Ancestors’ Memorial Takes Shape

Just behind the Alutiiq Museum there is a brushy lot—a third of an acre in downtown Kodiak that has eluded development for decades. Soon, however, this city owned-property will be transformed into a public park. The City of Kodiak and the Alutiiq Museum are partnering on the effort, working together to build an Alutiiq Ancestors’ Memorial on the corner of Kashevaroff Drive and Upper Mill Bay Road.

The project is the vision of Alutiiq Museum Executive Director April Counceller, who has long wanted Kodiak’s urban center to have a reminder of its Native roots. “The Alutiiq people are such an important part of Kodiak, but our culture and contributions have been hidden. The park will remind visitors of our place in this community and encourage people of all heritages to contemplate their own history. The park is both a memorial to those who came before us and a celebration of Kodiak’s rich history.”

Construction of the park will begin on June 1. Special Project Coordinator Kate Schaberg, a new member of the museum’s team, will shepherd the project through development (page 2). Simple, natural landscaping will surround a walkway, benches, and a circular planter filled with forget-me-nots. Signs will introduce Alutiiq history and share preservation messages. To help fund the park, and fill it with community remembrances, the Alutiiq Museum is selling engraved bricks for the park walkway (page 3) until the groundbreaking on June 1. All people of all heritages are invited to purchase a brick, which will help fund the park and fill it with community remembrances.

Community response to the project has been strong and generous. To date the museum has raised over $147,000 in grants, gifts, and brick sales, and efforts to fund the $179,100 construction price continue. The latest gift, a $25,000 contribution from Rasmuson Foundation, brings the museum to 82% of its fundraising goal.

Ultimately, Counceller sees the park as a way to build community. “We are all connected to the past in some way, and those connections shape who we are. If we can pause for a moment to learn about history, we can understand each other better. I think the path of names, remembrances, and blessings winding through the park will be a powerful reminder of the people and forces that have shaped Kodiak.”

Ancestors’ Memorial Groundbreaking

June 1, 2018, 4:00 pm
At the park site – 210 Mill Bay Road
Followed by a reception at the Alutiiq Museum
Free and open to the public

Please RSVP at http://ancestors.eventcreate.com/
Cama’i Hello,

Keeping the museum’s many projects moving forward requires a team of professionals with a host of skills. Our eleven-member staff has expertise in everything from fabricating exhibits to facilities management and finance. In recent months, we’ve added two new people to our team. We are very pleased to welcome Maggie Christofferson and Kate Schaberg.

Visitors will find Maggie in our gallery, where she greets people at the reception desk, works in the museum store, and answers phones. Originally from Teller, Alaska, Maggie is the daughter of John Earl and Thelma Komok. She has previous experience as an administrative assistant in Kodiak and Teller. She also served on the Mary’s Igloo Traditional Council where she assisted with community projects. Her friendly, cheerful personality makes her a great ambassador for the museum.

Kate Schaberg, our new Special Projects Coordinator, is managing the development of the Alutiiq Ancestors’ Memorial. Kate is helping to wrap up the fundraising phase of the project and planning for construction (page 1). She is originally from Pennsylvania, where she studied biology at Pennsylvania State University. Her work experience includes project management for the Georgetown Tribe of Alaska’s middle Kuskokwim River region. Many Kodiak residents know her as the 4-H Program Assistant. Please contact Kate with your questions about the memorial, or for help purchasing an engraved brick for the park (page 3).

The arrival of these new staff members followed the departure of Rebecca Pruitt and Jeff Garcia. We extend our sincere thanks to both of them. They served the museum well before moving on to other opportunities. You will find Rebecca working with our friends at the Sun’aq Tribe. Jeff is splitting his time between Palmer, Alaska and Hawaii. We wish them the very best and thank them for their service.

April/Isiik Counceller, PhD
Executive Director
The museum is selling **tripiit’ saat**—bricks! These aren’t the crumbly clay slabs produced in the Russian era kiln in Middle Bay. Nor are they the red-fired bricks of American houses and sidewalks. They are sleek cement pavers with engraved images and messages.

