



Alutiiq Museum Bulletin

Vol 16, No. 1, Summer 2011

Accreditation Achieved

It took 14 years and an enormous amount of work, but the Alutiiq Museum achieved a long held dream in July – national accreditation. Bestowed by the American Association of Museums, accreditation is the highest level of professional certification for museums in the United States. It indicates that a museum meets the most rigorous standards of practice in everything it does, from caring for collections, to serving the public and even preparing for emergencies.

“We set accreditation as a goal 14 years ago when we were developing the museum’s program and policies” said Deputy Director Amy Steffian. “I remember the meeting where our board and staff decided that accreditation could be a great measure for our work, that we could model the museum’s practices after those standards. We wanted the world to see that a tribal museum could be both a culturally meaningful institution and a first class, professional museum. It’s thrilling to know that we accomplished that goal.”

The Alutiiq Museum is just the seventh museum in Alaska and the second tribal museum in the United States to be accredited. The initial certification will last 15 years, then the museum must apply to renew its accreditation.

“This is a milestone for the Alutiiq Museum,” said Executive Director Sven Haakanson, Jr. “Accreditation is the professional seal of approval. It let’s others know that the Alutiiq nation has a model museum.”

Many people helped the museum reach its accreditation goal. “We are especially grateful, to Scott Carlee of the Alaska State Museum who made us believe that we were ready to begin the application process, and provided an exceptional summer intern,



April Laktonen Counciller inventories emergency preparedness supplies.

Elizabeth Manekin, to launch our bid,” said Haakanson. “Once we were in the program, it took the entire board and staff two years of application writing, documentation, correspondence, and finally a site visit to reach this day. It was a team effort and we did it. It feels amazing.”

The Experts Speak!

Who killed Father Juvenaly? What happened to the salmon smolt in Afognak Lake? What Alutiiq treasures lie in Russian Museums? The answers will be revealed during the Alutiiq Museum’s annual lecture series. Join us to hear the latest results from cultural, historical, and biological research on Kodiak and ask your questions. Hear the experts speak.

Rev. Dr. Michael Oleska
The Disappearance of Father Juvenaly
August 9th, 2011, 7:00 pm

Alisha Drabek, MA
Exploring Kodiak Alutiiq Literature
August 18th, 2011, 7:00 pm

Steven Thomsen, BA
Afognak Lake Sockeye Salmon Investigation
August 25th, 2010, 7:00 pm

Sven Haakanson, Jr., Ph.D.
Sugpiaq Collections of the Russian Museum of Ethnography
September 1st, 2011, 7:00 pm

Philip Tschersich, MS
Black Rockfish Abundance Hydroacoustic Study of Kodiak Island and Alaska Peninsula
September 8th, 2010, 7:00 pm

Gordon L. Pullar, Ph.D.
Woody Island History and the Politics of Identity
September 13th, 2010, 5:30 pm

Dan Collison and Elizabeth Meister
American Voices: Sharing the Extraordinary Stories of Ordinary People
September 22nd, 2010, 7:00 pm

Larry VanDaele, Ph.D.
Brown Bears: Northern Peoples’ Liaison with the Spirit World
September 29th, 2010, 7:00 pm

Marnie Leist, MA
Rediscovering Karluk One
October 6th, 2010, 7:00 pm

Patrick Saltonstall, MA, RPA
The Evolution of Alutiiq Houses
October 13th, 2010, 7:00 pm



Generously sponsored by Ardingers Fine Furnishings & Gifts, GCI, the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Kodiak College Library, Mill Bay Coffee, On the Cape Vacation Rentals, the Old Powerhouse Restaurant, the Rasmuson Foundation, RC Enterprises, and Sea Hawk Air.
Quyanaa – We thank you.

Cama'i - Hello


For the past 14 years the museum's staff has worked to attain National Accreditation. With the support of the American Association of Museum's MAP program, the Alaska State Museum, and many others we reached this goal (Page 1). I want to thank all of you for supporting our work toward this milestone. Your participation and donations helped the museum bring its mission to the community. You told us what you needed, and you made us better! We've reached a little farther, tried something new, and set the highest standard for the museum because of your participation. I thank you.

In many ways, accreditation sets the bar even higher for the Alutiiq Museum. It's not a static certification. We must continue to meet high standards in all we do and earn our credential again in the future. As such, your input continues to be critical as we establish future goals. Currently, we are considering the feasibility of a new facility. Over the past decade we have outgrown our space on Mission Road and need to consider how we will meet the needs of our programs in the future. Should we build a new museum, develop a stand-alone storage facility, or do something else to meet our space needs? What would you support?

