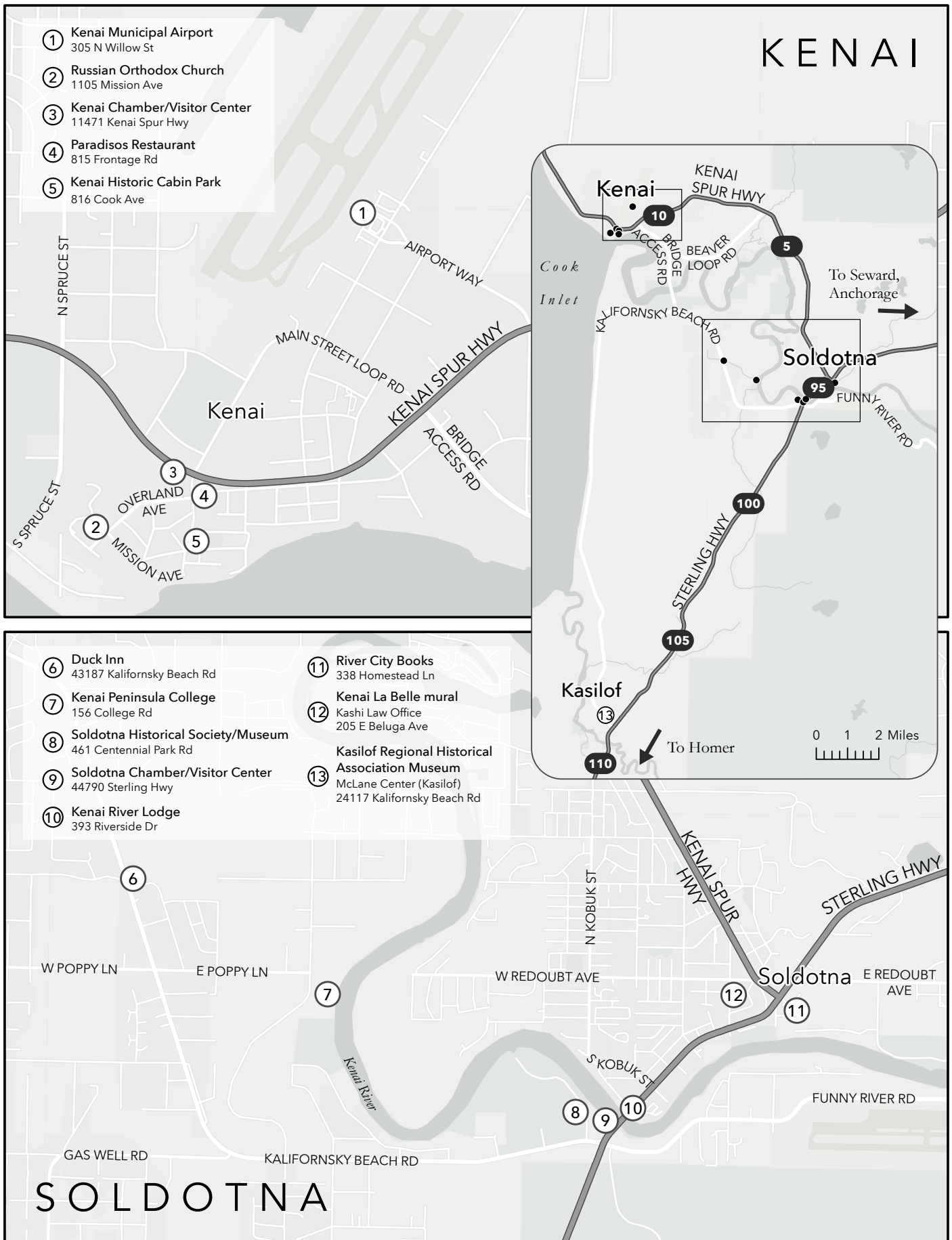
- Individual \$35
- Family \$45
- Organization \$50
- Patron \$100
- Sponsor \$250
- Life \$600
- Student \$25

Benefits of membership include receiving the semiannual journal *Alaska History* and the quarterly newsletter *Alaska History News*.

WALTER WARD BUILDING
FIRST FLOOR



KENAI RIVER CAMPUS of
KENAI PENINSULA COLLEGE



Map by Celina Robinson



Alaska
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

P.O. Box 100299
Anchorage, AK 99510-0299
www.alaskahistoricalsociety.org
members@alaskahistoricalsociety.org
907-615-1255