What do bricks have to do with preserving and sharing Alutiiq culture? The museum’s buy a brick campaign is part of a larger effort to build a new city park—the Alutiiq Ancestors’ Memorial (page 1). To help fund park development, the museum is selling bricks that can be engraved with a personal message. The bricks will be added to the park pathway, surrounding the memorial with support. People of all heritages are invited to participate.

“Some people are remembering grandparents, parents, siblings, friends, or even a boat or a community with pavers that share names,” said Counsellor. “Others are showing support with a simple quote or message, their family name, or a business name and logo. People are welcome to remember something or just show their support.”

### Add Your Name to History

All people of all heritages are welcome to purchase a brick for Ancestors’ Memorial Park. There are three ways to add your name to history. All sales support the development of the park.

- Call Kate Schaberg to place an order by phone, 844-425-8844, x19.
- Stop by the museum store to fill out an order form.

### What should I say?

Each engraved brick for the memorial is a modern petroglyph—a unique, lasting message cut into stone. Here are some of the messages people have shared to help you craft your own. You can also select an image for your brick. Options include designs from Alutiiq culture, pictures of local plants and animals, religious emblems, and the insignia of US Military branches. Businesses can add a logo.

- Ruth Ann Chichenoff, Loving Memories
- June Sargent, forever in our hearts & minds
- Memory Eternal, Alfred & Topsy Levine, love Art & Tamie
- Alutiiq Ancestors Clarence W. Selig and Pauline Kewan Selig
- In loving memory of my father, Jeffrey Alan Naumoff
- Tom Sweeney Family
- Holland Family, Shaun and Megan, Alex and Kate
- Choose Kindness, in memory of Merl, who chose kindness
- The Native Village of Port Lions
- RE/MAX of Kodiak, Home Sweet Home
**Plantlore Online**

In honor of spring *Naut’sтарпеет—Our Plants: A Kodiak Alutiiq Plantlore* is available on the museum’s website. Priscilla Russell’s detailed study of Alutiiq plantlore is now a gallery of photos, information, and audio files. Click on a picture of a local plant to learn about its uses and hear the Alutiiq plant name pronounced. Coming soon, the museum will release an app version of the gallery for your smartphone, so you can take a plant walk! Produced with generous funding from the Alaska State Museum Grant-In-Aid Program.

![Margie Inga holding PitRuus’kaaq—Beach Loveage, June 1990. Photo by Priscilla Russell, KANA collection.](image)

**Students Study Weaving**

Sisters sit across from each other in a brightly lit classroom, heads bent, concentrating intensely. Strands of raffia flow through their busy fingers, carefully twined into tiny neat stitches. One strand at a time, baskets are taking shape as a new generation of youth connects to the art of their ancestors.

This scene is from a recent workshop at Port Lions School, where students and teachers welcomed artist June Pardue for a two-day study of Alutiiq weaving. When students told their teacher Amanda Hall they wanted to weave, she saw an opportunity to connect with the Munartet project. This initiative supports teaching in and through the arts in Kodiak. Through the project’s partners, the Kodiak Island Borough School District, Alutiiq Museum, Kodiak Arts Council, and Kodiak College, teachers and artists work together to integrate art and cultural activities into their curriculum. Hall is one of the educators participating in the project, and she knew that traditional plant use was a focus for 2018.

Because weaving involves much more than twining, the students began their exploration last fall. With help from a knowledgeable community member they gathered grass from the beach, dried it carefully to prevent molding, and learned how to split each blade into weaving strands. Then this spring, they met with master weaver, June Pardue, who traveled to Port Lions.

First, Pardue discussed the different types of object made by weaving—socks, caps, hats, and baskets for cooking and food storage. Then, students spent time observing Pardue as she demonstrated twining steps—pulling an *inartam irui* (basket spoke) over the bottom weaving strand, then pulling the weaving strand up, and the second weaving strand down. Soon, students began to work on their own and discovered a rhythm to their work. They worked with raffia, as it is an easy material for beginners. The rest of the day and the next were filled with weaving and discussion. Pardue shared stories about her childhood and her work as an artist, involving the students in the type of community that surrounded weaving in traditional Alutiiq life. *Quyanaa—to the Alaska State Council for the Arts for supporting the workshop.*

![June Pardue teaching weaving in Port Lions](image)
Rare Quiver Displayed

A red cedar quiver is the latest addition to the Alutiiq Museum’s gallery. The nineteenth century piece is a family heirloom, donated to the Alutiiq Museum by the King family in 2016. The 35-inch long, cylindrical tool was expertly carved from a plank and bent to shape with steam. It is the largest bentwood object in the Alutiiq Museum’s collections and the only quiver.

