Summit Celebrates Alutiiq Language

Alfred Quijance of Seldovia, Abby Kvasnikoff of Nanwalek, and Paul Kahutak of Old Harbor were among the Alutiiq language speakers and learners that travelled to Kodiak last November. Together, more than thirty people attended the museum’s Alutiiq Language Summit to celebrate the successes of language revitalization efforts and plan for the future. The two-day gathering was part of the Naken-Natmen (From Where–To Where) Project, an Alutiiq language documentation effort funded by the National Science Foundation. Koniag, Inc. kindly provided the meeting space.

Summit discussions focused on the Alutiiq language corpus—body of work. The corpus includes all the resources developed to preserve and share the Alutiiq language, from dictionaries and phrasebooks, to recordings of fluent speakers, to books for children. Summit participants reflected on the work done to create and compile these resources. Looking to the future, attendees brainstormed about the next set of resources needed. What tools should be added to the corpus to support Alutiiq language speakers, teachers, and learners? Ideas included textbooks, books and novels for adults, films, and improved access to existing resources.

In addition to the serious business of discussing the corpus, the summit included time for stories, games, and songs in Alutiiq. Instructor Evan Gardner led Alutiiq language learning games. Summit attendees were also able to participate in an Alutiiq Nation Festival hosted by the Sun’aq Tribe. The community enjoyed a potluck dinner, a performance by the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers, and a keynote speech on the history of the Alutiiq language revitalization movement by Alutiiq Museum Executive Director April Laktonen Counceller. This evening event was supported by the Sun’aq Tribe’s recent grant from the Administration for Native Americans to create an Alutiiq language nest for preschool age students. Summit goers helped the tribe celebrate this important milestone and addition to the corpus—a place for Alutiiq children to learn their ancestral language.

Quyanaa—thank you to summit participants, particularly the Elder speakers who shared their knowledge with the next generation.

Ephim Moonin and Irene Coyle play Alutiiq language go-fish at the November 2016 language summit in Kodiak.

Pick. Click. Give.

When you file for your Alaska Permanent Dividend Fund this year, you can donate a portion to the Alutiiq Museum! Your contribution benefits youth programs, cultural workshops, collections care, and so much more!

Visit pickclickgive.org for details!
Cama’i Friends,

Exploring the arts is a major theme of our 2017 gallery exhibits. We began the year with the debut of Living Alaska, Rasmuson Foundation’s celebration of Alaskan visual arts and artists (p4). This travelling show features twenty-five stunning pieces of contemporary artwork borrowed from twelve Alaskan museums. The show, curated by our friend Sven Haakanson, will be in Kodiak until March 18th. Don’t miss your chance to see it. The artwork includes a beautiful seal intestine and ptarmigan feather bag by Coral Chernoff, and we have added nine pieces of artwork from our own collections to the display.

In April, our focus will turn to Alutiiq graphic arts. Pililuki–Make Them! is our first interactive exhibit (p8). Visitors will learn about Alutiiq painting and etching, create their own works inspired by Alutiiq designs, and then share their art with us. Come create in our gallery and spend some time visiting. We are adding a comfortable seating area to the exhibit where visitors can enjoy books and videos. We hope you will stay a while.

You can also visit with artists during our monthly First Friday events, or bring your children to Craft Saturdays to explore Alutiiq-themed art activities. And if you can’t make it to the museum, experience local artwork on our website (www.alutiiqmuseum.org). With support from the City of Kodiak, we recently published an online gallery featuring 124 works from our contemporary art collection (p4).

Make 2017 a creative year. Inspire and unleash your inner artist with a visit to the museum—in person or online.

Ataku (After awhile),
April/Isiik Laktonen Counceller, PhD
Executive Director

Piliyamken una kaaR’taaq. I made you this card.