Also, this fall we are launching a new initiative that involves Kodiak in exploring subsistence practices, to better understand how our ancestors harvested and used wild foods (Page 3). "You are what you eat" and like a society's art and language, its food traditions are rich in cultural information. They preserve environmental and technological information, illustrate cultural values, and unite all people around the harvesting, processing, and preparation of meals that have sustained generations. By documenting these practices and creating a set of educational resources, we hope to foster cultural learning, sustain traditions, encourage healthy eating, and celebrate how Kodiak's environment continues to provide for our community. Join us for some great learning and eating!

Thank you for helping us reach the accreditation milestone and remember your support will continue to make this little island museum achieve big.

Quyanaa,
Sven



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Alutiiq Museum Staff:

Executive Director: Sven Haakanson, Jr.
Deputy Director: Amy Steffian
Museum Manager: Katie St. John
Curator: Patrick Saltonstall
Registrar: Marnie Leist
Exhibits Coordinator: Jill Lipka
Alutiiq Language Manager: April Laktonen Counciller
Public Outreach Coordinator: Danielle Ringer
Gallery Attendant: Danica Majdic
Summer Intern: Carmen Ceron
Summer Intern: Christy Roe

The Alutiiq Museum is governed by Afognak Native Corporation, Akhiok Kaguyak Inc., KANA, Koniag Inc., Leisnoi Inc., Natives of Kodiak Inc., Old Harbor Native Corporation, and Ouzinkie Native Corporation. Each organization elects a representative to the Alutiiq Heritage Foundation, the Alutiiq Museum's board. Funding is provided by charitable contributions, membership fees, grants, contracts and sales from the museum store.

ALUTIIQ HERITAGE FOUNDATION

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Alutiiq Heritage Foundation, through the Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository, preserve the traditions of the Alutiiq people and promotes greater awareness of the rich cultural legacy of the indigenous peoples of the greater Gulf of Alaska region. Our collections are held in a repository that is accessible to the public. We encourage and support research on Alutiiq culture history, and disseminate the results of this research to the public through educational outreach, exhibits, special events, publications, and scholarly presentations.

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Kaigtuten? Are You Hungry? Foods Project funded by National Parks Service

A scatter of broken clamshells hints than an octopus is hiding under a nearby rock. Seal intestines should be rinsed with salt water before stuffing. Eating fatty king salmon can interfere with the effectiveness of some plant medicines. These are examples of the cultural knowledge about wild foods preserved in Alutiiq people. Through *Neg'rkat: The Alutiiq Wild Foods Project* the Alutiiq Museum will explore the knowledge of the Alutiiq community's most experienced wild food harvesters and cooks to document, share, and perpetuate tribal subsistence traditions.

Although wild foods are well known on Kodiak, many younger tribal members have little experience harvesting, processing, or preparing these foods. Moreover, there are few records of Alutiiq food traditions. Through a series of monthly, videotaped interviews and community events, the Alutiiq Museum will explore and document the use of 12 widely available wild foods. The process will capture fading subsistence traditions, particularly little recorded knowledge of food processing and preparation. Project videos will help the museum develop a short video on each food, a recipe booklet, and a page for the museum's website. These resources will share Alutiiq food traditions with the community and promote the perpetuation of healthy, culturally valued subsistence practices.

Do you have favorite photos of a beautiful salmon, or a bounty of beautiful berries? Do you know of a family member with video from your last ptarmigan hunt, or when you gathered bidarkies with your kids? The museum is on a hunt for images and clips to help us document foods harvested on Kodiak and develop resources to encourage young people to participate in subsistence activities. We are also looking for suggestions. Which community members should we interview? Who is the most are experienced in the harvesting and preparation of wild foods in your family or town? Please contact April Counciller – april@alutiiqmuseum.org, and let us know.

This project begins in September and will feature deer – the first of our 12 monthly foods. *Kaigtuten? Are You Hungry?* Join us to learn more.