“This piece is a rare example of both bent wood technology and Alutiiq hunting gear,” said the museum’s Curator of Archaeology Patrick Saltonstall. “Bending wood is a slow and difficult process, and many objects break during manufacture. To make something of this size and shape demonstrates incredible skill. The quiver features a wider top designed specifically to protect the feather fletching of a hunter’s arrows.”

Saltonstall believes the quiver was used at sea. “Wooden quivers, like this piece, were typically used at sea, lashed to a hunter’s kayak or between two hunters working from a double hatched boat. In contrast, people carried lighter animal skin quivers on land.”

New Merchandise Inspired By Alutiiq Graphic Arts

In the Museum Store

Igaruacirpet—Out Way of Making Designs, the museum’s book on traditional graphic arts has been greeted with enthusiasm. This five-chapter exploration of Alutiiq art history considers petroglyphs, designs incised in slate, painting, and body art. And it includes essays by contemporary artists Lena Amason Berns, April Counsellor, Alisha Drabek, Sven Haakanson, Jacquie Madsen, Susan Malutin, and Gloria Selby. It was produced with support from the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

Alaska Native Artist Genevieve Opheim reviewed the book. She says, “With both contemporary and historic information on each category of ancestral art, Igaruacirpet validates where the practiced art originates and where modern Alutiiq art is in this day and age. This reference book is a gem for anyone who wants deeper knowledge of the traditional, local artistic fabric of Kodiak Island.”

And if you are inspired by Alutiiq designs, look for our new products. We have notebooks and notepads with images from ancestral art, ready for your own creative expression—in words or drawings.
Caring for Chirikof Collections

Chirikof Island is an unusual place, a low, sandy, pear-shaped island at the far southern end of the Kodiak Archipelago. People forget that Chirikof is part of the Kodiak region because it is so far away. And due to its great distance from anywhere, Chirikof’s cultural history is complicated. At times the remote Island was home to Alutiiq ancestors. At others the ancestors of Unangan people lived on Chirikof. How do we know?

Collections of artifacts from the distant Island show distinct cultural ties at different periods. Early in the Island’s history, chipped stone tools resemble those from the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands, and they are made with materials like basalt that are not found on Kodiak. Later in time, people made Kodiak-style tools shaped from materials like Kodiak slate.

The artifacts that document Chirikof’s history are now in the Alutiiq Museum’s care, returned to the region by the US Fish & Wildlife Service as part of the large repatriation and relocation effort in 2016–2017. While working to repatriate ancestral Alutiiq remains from Chirikof, the Service located and returned artifacts collected on the island by archaeologists Bill Workman and Don Clark in the 1960s. Over time, the artifacts had been separated and housed in multiple institutions. Some were in Anchorage. Others spent time in Wisconsin, Indiana, and Idaho.

“We’re excited to have the Chirik of materials reassembled and back in the Kodiak region,” said Alutiiq Museum Curator of Archaeology Patrick Saltonstall. “We have more recent collections from the island, so now the tools are all in one place where they can be compared and shared. It provides us a better picture of Chirikof’s unique history.”

The collection includes stone tools as well as Workman’s notes and photographs. Each of these components requires their own special care and storage. The archeological materials must be labeled individually, catalogued, and stored in archival boxes. The photos and paper archives must be arranged and described, stored in archival folders and boxes, cataloged, and scanned. This work is now underway at the museum.

“By the end of the year, the collection will be ready to be integrated with the rest of the museum’s holdings, and available for research,” said Saltonstall. “This is a big step forward in preserving Workman and Clark’s finds and making them available to the next generation of researchers.”
In 1950, Pete Ramaglia relocated to Kodiak. It was May and there was snow on the ground. Many people would have flinched, but Pete fell in love. He knew he was home.