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ALUTIIQ MUSEUM STAFF

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>April Laktonen Counceller, PhD</td>
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<td>Assistant Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gallery Manager</td>
<td>Dana Haynes</td>
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<td>Gallery Assistant</td>
<td>Lauren McCausland</td>
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<td>Chief Curator</td>
<td>Amy Steffian</td>
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<td>Curator of Archaeology</td>
<td>Patrick Saltonstall</td>
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<td>Collections and Exhibits Manager</td>
<td>Amanda Lancaster</td>
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<td>Collections and Exhibits Specialist</td>
<td>Alexandra Painter</td>
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<td>Projects Manager</td>
<td>Molly Odell</td>
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<td>Project Specialist</td>
<td>Rebecca Pruitt</td>
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<td>Development Assistant</td>
<td>Jeff Garcia</td>
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ALUTIIQ HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Margaret Roberts, Koniag, Inc.</td>
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<td>Vice Chair</td>
<td>Margie Bezona, KANA</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Loretta Nelson, Afognak Native Corporation</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Perry Eaton, Ouzinkie Native Corp.</td>
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<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Fred Coyle, Akhiok-Kaguyak, Inc.</td>
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<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Pat Heitman, Natives of Kodiak, Inc.</td>
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<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Tanya Inga, Old Harbor Native Corporation</td>
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<td>Shauna Hegna, Koniag, Inc.</td>
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<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Gordon Pullar, Jr., Leisnoi, Inc.</td>
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<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Marty Shuravloff, At-large</td>
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<td>Andy Teuber, KANA</td>
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<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Emerita-at-Large Ruth Dawson</td>
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<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Emerita-at-Large Rita Stevens</td>
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Mission and Vision:
By preserving and sharing cultural traditions of the Alutiiq people, we seek to celebrate Alutiiq heritage through living culture.

The Alutiiq Museum is governed by Afognak Native Corporation, Akhiok-Kaguyak Inc., KANA, Koniag Inc., Leisnoi Inc., Natives of Kodiak Inc., Old Harbor Native Corporation, and Ouzinkie Native Corporation. Each organization elects a representative to the Alutiiq Heritage Foundation, the Alutiiq Museum’s board. Funding is provided by charitable contributions, membership fees, grants, contracts and sales from the museum store.

Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums

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facebook.com/alutiiqmuseum

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Piliyamken una kaaR’taaq. I made you this card.
Oil and herbs were the focus of a December workshop for Kodiak educators organized by the Alutiiq Museum. With help from plant expert Gayla Pedersen, teachers learned about the healing properties of arnica (Arnica montana) and northern yarrow (Achillea millefolium L.), and had the opportunity to make a medicinal oil. Before the availability of drug store remedies, Alutiiq healers steeped plants in liquid to release their soothing properties. Both yarrow and arnica are known for their ability to ease aches and pains, as well as treat bug bites and sores.

The workshop was part of the Munartet project, a partnership designed to promote the use of arts and culture in classroom instruction. The event, one of a series planned for area teachers, was sponsored by the Alaska State Council for the Arts with support from Munartet partners, the Kodiak Arts Council, Kodiak College, and the Kodiak Island Borough School District.

**Recipe for Yarnica Oil (Yarrow + Arnica)**

This healing oil has anti-inflammatory, analgesic, and antiseptic properties. People use it to treat bruises and swollen joints. It is for external use only. Do not ingest this oil or apply it to open wounds. We do not recommend using wild plants without proper training on safety and identification. All plant experimentation is done at your own risk.

**Supplies:**
- Dried yarrow and dried arnica (ratio up to you)
- Oil (olive, almond, argon, jojoba, or any other oil you would consider healthful-use one oil or a mix)
- Cheese cloth
- Glass jar with an opening large enough for your ingredients
  A few drops of vitamin E oil (an optional preservative)

**Instructions:**

Pack dried herbs into a glass jar, leaving some space at the top. Pour your choice of oil into the jar. Allow the oil to seep down over the plant material. Tap the jar on a table or use a stick to push down the plants and release air bubbles. Add more oil and plant matter to fill the jar to the top, leaving as little room for air as possible. Seal the jar. Place the jar in a dark room for six weeks to allow the plants to infuse the oil.

After six weeks, strain contents of the jar through cheese cloth to separate the oil from the plant matter. Transfer the oil to a bottle. It is now ready for use! The plant matter can be composted.

Participants put medicinal herbs in jars that will be filled with oil.
There is something a little unnerving about Big Sum Bich #2, Alvin Amason’s colorful portrait of a Kodiak bear. The animal stares right at you—inflated eyes, mouth ajar, nostrils flared. Lively brush strokes and a large, bulging snout make its image jump off the canvas, and your heart beat faster! It’s a face to face encounter with both a Kodiak brown bear and the powerful expression of an Alutiiq artist.

Amason painted this portrait in 2016. It is the second in a series of three paintings that honor his grandfather Eli Metrokyn, the first Alutiiq man to become a master bear guide. The painting, rich in expression and family history, is added to its holdings. A generous grant from Rasmuson Foundation’s Art Acquisition Fund supported the purchase.

Normally, paintings like Amason’s would be out of reach for the Alutiiq Museum. Our budget does not include funds for buying artwork. But since 2003, over $186,200 in grants from Rasmuson have allowed us to build a sizeable contemporary art collection—124 pieces from 34 artists.

