



Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum

The Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum support the Sheldon Jackson Museum and its unique ethnographic collection through advocacy, education and acquisitions

Volume 24, Issue 2

Fall 2012

YOU ARE INVITED
TO A
**25TH ANNIVERSARY
GALA CELEBRATION**
IN SUPPORT OF THE
NATIVE ARTIST
DEMONSTRATOR PROGRAM
*

THE FRIENDS ANNUAL
MEETING
GUEST SPEAKER,
STEVE HENRIKSON,
CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS,
ALASKA STATE MUSEUM
SILENT AUCTION
MUSIC
TRADITIONAL FOODS BUFFET
*

JOIN US
SATURDAY, JANUARY 26,
5-8 P.M.
SHELDON JACKSON
MUSEUM

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Native American Heritage Month at the Sheldon Jackson Museum

“That's my great grandfather,” said a Mt. Edgumbe freshman one Saturday in November as she watched a video

demonstrating the building of traditional Athabaskan birch bark canoes. Children, ranging in age from 6 to 15 years of age participated in the Alaska Native workshops at the Sheldon Jackson Museum. The lessons were designed by Museum Visitors



and Security staff, Beth Garrison. The first week, November 3 featured the Tlingit culture. Each child created their own

version of a blanket. children explored culture. In this built their own or “birch bark” The third busy hands paper into strips



traditional button November 10, the Athabaskan session they “birch bark canoe basket.

Saturday saw cutting tissue to represent the seal gut Aleuts used to make gut parkas. The parka fit a paper

doll wearing a traditional hunting visor. During the final week, November 24, the children had the opportunity to practice their hunting skills. The session's focus was the Inupiaq culture. Everyone made their own pair of snow goggles and then took on the elements to hunt the great “qaibutlik,” Ringed Seal.

The workshops have been a wonderful success introducing about 88 children and their families over the four weeks to a deeper understanding of Alaska's Native Cultures.



Winter Lecture Series 2012

The Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum started off their Winter Lecture Series for 2012-13 on November 2, with Native fur artist, Peter Williams. Here, before a full audience he shared his family history and what traditional hunting practices meant to him. He also discussed how state and federal laws impact subsistence hunting for Native Alaskans.



For more information about Peter and his work please go to www.seaotterfur.com

On December 8, the Friends were pleased to present Nelson Kanuk. Nelson is a Yup'ik Native attending Mt. Edgecumbe High School in his Senior year. He is one of a group of students across the United States who have joined together as plaintiffs in a litigation against the Federal Government challenging it to take steps to protect our fragile environment. Nelson shared his personal experience with the effects of global warming on traditional culture and subsistence life in Alaska. Information on Nelson and links to the other TRUST members can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmhuioYTFg>



The Lecture Series will continue in January with Steve Henrikson, Curator of Collections, as keynote speaker for the Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum's Annual Meeting and 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Native Artist Demonstrator Program on January 26. Mr. Henrikson will present "Alaskan Native Headgear." With a focus on art history, his lecture will cover the many types and styles of head gear worn by a variety of Alaska Native groups including Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian clan leaders, warriors and shamans. On March 9, the Friends welcome Tommy Joseph, Tlingit Master carver to the Museum to present on Tlingit armor in recognition of the opening of his exhibit on the same at the State Museum in Juneau. April 6, we welcome Teri Rofkar, Tlingit Master weaver, presenting on her recent work.

For schedules and other information please visit www.friendsofsjm.com or call 907.747.6233

Museum Gift Shop Changes Hours

Beginning January 6, 2013

The shop hours will be

Tuesday-Friday, 1:00-4:00 p.m

Saturdays 10-4 p.m

Please call if you have any questions
907.747.6233

Learn about the Sheldon Jackson Museum's Artifact of the Month by visiting http://www.museums.state.ak.us/sheldon_jackson/artifact_of_month.html

Hunting for Seal and Caribou? Sitka Health Summit 2012

“**Ready, Steady. Throw!**” and the spears flew. Through the course of a beautiful Saturday in October about 73 people had the opportunity to try their hand at traditional hunting using a throwing board and spear.



Their quarry was life size paintings of a Ring seal and a Caribou painted by Beth Garrison, protection/visitor services assistant. This was just one of the native games offered, October 6, outside and inside the Sheldon Jackson Museum as part of the Sitka Health Summit that took place on the Sheldon Jackson Campus.