For 63 years Pete and his wife Sally lived and worked in Kodiak, contributing immeasurably to the community’s fabric. There were just over 1,100 people living in Kodiak in the early days and Pete worked to keep the power on. He owned and managed Kodiak Oil Sales, served as president of the Kodiak Electrical Association, and was part of the team that brought the Terror Lake Hydroelectrical project to Kodiak.

The Ramaglia’s lived in one of the cozy, wood framed houses on Upper Mill Bay Road, where they raised two children—Sue Ann and Jimmy. Their home was just down the street from the future site of the Ancestors’ Memorial. To honor the memory of her parents and the decades they lived in the park’s neighborhood, Sue Ann and Jimmy purchased a brick for the memorial walkway in their honor. They worked with the Alutiiq Museum to design this special tribute.

Remembering Don Clark, 1932-2018

Kodiak archaeologist Dr. Donald Woodforde Clark passed away on March 31, 2018 in his home in Canada. Clark, who grew up in Kodiak, was locally known as the “father of Kodiak archaeology”. He was the first researcher to describe the sequence of local cultures, tracking the development of Alutiiq societies over 7,000 years. His detailed studies of everything from slate working, to fur seal hunting, petroglyphs, and the ground squirrels of Chirikof Island remain a foundation for research. He was a generous supporter of the Alutiiq Museum, sharing his time, knowledge, and research notes.

Clark always considered Kodiak his hometown. He moved to the community at age nine, accompanying his parents when they relocated to Alaska during the second World War. His father owned a gas station and auto repair shop in downtown Kodiak. Here, Clark learned to repair cars, but his real interest was the outdoors. Exploring the coast, Clark discovered Kodiak’s remarkable archaeology. He went on to earn his PhD from the University of Wisconsin and lead numerous research projects.

Many Kodiak people remember Clark. He returned to the island often and shared his knowledge with kindness and enthusiasm. Few archaeologists study their hometowns, as Clark did, and his personal connections to Kodiak brought his research to life for Alutiiq people hungry for tribal history. To honor his contributions, a brick with Don’s name has been added to the Ancestors’ Memorial. Qusuciqamken—We will miss you Don.
Events

Calendar

May 11, 12:30-2:00 pm | Lunch and Learn with the Kodiak Senior Center

May 17, 7:00 pm | The Hidden and the Obvious, Two Different Styles of Kodiak Petroglyphs | Lecture by Patrick Saltonstall

May 19, Noon-4:00 pm | Craft Saturday | Paper Animal Masks

May 23-28 | Alutiiq Museum Crab Festival Booth

June 1 | Blue Star Museum | Free admission for active duty military and their families through August

June 1, 4:00-7:00 pm | Groundbreaking for the Alutiiq Ancestors’ Memorial followed by a reception at the museum. RSVP at ancestors.eventcreate.com

June 9, Noon-4:00 pm | Craft Saturday

Quyanaa—Thank You to the lead supporters of the Alutiiq Ancestors’ Memorial.
Looking for something to do with your friends and family this holiday season? If you're a current member, you already enjoy free admission to the Alutiiq Museum. Now, thanks to the generous support of KeyBank, everyone gets in for free between November 25 and December 23! Add a little local culture to your holidays with a visit to the Alutiiq Museum, a gift to our community from KeyBank.

November 25 – December 23
FREE ADMISSION

Events

May 11, 12:30-2:00 pm | Lunch and Learn with the Kodiak Senior Center
May 17, 7:00 pm | The Hidden and the Obvious, Two Different Styles of Kodiak Petroglyphs | Lecture by Patrick Saltonstalls
May 19, Noon-4:00 pm  | Craft Saturday | Paper Animal Masks
May 23-28  | Alutiiq Museum Crab Festival Booth
June 1 | Blue Star Museum | Free admission for active duty military and their families
June 1, 4:00-7:00 pm | Groundbreaking for the Alutiiq Ancestors’ Memorial followed by a reception at the museum. RSVP at ancestors.eventcreate.com
June 9, Noon-4:00 pm | Craft Saturday

Quyanaa—Thank you to the lead supporters of the Alutiiq Ancestors’ Memorial.

CONNECT WITH US