Featured Wild Foods

September – Deer	March – Seaweed & Kelp
October – Silver Salmon	April – Cod
November – Duck	May – Red Salmon
December – Ptarmigan	June – Assorted Fresh Greens
January – Octopus	July – Berries
February – Mussels	August – Halibut



*Woman cooking in Afognak Village.
Courtesy Juney Mullen.*

Subsistence Seasoned – Greek-inspired Salmon

from April Laktonen Counciller

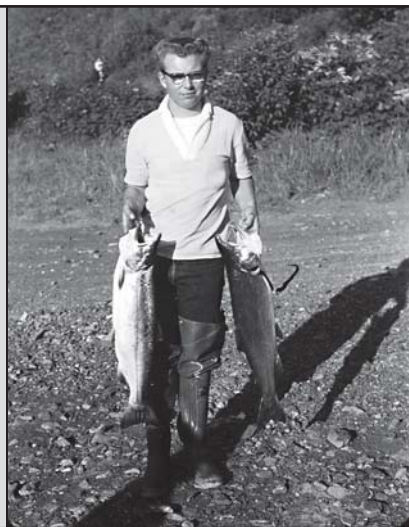
INGREDIENTS

- One fresh red salmon fillet
(or another fresh or previously frozen local fish)
- 1 tomato, chopped
- 1/2 purple onion, cut into rings
- salt and pepper, to taste
- 1/2 cup chopped feta cheese
- 4 T lemon juice
- 1 T dried dill weed

In a baking dish, sprinkle salmon fillet with salt, pepper, and dill. Top with chopped tomato and sliced onion, then with chopped feta cheese. Drizzle lemon juice over everything. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 25 minutes or until fillet is fully cooked. Enjoy.

*Nekeferoff boy with salmon,
Pasagshak 1960.*

*Nekeferoff Collection,
Gift of Robert Erickson.*



An Afternoon for Educators

Mark your calendars. The Alutiiq Museum will host a special open house for Kodiak educators on August 18th, 2011 from 3:30 – 5:00 pm. Join our staff to learn more about museum resources. Browse publications, learn of upcoming events and exhibits, take gallery and collections room tours, and discuss your special projects with us.

The Alutiiq Museum is always changing. This is an opportunity to preview our latest projects.



Girl with animal mask.

Learn how the museum can support your instruction, schedule class visits, and talk to our staff about your projects. How can we assist you? There are many opportunities for collaboration. This event is free and open to all educators – teachers, instructors, day care providers, counselors, home school parents. Door prizes will be drawn at 4:00 and 4:30 pm.

Uswitusqaq's Dream is a Kodiak Dream

Review by Jennifer Simeonoff



Finally! A fictional book centered on Alutiiq culture and the Kodiak region for young readers! Teachers and librarians have long known that the key to sparking a life-long passion for reading starts when a person makes a meaningful, personal connection to text—when they see themselves in a story. *Uswitusqaq's Dream* will help fill the literary void for our Alutiiq youngsters. Kodiak bookshelves make space for this book!

Although authored by an Australian, Leighton's story contains a surprising plethora of details about traditional Alutiiq culture and the abundant landscape of Kodiak Island. Kodiak Islanders will recognize their shining home in the pages of this book. Off-islanders will be transported to our Alaskan island in a dream of their own. Educators will find it a delicious fictional treat to complement any study of sea otters or Alutiiq education.

In the story, devoted brothers, Tanqiq and Kuuku, fight with and look after each other on their quest to find sea otters at a time when the animals are believed to have been eradicated. The boys' satisfyingly different personalities make an interesting character study for comparing and contrasting. Readers, however, may be confused about their age. They are written as young boys, but have girlfriends back home. This may be culturally and historically accurate, but may unnecessarily confuse young readers. Additionally, the beginning of the story, while rich in setting and character development, has an underdeveloped sense of why the mission is important, even with the explanation offered in the introduction. The resulting

slow beginning may discourage reluctant readers. Things pick up, however, when Tanqiq and Kuuku must navigate through some sticky situations that will thrill adventure fans to the end. Animal lovers, meanwhile, will absolutely fall in love with the vulnerable baby otter, Mik'i. Mik'i and his mother irresistibly appear on the front cover; Squartsoff's eye-catching art will have readers snatching the book off the shelves. Petroglyph graphics peppered throughout the book also lend the story Alutiiq flavor and adds a whimsical touch that children are sure to respond to.

Alutiiq language learners and teachers will rejoice in having this book in their hands as an entertaining platform to expose learners to Alutiiq vocabulary. Alutiiq terms are sprinkled throughout the story in a natural manner, not forced or overdone. While there is a comprehensive glossary of Alutiiq terms in the back of the book, the first page of each chapter also has a glossary of that chapter's words. This feature reduces the amount of page-flipping for definitions, and it should be noted that many of the Alutiiq words contain sufficient context clues that readers can guess the meanings without interruption. Educators will appreciate the opportunity the chapter glossaries provide for previewing chapters, predicting, and vocabulary review. Non-Alutiiq speakers will want to visit the referenced Alutiiq Museum website for pronunciation assistance. Alutiiq children will also recognize popular traditional songs woven into the story. They will delight in singing along with Tanqiq and Kuuku. Readers will appreciate the provided English translations.

