# Past & Present

Juneau-Douglas City Museum: Collecting, preserving and interpreting Juneau-Douglas history and culture

Volume 14, Issue 1 January 2010


## Stop In...

With cold and dreary days still in the forecast, it's a perfect time to visit the Juneau-Douglas City Museum! And with the continued support of local organizations & individuals, your visit is free! Thank you to the following Free Winter Admission sponsors for Winter 2010:

**January**

*In Memory of*

*Harold O. Fossum*

**February**

*Gastineau Channel*

*Historical Society*

**March**

*Robert and Michelle Storer*

**April**

*Robert and Michelle Storer*

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**


| | |
|---|---|
| Upcoming Exhibits | 1 |
| Coffee & Collections & Special Presentation | 2 |
| Share Your Raven & Eagle Stories | 3 |
| Facility Upgrades | 3 |
| Upcoming Classes | 4 |
| Juneau History Grant | 4 |
| Volunteers on View | 5 |
| Gift Shop News | 5 |
| Art Acquisitions | 6 |
| Collections Corner | 6 |
| Recent Acquisitions | 7 |


## Solo Artists, Traveling Exhibits & Community Arts...

Central panel of triptych *Pluto and Proserpina*, oil on canvas by January solo artist Dan DeRoux.

In January, we welcome solo artist Dan DeRoux. DeRoux is a third generation Alaskan, who, aside from a short stint in San Francisco, has been painting in Alaska all of his life.

Artist and art historian Kesler Woodward says "Dan's paintings delight our senses, wits and often our own consciences. Often funny, always beautifully executed, and unfailingly original, they are never just clever one-liners."

DeRoux's show will run from January 8th–30th with an opening reception on Friday, January 8th from 4:30-7:30 pm.

In February get ready to sink your teeth into *MouthPower,* a traveling exhibit from the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry.

*MouthPower* features eight interactive learning stations that teach kids (and adults) about the power of a healthy smile and the importance of oral hygiene in a healthy life. This exhibition is co-sponsored by the Gastineau Channel Historical Society, the Juneau Dental Society and K3 Public Radio, with support from the Rasmuson Foundation and Southcentral Foundation.

The exhibit opens on Friday, February 5th from 4:30 to 7:30 pm in honor of National Children's Dental Health Month. The exhibit runs February 5th - April 24th, 2010.

In conjunction with *MouthPower*, the Museum will also showcase a variety of animal skulls to highlight the teeth of different species native to Alaska and share some interesting facts about animal teeth like how a beaver is able to chew while underwater.

Also in February, the City Museum will host its sixth annual 12X12 Community Art Exhibit. The Museum

*Cont. on page: 2*

## Coffee & Collections

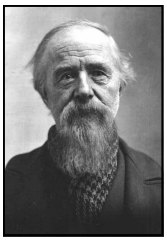
***Juneau's History Detectives***
with Addison Field
**Saturday, January 16th, 10:30am**

Curator of Collections & Exhibits Addison Field will discuss some of the mysteries from the Juneau-Douglas City Museum's permanent collection.

***Open Wide: A Discussion of Dentistry***
with Dr. Nolan Davis, DDS
**Saturday, February 20th, 10:30am**

In connection with *Mouth-Power,* Dr. Davis will discuss a wide variety of topics relating to dentistry including: general dentistry, bush dentistry, fluoride and how children "inherit" decay from their caregivers.

***Dick Willoughby's Book of Claims***
with Mark Whitman
**Saturday, March 13th, 10:30am**



In his day he rode harder, paddled farther, and lied bolder than most anyone west of Missouri or south of Glacier Bay. Dismiss him as Alaska's most cheerful perverter of truth and you lose the best part of Richard Willoughby's story: much of what he claimed was true… or was it?

Coffee provided by
**Heritage Coffee Company**

Above: March solo artist Pua Maunu working on a piece for her upcoming exhibit.

