



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM SPRING EVENTS

SITKA – The Sheldon Jackson Museum is celebrating spring with the annual Native Studies Exhibition of artwork by fourth grade students, the beginning of the Native Artist Demonstrator Artist-in-Residence Program, the regularly scheduled At Saxan Third Saturday Program, several lectures, International Museum Day and Sheldon Jackson’s birthday.

Every year students from Keet Gooshi Heen Elementary School study Alaska Native cultures and visit the Sheldon Jackson Museum and create their own art inspired by their museum visit and class lessons. The students make a variety of pieces every year. This year, students from the classes of Jan Love, Mindy Bartolaba, Jeremy Peterson, and Kristin Karsunky shared art inspired by the book *Goodbye Island* written by Jean Rogers and illustrated by Rie Munoz and made pieces including traditional women’s knives or ulus, Tlingit octopus bags, Unangan (Aleut) and Alutiiq (Sugpiaq) hunting visors, Unangan basketry, and Inupiaq and Athabascan sled models. The exhibition will be up from Tuesday, May 6th through the end of the day on Saturday, May 10th. Receptions with cookies for students, their teachers, and parents will take place May 7th at 9am (Jan Love’s class), May 8th at 1pm (Mindy Bartolaba and Kristine Hole’s classes), May 9th at 9am (Kristin Karsunky and Jeremy Peterson’s classes).

The museum welcomes its first artist-in-residence, Yup’ik skin sewer and artist Peter Williams on May 7th. Williams will also be at the museum working in the gallery and available to answer questions most mornings and some afternoons from May 14th through May 17th. On Sunday, May 11th at 3:30pm, Yup’ik artist Peter Williams will give a reading entitled, “To Talk with Animals.” The lecture will touch upon the artist’s spiritual relationship with nature. The event is free and all are invited to attend.

On Saturday, May 17th, the museum will host its At Saxan Third Saturday program. This family-friendly, free youth program is best for ages 6-10 and happens every third Saturday at 1pm. For May’s At Saxan session, children will have an opportunity to see dance fans or finger masks in the museum’s collection and to create their own Yup’ik dance fans. Registration is required and can be arranged by calling (907) 747-8981.

In honor of International Museum Day and Sheldon Jackson’s birthday on Sunday, May 18th, the museum extends an invitation to all visitors to take advantage of free admission all day and to attend a curator’s talk at 1pm on Sheldon Jackson, his life and collecting.

Summer hours begin May 11th and are 9am to 5pm daily. General admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and students under 18 years of age are admitted free. The Sheldon Jackson Museum is located at 104 College Drive.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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www.museums.alaska.gov

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