Uswitusqaq's Dream was thoroughly enjoyed by every member of my family. This book has a place in my home, my classroom, and my library.

Copies of *Uswitusqaq's Dream* are available from the Alutiiq Museum store for \$12.00.

Collections

Akhiok Records Preserved

Paper is fragile! Historic books and documents can be very difficult to preserve. Often made of poor quality or acidic materials, which deteriorate with time, paper objects are subject to a host of destructive forces - mold, mildew, bug infestations, and fading from ultra-violet light.

In May, a rare opportunity arose to preserve Russian Orthodox books and documents from the Chapel of the Holy Trinity in Akhiok. In the spring of 2010, with the help of the Akhiok community, Executive Director Sven Haakanson rescued a delicate and aging collection of books and documents from the display case at the Akhiok school. The documents had been found in the church attic and moved to the school about 1991. During his visit to Akhiok, Haakanson observed that the books and documents were in jeopardy. Many of these items were molded and in need of immediate intervention to save them. With permission from the community, Haakanson brought them to the Alutiiq Museum.

After a stay in the museum's scientific freezer, staff members carefully unpacked the boxes of materials and quickly recognized their importance. Not only are Akhiok resident's names handwritten in Cyrillic in many of the books, but several of the small ledgers document the births and deaths of community members, as well as historic information from the early 1900s. The materials represent an extremely rare source of written documentation on Alutiiq community history.

Lucky for the museum, paper conservator Seth Irwin was in the midst of a statewide consulting tour. Irwin is the first professionally trained paper conservator to visit Alaska. With support from Akhiok-Kaguyak, Inc., Irwin spent three weeks in Kodiak photographing, assessing, and cleaning the collection. His work stabilized the materials. Now that they are safe to handle, the museum hopes to develop a project to translate and share the historical information they contain.

Haakanson is particularly enthusiastic about the outcome of the project. "It is wonderful to know these records from Akhiok will be available for decades to come," he said. "We are privileged to have such rich documentation of community history, and having a professional paper conservator help to care for this record is truly priceless."

Totals		Page 14 th	
9	9	Blk Foxes	318
5	5	Cross "	44
79	79	Cross "	282 50
110	109	Red "	163
43	43	Red Otter	150
116	5	Br Bear	58
9	50	Ermine	5
2	2	Bear skulls	4
6	6	Cross Foxes	4 00
59	59	Ermine	10
3	3	Bear skulls	2 00
9	9	Eagle claws	4 75
			\$ 1071 15
		Red Fox	1 50
		Bear skin	12
			1084 65

Page from a 1904 ledger showing furs taken and their value. Akhiok Church Collection

Collection Continues to Reveal Treasures

KANA summer intern Carmen Ceron was quietly cataloging wood samples from the Karluk One site. Plastic bags filled with sticks and wood chips collected in 1985 cluttered the lab table. As she worked with each bag - weighing, assigning a number, and logging information - Carmen paused to examine its contents, checking for artifacts hidden among the wood fragments archaeologists collected for radiocarbon dating. It's not unusual to find a fragment of an arrow shaft or a fishhook hiding in such debris. In one bag, however, Carmen glimpsed familiar shapes - the curve of a nose, the arc of a brow. Covered with dirt, but unmistakable, she discovered a maskette. With a little brushing, this hand-size carving of a human face came into view, 500 years old and amazingly preserved.

Carmen's work is part of a larger project to care for the Karluk One assemblage - the museum's largest and most diverse collection. Excavated from a prehistoric village at the mouth of the Karluk River, the collection contains over 20,000 objects, many of them remarkably preserved. Objects not found in most Kodiak village sites were preserved at Karluk One due to the unusually wet conditions. The site's huge collection, however, pose special challenges.

With grant funding from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, the Alutiiq Museum is addressing these challenges - from inventorying the massive collection to improving its care. And as Carmen discovered, this year long project is helping to reveal the many treasures in the assemblage.

According to project director Marnie Leist, "Working systematically through the Karluk collection is helping us to better understand its contents. We are photographing and organizing objects as well go, and creating the first comprehensive inventory. The collection will be much more accessible when were are finished."