To celebrate this collection and share it with the public, we’ve created an online art gallery. You can visit Amason’s bear and others works inspired by Kodiak and Alutiiq traditions at alutiiqmuseum.org/explore/contemporary-art. Funding from the City of Kodiak supported the development of this gallery.

Grants to purchase artwork will be available again in 2017. If you are an established artist, living in the state of Alaska, and would like to submit a piece for consideration, contact Chief Curator Amy Steffian (844-425-8844, x17, amy@alutiiqmuseum.org). Proposals for the next round of purchases are due to the Alutiiq Museum by March 30, 2017. Submissions should reflect our mission to preserve and share the history and culture of the Alutiiq people.
Collections

Additions

The Alutiiq Museum cares for more than 250,000 objects reflecting Alutiiq heritage and the Kodiak environment. Each year we accept donations and loans of materials that advance our mission—to preserve and share the heritage and culture of the Alutiiq people. We extend our sincere appreciation to the following individuals and organizations for their recent contributions. If you are interested in donating objects to the Alutiiq Museum, contact Patrick Saltonstall, 844-425-8844, x18 (patrick@alutiiqmuseum.org).

Donations
Annie Hochmuth for a berry picker and masher
King Family for a wooden quiver and arrow
Laura Resoff for a kayak paddle, throwing board, metal dart, and other artifacts
Kodiak Area Native Association for instructions on the medicinal use of devil’s club.
Robert Usibelli for a model kayak and kayak postcard
Susan Malutin for historic photos of Kodiak

Long-term Loans/Turn-Ins
State of Alaska for artifacts from Shuyak Island State Park and an ivory labret from Kerry Inlet
State of Alaska and Brand Campbell for stone artifacts from the Buskin River area
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Bill Workman for archaeological assemblages from Chirikof Island
Afognak Native Corporation for an ulu collected on Afognak Island
Priscilla Russel and the Kodiak Area Native Association for prints of negatives from their 1990 plantlore project.

Purchases
Model angyaq by Teacon Simeonoff
Silver pendants by Jim Miller
St. Katherine of Karluk, painting by Linda Infante Lyons*
Kodiak Wildflower Suite, 10 paintings by Cathy Cordry*
Spruce root basket by Arlene Skinner*

Ituwik Grandpa, mask by Lena Amason-Berns*
Big Sum Bich#2, painting by Alvin Amason*

*Supported by the Rasmuson Art Acquisition Fund.
**Date Night Program to Expand**

Last August the Alutiiq Museum conducted a small experiment. We launched a date night program. Let’s face it, date night opportunities in Kodiak can feel limited. Could the museum attract new visitors by offering an evening for couples, something new to do with your sweetheart?

“It’s important for the museum to continue expanding its audience,” said Executive Director April Laktonen Counceller. “We want more people to know about our heritage. We also believe the museum should be a place where people do more than look at Alutiiq objects. We want visitors to experience the culture, to interact with it. But participating in an arts workshop or an archaeological dig isn’t for everyone. So, we invited couples to come to the museum for dinner and activities. It was a fun event, where people had an introduction to Alutiiq skills.”

The results were exciting. At Date Night 2016, twenty-five couples attended a disaster-themed evening. After a catered meal, they tried traditional skills, the kind that could be useful in a Kodiak emergency. They transformed pieces of slate into sharp-edged knives and made “nature’s Neosporin,” a healing salve featuring local plants. The sold-out event attracted many new visitors and generated an interest in future Alutiiq-themed date nights.

This spring, the museum will expand the program. Support from Alaska’s Rasmuson Foundation and EmcArts, an arts innovation consultancy in Harlem, New York, will help to fund eight events over the next two years, four each year. The events will feature activities inspired by visitor feedback—more Alutiiq-style disaster training, a chance to learn local dances, or participate in Alutiiq-style cooking. And the program will travel. Two events will be held at the museum. A third will be scheduled at another community location in Kodiak. The fourth event will be held in a different community—Port Lions in 2017, Anchorage in 2018.

For event notification, please contact Gallery Manager Dana Haynes to be added to our email broadcast (dana@alutiiqmuseum.org, 844-425-8844, x13). Tickets will be available online and at the museum.

Watch for our first event in May. ●

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Collecting basket by Arlene Skinner, 9 x 13.5 inches, 2016, purchased with support from Rasmuson Foundation. Made of Kodiak Island spruce roots with a lining of Kodiak deer hide, brain-tanned by Skinner’s daughter Coral Chernoff. Decorated with amber, glass, and turquoise beads. Visit this basket online at alutiiqmuseum.org/arlene-skinner.

