

# FRIDAY BULLETIN

NEWS FROM THE ALASKA DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

6/21/2013

*This newsletter is available weekly and previous issues are available at <http://lam.alaska.gov/fridaybulletin>.*

*Submissions for the Friday Bulletin should be sent to [linda.thibodeau@alaska.gov](mailto:linda.thibodeau@alaska.gov) and may be edited for content and length if used.*

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## NEWS FROM THE DIVISION

### STATE IS ACCEPTING LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development is accepting applications for the FY 2015 Library Construction and Major Expansion Matching Grant Program. The primary objective of the Library Construction and Major Expansion Matching Grant Program is to provide communities with the financial assistance needed to help construct a public library or make a major expansion and associated renovations to an existing public library.

Subject to appropriation, the program provides not more than 50 percent of the total proposed grant project costs to an eligible applicant. The application period ends 4:30pm, Friday, August 30, 2013. For more information and application materials, visit <http://commerce.alaska.gov/dnn/dcra/GrantsSection/LibraryConstructionGrantProgram.aspx>.

## **AJA RAZUMNY: GRADUTING INTO RETIREMENT**

*We have received many emails, letters, phone calls, thank you notes and personal testimonies about Aja Markel Razumny in her role as the Alaska State Library's public library liaison. Aja is committed to excellence in public library service, to continuing education and to the development of library capacity for Alaskan patrons. For more than 22 years she has been Public Library Coordinator, and her personal touch in outreach to libraries and her commitment to education for librarians have been the hallmarks of her work. She is "graduating," not retiring, and we will all miss her.*

*Aja has been involved in a number of special library initiatives over the years, but most of all, Aja has been the steadfast library educator, voice on the phone, correspondent, mentor and listening friend. Much more eloquent than my testimonial are these words from some library practitioners in Alaska:*

You were the first person from the State Library staff I contacted thirteen years ago for public library information. I will always remember your genuine support and the "you can do it attitude". You intuitively understood my dilemma and reached out and really made a positive difference for me.... And thirteen years later, I attest; because of you and the State Library relations I am still serving as my community's Librarian. You are simply the best.

■ Sheila Ring, Naknek

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I will miss Aja so much! I'm getting used to people leaving my life but I don't think I'll get over losing Aja anytime soon. She's helped me in so many ways and in ALL of the most difficult situations of my career. She's one of my closest colleagues because of our discussions over the years. Thanks, Aja. I wish you all the best.

■ Stacey Glaser, Kotzebue

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Aja has been an amazing mentor to me from day one. For every serious library problem I have encountered over the last five years, Aja has helped me to sort out a solution or refer me to another Alaskan librarian with a similar issue. I have always known that I Aja is just a phone call away with information and advice. She has always been able to bring a sense of humor to even the most strange situations. She has always been our library's fairy godmother.

■ Marguerite La Riviere, Nome

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Aja has the uncanny ability of making everyone feel part of the community that is Alaska libraries, whether experienced librarians new to Alaska or seasoned Alaskans new to librarianship. She welcomes us, assists as we learn new jobs, and listens attentively to our concerns and complaints, offering sage advice when needed. She does all this with a beautiful smile, wonderful sense of humor and a marvelous song repertoire. I wish her the best in her retirement but know I'll miss working with her and being able to say to others, "I'm not sure, have you talked to Aja???"

■ Patty Brown, Haines

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How to describe Aja? I'm tempted to just type a long list words like supportive, resourceful, understanding, caring, and professional. (She would smile if I included "thrifty, brave and reverent", I'm sure!) To me, she is an admired colleague, inspiring mentor and beloved friend.

Knowing we could call on her for virtually anything, at any time, is one of the things I will never forget. She listened endlessly, advised wisely and knitted repeatedly (love those scarves!) through long distance calls, workshops, trainings and conference sessions. No matter what size library, budget or staff we have, it's Aja's sterling example of professional commitment and personal service that will continue after she leaves us. Bon Voyage, dear friend!

■ Joyce McCombs, Delta Junction

*Yes, indeed, bon voyage, Aja. We wish you well and we expect to hear from you often as you enjoy your next adventures.*

## **NEWS FROM L.A.M.S IN ALASKA**

### **TLINGIT SAANYÁ KHWÁAN ELDERS BESSIE AND HENRY DENNY SPEAK ON TLINGIT HISTORY, 1966.**

Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI) recently posted a recording of Tlingit elder Bessie Denny (1870–1973) telling stories in the Tlingit language with her son Henry Denny Jr. (1902-1979, Tlingit names Asdaxaay, Gitxwán, and Gashéiksh IV) translating into English, recorded at Saxman, Alaska, February, 1966. This was a recording prepared for public use by and at the Alaska Native Brotherhood Grand Camp Convention in 1966. Bessie tells the history of the Saanyá Kwáan, the people of Cape Fox, which comprises the Neix.ádi, Kiks.ádi and the Teikweidí clans. She tells of the migration routes, place names and acquisition of crests.

More information and a link to the recording can be found on the SHI blog at <http://shispecialcollections.blogspot.com/2013/06/tingit-saanya-khwaan-elders-bessie-and.html>.

### **OPEN OWL CONFERENCES NEXT WEEK**

The videoconferences listed below were open for other libraries to join as of press time. Please check the OWL Videoconference Calendar at <http://library.alaska.gov/dev/owlCalendar.html> to verify that a videoconference is still open to join.

Monday, June 24

10:15am Soil Detectives - OPEN

12:00pm Spanish Language Group - OPEN

Tuesday, June 25

10:00am Shakespeare. A summer workshop using Role Play for all ages - OPEN

Friday, June 28

10:15am Recipe For Soil - OPEN

12:00pm French Language Group -- OPEN

To join a program shown above, please contact UA video staff at 800-910-9601, then press #, and press 1.

To reach the Fairbanks OWL video staff by email, write to: ua-owlvideo@alaska.edu. Emails to this address will go to all the Fairbanks crew, so if someone is on leave or out for the day, your email will be answered by available staff.

## **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **FOUNDERS ONLINE: EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO READ BY JEFFERSON, ET AL**

On 6/16/2013, the National Archives launched Founders Online (<http://founders.archives.gov/>) —a tool for seamless searching across the Papers of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Alexander Hamilton. A partnership between the University of Virginia Press and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, you can read more about this massive undertaking at *Prologue: The Papers of the Founding Fathers Are Now Online*, available at <http://blogs.archives.gov/prologue/?p=12324>.

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**Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian and Director**

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