*Exhibits continued...*

invites artists of all abilities to think o*utside* the box to create *inside* the box and be a part of this year's *12X12.*

Finished artwork including any framing must be 12" x 12" (12" deep if three dimensional) and must be ready to hang or install. A completed entry form and a registration fee of $12.12 must accompany each submission. Limit one submission per artist. Entries must be dropped off between noon-4pm on January 28th through January 30th. For more information contact Alysia at 586-3572 or email Alysia_McLain@ci.juneau.ak.us. The exhibit will be up from February 5th - 27th, 2010. The opening reception for both *12X12* and *MouthPower* will be Friday, February 5th from 4:30 to 7:30 pm.

In March, solo artist Puanani Maunu presents *Southeast Hieroglyphic.* Featuring large format abstracted landscapes her paintings reflect the cultural memories evoked by our special everyday places. The exhibit opens Friday, March 5th from 4:30-7:30pm and will run through March 27th.

April solo artist Alan Munro explains that "Limitless chaos exists in nature" and "the challenge is to capture this reality-fantasy existence in a presentable dimension."

Munro's exhibit *Along the Way* will run from April 2nd - 24th with an opening reception on Friday, April 2nd from 4:30-7:30pm.

For more information regarding upcoming exhibits visit www.juneau.org/parkrec/museum.

*Channel* by April solo artist Alan Munro.

## Special Presentation: *Alaska to Finland: A Cultural Exchange*

Alysia participates in a historic school room tour at the Helsinki City Museum

In the Fall of 2009, Curator of Public Programs Alysia McLain participated in a Group Study Exchange (GSE) with the Rotary Foundation. The GSE is a unique cultural and vocational exchange that provides travel grants for teams to exchange visits between different countries.

Thanks to the Juneau Gastineau Rotary Club, Alysia traveled throughout Southern Finland & Estonia for 30 days. She visited over 24 museums, historic houses, cultural sites, and even got a first-hand experience of a living history school room tour!

On Wednesday, January 27th, at 7:00 pm Alysia will present *Alaska to Finland: A Cultural Exchange* to discuss highlights from the exchange and observations of Finnish and Estonian museums.

## Share your Eagle & Raven Stories With Us…

In preparation for our summer exhibit, *All Things Eagle & Raven (working title)* the Juneau-Douglas City Museum invites you to share your personal experiences about Eagle and Raven. We are collecting stories that celebrate these two birds and their every day connection to our lives in Juneau.

Those of us who live in Juneau all have personal experiences and stories about eagles and ravens. Your story may be powerful and relate to your clan affiliation. Your story may be about watching a raven use a tool; making sounds to trick you, or just stealing your bagel on the way to work. Your story may be about watching an eagle soar high above you, or eat fish scraps on the beach.

If you have an eagle or raven story that you would like to share, please visit: http://www.juneau.org/parkrec/museum/forms/tellus/index.php

The Museum will use selected stories in the exhibit.

## Facility Upgrades Continue

The Museum continues to work on its new LED track lighting upgrade in our galleries. This summer we pulled seventy-five incandescent bulbs and replaced them with LEDs. This helped cool our galleries, stop damaging ultra violet light, and save energy costs. Plans are now being finalized to replace our two circuit tracks and all fixtures.

Upgrade plans will move our lighting control panel to the basement, control and fine tune dimming, and program lights on a timer if so desired. Dimming will allow us to adjust lighting to better compliment changing exhibits, increase the life of the bulb, and save energy. This upgrade will also improve our security intrusion system. We expect to start pulling and replacing track, gallery by gallery, starting in February 2010.

This year we will begin site improvements to widen the entrance steps on the corner of Fourth and Main Streets. The plans will look to widen stairs and create built-in benches for visitors. Each summer season, the Museum tracks about 17,000-18,000 visitors who enter our facility. Many more walk up to our grounds to photograph our totem poles and check their bearings before walking on to other destinations. This upgrade will offer a less congested - more welcoming approach and additional outside seating.

A far more substantial and troubling facility issue is that the lack of control over temperature and humidity. The Museum is too warm in the summer and too dry in the winter with little control over temperature and humidity spikes and fluctuations.

A 2006 Museum remodel assessment developed a schematic heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning design to address the building's poor climate control.