Kodiak couple, Brandy and Jake Thomas, show off slate ulu knives they made at Date Night.
Julia Fine–Volunteer of the Year

In honor of Valentines Day, the Alutiiq Museum likes to show some love for its volunteers. Every year community members step forward to help us with tasks from the mundane to the unusual. People set up for events, clean facilities, bring food, give tours, identify historic photos, wash artifacts, and assist our archaeologists. Our 2016 volunteer of the year is Julia Fine, an enterprising California linguist who has learned the Alutiiq language and contributed many hours to its preservation.

Fine has both a talent for languages and a keen interest in their construction. Originally from Massachusetts, she attended Stanford University, where she earned a Bachelor’s degree in linguistics. She first came to Kodiak in 2013 as an intern, helping to teach “Where are your Keys,” a method of language instruction. This gave her the chance to study Alutiiq with Kodiak Elders and conduct research on styles of speech. She is particularly interested in awa’i, an Alutiiq word whose meaning changes depending on the speaker and situation. Awa’i can mean ‘and then,’ ‘done,’ ‘so,’ or ‘now.’

In 2016, Fine helped the museum with two major projects. She recorded Alutiiq speech for the electronic Alutiiq language children’s books Yaaki (Yaaki the Dog) and Naken Taitaartat Alagnat? (Where do Berries Come From?). This involved careful editing of audio files to isolate words and letters so they can be individually heard by beginning Alutiiq language learners.

Fine also participated in the Alutiiq Language Summit, where she interviewed and recorded Elders telling their life stories in Alutiiq. In just five days, she squeezed in eleven interviews! These recordings will be archived in the Alutiiq Museum’s collections and shared online in the Alutiiq Speakers Registry at alutiiqmuseum.mukuru.net.

The museum is grateful for Julia’s time, expertise, and generosity. In honor of her many contributions we recognize her as our 2016 Volunteer of the Year. Quyanaa Julia. We look forward to your next visit to Kodiak.

For more information on volunteering at the Alutiiq Museum, contact Molly Odell, molly@alutiiqmuseum.org.

Julia Fine at the 2016 Alutiiq Language Summit.

Now Available in the Alutiiq Museum Store!

Alaska has long been a nurturing home for artists, with its stunning natural beauty, rich cultural life, and unique communities. In recent years, artists in Alaska have had an additional source of support: the awarding of annual grants to craftsmen, musicians, performers, visual artists, and writers by the Rasmuson Foundation.

Creative Alaska profiles the award winners from 2004 to 2013 in three categories: Distinguished Artists, Fellowships, and Project Awards. Richly illustrated accounts of each of the artists and their work illuminate the challenges and opportunities of the artistic life in Alaska and the powerful impact of the Rasmuson Foundation’s support.

Book retails for $50. Purchase in store or online at: alutiiqmuseum.org/shop/museum-store

Igaru “Qunukamken” kalikamen. Write “I love you” on the paper.
Events

Upcoming Events

Craft Saturday | Alutiiq Language Valentines  
February 11th, Noon–4 pm

Meet the Artist | June Pardue  
February 17th, 1-4pm

The Qik’rtarmiut Alutiiq Regional Language Advisory Committee Meeting  
February 23rd, 1-2pm

First Friday | Hanna Sholl  
March 3rd, 5-7pm

Families Understanding Nature (FUN) | Mask Coloring  
In partnership with the Kodiak Wildlife Refuge  
March 8th, 10:30-11:30am

Living Alaska Exhibit Closes  
March 18th

First Friday | Pililuki Exhibit Opening Reception  
April 7th, 5-7pm

First Friday | TBD  
May 5th, 5-7pm

Craft Saturday | Incised Pebbles  
April 29th, Noon-4pm

Become a Member!

- New Membership
- Renewing Member

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

- Niklìiq Red Salmon $30  
  1 unlimited admission + News
- Kumi’aq Eagle $50  
  2 unlimited admissions + News
- Isuwiiq Seal $100  
  Eagle level + 1 unlimited guest pass + collectible gift
- Taquka’aq Bear $250  
  Seal level + 4 unlimited guest passes + ad recognition

PARTNER LEVELS

- Arlnaq Sea Otter $500-999
- Arluk Orca $1,000-4,999
- Ar’uq Whale $5,000+

All members and donors $250+ receive recognition in a Kodiak Daily Mirror ad and on our website.

I wish to make an additional contribution of $  
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You may submit your application by mail, phone, fax or in person. For online donations visit: alutiiqmuseum.org/give/donate

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