The summit itself is in its 7th year encouraging people to make healthier choices in their life styles. The museum offered the cultural perspective to health bringing out games Native Alaskans have played or used to practice hunting skills for thousands of years.



Some of the games offered were: Eskimo yo yo's, Quoits, Fox and Geese, Dice, Gambling sticks as well as the throwing board and spears.

Replica Headdress added to Hands-On Collection

“I found it on the museum's wish list, and here it is.” Those were the words of Beth Garrison after she and staff member, Martha Littlefield collaborated on the creation of an Aleut woman's headdress. The project was inspired by a paper pattern of a beaded headdress from the Alaska State Museum in Juneau. Many thanks to Ms. Garrison for her creative powers.

To search the Hands on Collection go to <https://education.alaska.gov/productcart/pc/home.asp>



Headdress modeled by Sania Lodhi, Shop Assitant

The Sheldon Jackson Museum

Museum Staff

Curator: *to be filled*

Security and Visitors Services

Lisa Bykonen

Debbie Doland

Seasonal Staff

Beth Garrison

Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum

Board of Directors

Margie Esquiro

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Cass Pook

Cheryl Stromme

Marylyn Conley

Business Manager

Mary Boose

Have you considered renewing your membership?

Sheldon Jackson Museum Artist Residency Program 2012

*By Nadia Sethi, former Curator of Collections,
Sheldon Jackson Museum*

The Sheldon Jackson Museum collections include artifacts representing the entire state of Alaska. Because the museum is located remotely in Sitka, however, few Alaska Native artists have an opportunity to visit the museum and see the collections in person. During the summer of 2012, the Sheldon Jackson Museum received grants from the Alaska Humanities Forum and the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian to bring a group of nine Alaska Native artists to Sitka to study the museum collections and share their work with the public through artist lectures, workshops and demonstrations. The visiting artist residencies provided an opportunity for museum staff to learn about the museum collections from the perspective of Alaska Native artists while giving artists an opportunity to closely examine historical artifacts in the collection. Visitors were provided with an intimate experience as they touched, smelled and handled artists' work and spoke with artists directly. This summer's visiting artists included Coral Chernoff from Kodiak, Marlene Nielsen from Kokhanok, Othniel Art Oomittuk from Point Hope, Jennie Wheeler from Yakutat, Sonya Kelliher-Combs from Anchorage, Patty Lekanoff-Gregory from Unalaska, Tommy Joseph from Sitka, Selina Alexander from Fairbanks, and Audrey Armstrong from Anchorage.

The first two visiting artists, Coral Chernoff (May 8-10) and Marlene Nielsen (May 25-27), both focused their residencies on sharing information about fish skin use as a textile material. Although few practicing artists work with fish skin today, historically skins from salmon, halibut, lamprey eel, jackfish, burbot, The grayling and arctic char were used as materials to construct waterproof bags, boots, mittens, pants, parkas, quivers, blankets, window coverings and drinking containers. Seeing the Sheldon Jackson Museum's collection of fish skin clothing and containers

was the first opportunity for both of these artists to see historical examples of fish skin artifacts in person. Both Nielsen and Chernoff described the collections as great teaching tools to learn stitching techniques and clothing designs. After seeing a salmon skin parka in the museum collection, Nielsen plans to start working on her first full size salmon skin parka later this summer. Chernoff will use information gained from her residency at a salmon skin processing and sewing workshop in Kodiak in August.

During the first week of June the museum hosted two artists who grew up in northern Alaska, mask carver Art Oomittuk (May 31-June 8) from Point Hope and conceptual artist Sonya Kelliher-Combs (June 4-8) now living in Anchorage but raised in Nome. Having Oomittuk at the Museum was an excellent opportunity to closely examine the Sheldon Jackson Museum's collection of one hundred and twenty-nine Point Hope masks. According to Oomittuk, there are few remaining artifacts in Point Hope. He will share images of the artifacts studied at the Sheldon Jackson Museum during a community presentation when he returns to Point Hope. In the fall Oomittuk will lead a workshop in Point Hope for high school students using images of the masks in the Sheldon Jackson Museum as inspiration for the creation of new work. Kelliher-Combs spent her time surveying the museum collection drawer by drawer looking at design elements and motifs on historical Inupiat and Athabascan artifacts. She is partnering with the Alaska Native Heritage Center to teach information gained during her residency as an instructor for an after school program for Alaska Native high school students.

