

Linda S. Thibodeau

Director

Division of Libraries, Archives,
& Museums

lam.alaska.gov

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Robert C. Banghart

Chief Curator

Alaska State Museums

395 Whittier St.

Juneau, Alaska 99801-1718

907.465.2901

Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: February 1, 2012

JUNEAU LUNCH AND KAKE AT ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

Alaska Librarian Discusses Early History of Kake, Alaska

ASM Brown Bag Lecture Series

JUNEAU – In 1912, nearly all of Kake, Alaska’s totem poles burned to the ground. Out of their ashes, Kake became a self-governing municipality and helped found the Alaska Native Brotherhood. However, few artifacts remain documenting these seminal historical events.

Join Alaska State Library Historical Collections Librarian Anastasia Tarmann as she presents “An Early History of Kake, Alaska” at the Alaska State Museum, Wednesday, Feb. 8 from noon to 1 pm. Tarmann will construct a narrative from the sparse documents that do exist, such as old speeches by Mayor Charles Gunnock, a letter by missionary George Beck, and later interviews with Keex’ Kwaan elders. She will also incorporate current events, such as the 1971 Kake totem pole raising and ceremony for one of the world’s largest totem poles.

Tarmann appears as part of the 2012 Andrew P. Kashevarof Memorial Lecture Series at the State Museum, every Wednesday in February at noon, featuring new research by museum staff, visiting artists, and scholars. Drawing from the collections of the State Library, Archives, and Museums, in some instances presenters will display new and/or seldom-seen historical photos, documents, and artifacts. Admission to the lectures is free; visitors are welcome to bring a bag lunch.

Remaining lectures:

- February 8 – “An Early History of Kake, Alaska,” Anastasia Tarmann, Librarian, Alaska State Library Historical Collections
- February 15 – “Tracy Arm History Notes: Illuminating a Landscape with Museum Objects and Library Collections,” Mary Irvine, Museum Educator, Alaska State Museum
- February 22 – “The Alaska State Archives: Best Kept Secret in the State,” Larry Hibpshman, Archivist, Alaska State Archives
- February 29 – “President Harding in Alaska,” Jim Geraghty, local historian

Winter hours at the museum are 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Discounted winter admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka is available for \$15. Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services at 465-2901 before the visit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

395 Whittier, Juneau, AK

Phone (907) 465-2901 Fax (907) 465-2976

www.museums.state.ak.us

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