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## Press Release

SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: May 14, 2010

### MAY ACTIVITIES AT THE SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM

The Sheldon Jackson Museum is celebrating the annual rite of spring with three exciting events: Sheldon Jackson's birthday, International Museum Day on May 18, and the Native Studies exhibition of artwork by fourth grade students beginning on May 17 and ending on May 23rd.

Festivities for International Museum Day and Sheldon Jackson's birthday run all day on Tuesday, May 18. The public is admitted free all day. Tsimshian artist Abel Ryan will be demonstrating at the museum May 17-May 22.

Fourth-grade artwork will be on display from Monday May 17th until Sunday May 23rd. The artwork may be viewed from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Parents and families are particularly encouraged to come see the art created by their children.

Every year, fourth-grade students from Keet Gooshi Heen Elementary School visit the museum as part of their study of Alaska Native cultures. The students make their own art reproductions ranging from Aleut hunting visors to Eskimo masks and octopus bags to birch bark style baskets. The items go on display at the museum each May in conjunction with International Museum Day and the birthday of the Rev. Sheldon Jackson, who founded the museum in 1888.

Teachers whose students visited the museum participated in this year's study of Alaska Native cultures are Jan Love, Elvia Torres, Karoline Bekeris, Rebbecca Himschoot, and Jeremy Peterson.

This year is the 176th birthday of Sheldon Jackson, who was passionately interested in collecting and preserving the material culture of Alaska Natives for future generations. The museum that bears his name now houses more than 6,000 artifacts including pieces from all of Alaska's Native groups.

Summer hours at the Museum begin May 13th and are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. General admission is \$4.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: Lisa Bykonen**

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