The visiting artist program continued into the summer with overlapping artist residencies between carvers Patty Lekanoff-Gregory and Tommy Joseph (June 12-16), and a residency focused on moose heart and bladder bag making with Selina Alexander (June 18-28). The final artist residency with Audrey Armstrong included a fish skin basketry workshop (July 19-21). We hope that the visiting artist residency program will continue next year to extend the opportunity to study the museum collections to more artists throughout the state. *Cont. p.5*

***The Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum
thank the following donors for supporting
the 2012 Native Artist Programs***

*Smithsonian's Nat'l. Museum of the American Indian
Alaska Humanities Forum
Alaska State Council on the Arts
Alaska Airlines
Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum
Sitka Fine Arts Camp
Sitka Sound Science Center
Sitka Sound Seafoods
Sitka Charitable Trust*

*Selina Alexander
Sonya Kelliher-Combs
Art Oomittuk
Abel Ryan
Coral Chernoff
Patty Lekanoff-Gregory
Marlene Nielsen
Teri Rofkar*

*Audrey Armstrong
Tommy Joseph
Peter Williams
Jennie Wheeler
Cass Pook
Charlie Skultka
Jerrod Galanin*

*Emily and Jane Barron
Rosemary Carlton
Peter Corey
Yvonne Carter
Ed Conway
Nancy Yaw Davis
Nancy Douglas
Mitch Keplinger
Marilyn and David Knapp
Scott McAdams
Patsy and Dale Meyer
Megan Pasternak
Therese Pazar
Rebecca Poulson
Grace Schiable
Elaine Strelow
Pam Wetzell*



*Coral Chernoff, Kodiak, AK.
blowing up a bear intestine*



*Art Oomittuk, Pt Hope AK. studies masks at the Sheldon
Jackson Museum*



*Marlene Nielson, Kokhanuk, AK. Studies a fish skin parka to duplicate
for a later project.*



FRIENDS OF SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM
Application for Membership
2013

Mission Statement

The Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum is dedicated to supporting the Sheldon Jackson Museum and its unique Alaska Native ethnographic collection through advocacy, acquisition and educational programming.

Membership Calendar

Your membership runs from January 1 through December 31. Those paying dues between October 1 and December 31 will renew their membership through the following year.

Benefits of Membership

Your membership supports:

- Educational programming for students and community,
- Acquisitions enhancing the museum collection,
- Native Artist Demonstrator Program

Your membership will receive:

- Free admission to the Sheldon Jackson Museum and the Alaska State Museum
- A 15% discount on merchandise at the Sheldon Jackson Museum gift shop and a 10% discount at The Store at the Alaska State Museum
- The FOSJM newsletter

PLEASE send your renewal with a check or credit card # to:

Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum
104 College Drive, Sitka, AK. 99835
Or call, 907-747-6233

Date _____ Renewal _____ New Member _____

Membership:

Student-\$10 Individual-\$25 Family-\$35 Sustaining-\$60 Contributing-\$250 Corporate-\$500
 Additional Donation for Alaska Native Artist Demonstrators Program

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Bake Cookies for events _____
- Greet Visitors to the Museum _____
- Curatorial projects _____
- Grant Writing _____
- Assist in the Gift Shop _____
- Museum Docent _____
- Overseeing/Organizing events _____
- Mailings _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone(H) _____ (W) _____

E-mail address _____

Check enclosed Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ CVC Code _____

Signature _____

Looking for a unique gift of traditional Alaska Native Arts and Crafts?
The Sheldon Jackson Museum Gift Shop offers the best selection



*Moccasins by Sarah Williams
Athabaskan, Fort Yukon, AK.*

Some of our featured artists are:

Selina Alexander, Athabaskan caribou tufting
Ron Apangalook, Inupiaq, carver
Jennie Wheeler, Tlingit weaver
Abel Ryan, Tsimshian, carver
Doug Inga, Alutiiq, carver
Cass Pook, Tlingit beader
Roberta Naumoff, Alutiiq beader
Peter Williams, Yup'ik sea otter fur artist
Sarah Williams, Athabaskan skin sewer and beader
Roy Levine, Alutiiq carver
Emily Johnston, Cup'iq basket weaver.



*Alutiiq Hunting Visor by,
Peter Lind, Alutiiq, Homer AK*



*Yellow cedar Hairsticks by Jamie
Daniels, Angoon, AK.*

The Sheldon Jackson Museum Gift Shop
friendsofsjm@gmail.com

104 College Drive, Sitka AK. 99835

907-747-6233
www.friendsofsjm.com

The Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum
104 College Drive
Sitka, AK 99835

Return Service requested