Karluk One maskette, Koniag, Inc. Collection.

Annual Report

Silugtukut – We Are Proud

The Alutiiq Museum ended its fiscal year on December 31, 2010. We look back with pride on our accomplishments. The museum continues to be a place where people come to expand their knowledge of Kodiak history and where the Alutiiq story can be explored joyfully. For the many successes of 2010, we are indebted to our board, donors, volunteers, and staff.

Our Finances:

2010 BALANCE SHEET

Assets	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Total Current Assets	\$741,890	\$407,559
Total Fixed Assets	\$84,017	\$207,761
Total Assets	\$825,907	\$615,320
Liabilities and Equity		
Total Liabilities	\$153,449	\$92,059
Total Equity	\$672,458	\$523,261
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$825,907	\$615,320

2010 PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT

Revenue

Total Earned Revenue	\$396,894
Total Donations	\$331,201
Total Grant Income	\$429,393
Total Revenue	\$1,157,488

Expenses

Total Personnel	\$624,663
Total Travel	\$42,914
Total Services	\$223,270
Total Supplies	\$111,297
Total Equipment	\$41,155
Total Expenses	\$1,043,299

Net Proceeds **\$114,189**

Recent Accomplishments:

Collections

- Completed an inventory of the museum's photographic collections
- Completed a conservation assessment of the Karluk One Collection and held a conservation training workshop.
- Added 15 pieces of contemporary art to the collection.
- Cataloged the museum's library.

Education

- Created an exhibit and seven short films on the Cape Alitak petroglyphs.
- Taught basket weaving in 5 Alutiiq villages.
- Held an Alutiiq Language Summit.
- Published an Alutiiq Numbers poster and an Alutiiq culture themed children's novel.
- Led monthly Saturday arts programs for youth.
- Hosted a lecture series on local scientific research.
- Promoted the work of 30 local artists.
- Enhanced the museum's web site.

Research

- Documented over 100 woven objects in the collections of the Russian Ethnographic Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia for publication.
- Located and mapped archaeological sites at Cape Alitak and documented 13 clusters of petroglyphs.
- Excavated the Penguq site, a winter village on the Alaska Peninsula's King Salmon River and developed a technical report for publication.
- Excavated a prehistoric settlement at *Mikt'sqaaq Angayak* – the Little Friend site at Cliff Point.
- Worked with 23 volunteers to monitor the condition of archaeological sites around the archipelago.



Fisherman – doll dressed in fishskin clothing by June Simeonoff Pardue



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(in US Dollars) to the Alutiiq Museum.
Donations to the Alutiiq Museum are tax deductible.

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City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

CONTRIBUTION LEVELS:

- Nillqitaq* – Mallard \$10 Individual admission (For Students & Seniors)
- Niklliq* – Red Salmon \$25 Individual admission
- Kum'agyaq* – Eagle \$40 Admission for family members
- Isuwig* – Seal \$100 Admission for family members & guests
- Taquka'aaq* – Grizzly \$250 Same as *Isuwig* plus gift from Museum Store
- Arhnaq* – Sea Otter \$500 Same as *Taquka'aaq* plus gift from Museum Store
- Arlluk* – Orca \$5000+ Membership for employees and/or shareholders

Connection: Member Spotlight



The Whale Pass Lodge, Port Lions

Alutiiq world with visitors. The May's make connection the world to Alutiiq heritage through their business. Whale Pass Lodge clients are encouraged to stop by the Alutiiq Museum when they explore Kodiak. Denise and Bob enjoy being able to share something they care about with their clients and are proud to be a part of the museum.

Denise remembers learning that to have a successful business, you have to give back to the community. "It's important. It's the culture of our island and my heritage," she said. "You have to give back, and I choose to give back where I feel it benefits my community in a cultural way."

Generosity Matters! Join Denise and Bob in purchasing a museum membership and show your community spirit.

Denise and Bob May don't come into Kodiak that often. They are busy running their Port Lions based family business, the Whale Pass Lodge. Here visitors experience the pleasures of fishing, hunting, and sightseeing in remote Alaska. Because the Mays can't visit the Alutiiq Museum as much as they'd like, they enjoy the museum's newsletters and website which keep them connected. They have been museum members for more than four years and their faithful contributions have helped the museum continue to thrive.

The Mays feel that the museum gives a sense of pride to those that live in the Kodiak area and an opportunity to share the

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