Improvements call for replacing an aged oil-fired boiler with electric heat and establishing a displacement cooling and humidity system for the building. Estimated cost of modernization and replacement is $600,000, a daunting figure for a capital improvement project.

The Museum found an encouraging grant initiative from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections Implementation Grant. The awards are competitive and support preventative conservation measures for humanities collections. Project funds can be used to install or re-commission heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems and fund up to 50% of a project's cost at a 1:1 match.

In December, the Museum was given approval by the Public Works Facilities Committee to apply for this grant and in the next year we will be working diligently to meet application guidelines and deadlines.

For more information on ongoing facility upgrades and projects at the Juneau-Douglas City Museum contact Director, Jane Lindsey at 586-3572 or by email Jane_Lindsey@ci.juneau.ak.us.

PARKS AND RECREATION
CITY/BOROUGH OF JUNEAU
ALASKA'S CAPITAL CITY
155 So. Seward St., Juneau, AK 99801 (907) 586(3300) ext. 226

## Upcoming Classes

***12X12 Painted Abstractions***

Sunday, January 31st, 2:00-4:00pm

The City Museum has teamed up with the Canvas Art Studio to give young artists (8-18) an opportunity to create a 12"X12" innovative multi- media collage. All materials and inspiration provided, just bring your own imagination! Cost is $12.12. Pre-registration & pre-payment required. Completed artwork will be installed for the opening of the 12X12 exhibit at the City Museum from February 5 – 27, 2009. Artists may claim their artwork after February 27th.

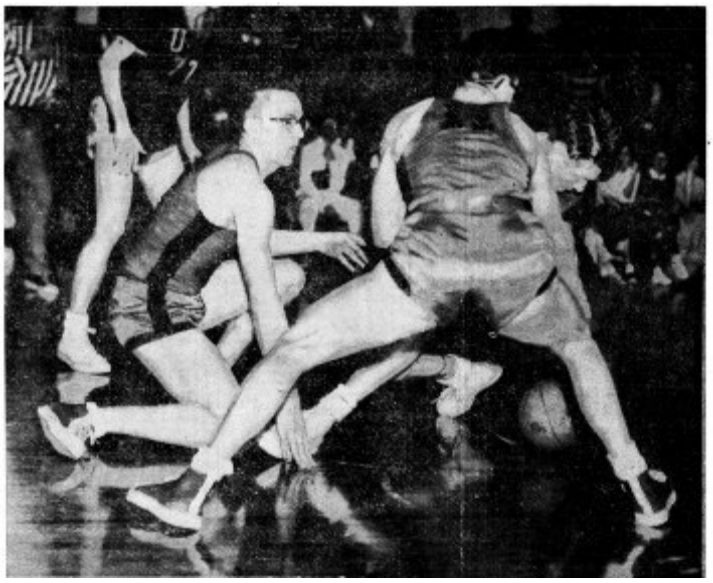
***Juneau Explorers – Spring Break***

March 22-26, 12:30-4:30pm

It's time to explore Juneau's rich history, art, culture and environment during Juneau Explorers – Spring Break. The City Museum, in collaboration with the Canvas Art Studio, will provide a week of indoor and outdoor activities for youth 8-11 including: hiking historic trails, exploring downtown Juneau, creating various types of artwork and more!

***Details in February!***

## History of Basketball Committee Celebrates Release of 6th & Final Volume



SCRAMBLE: Sandy Blanton No.11 and Dave Hollisworth of Juneau High mix it up for possession of the ball with Bob Seppi, University of Alaska in the relay evenings close ball game, which the Bears won.

The Juneau-Douglas (or Douglas-Juneau) Basketball History Committee has completed the final (1949-1955) volume of "*Douglas vs. Juneau—A Chronicle of the 50-year Cross-Channel High School Basketball Rivalry*". The competed work includes six volumes covering the intense competition, both men's and women's, from the beginning in 1914 to consolidation of the schools in 1955. Included is a summary volume containing material pertaining to the entire project as well as tables providing quick reference to every team and individual, the years they played, and the team won/lost records.

The Committee sought to compile a "reasonably complete" archive of the J-D rivalry, which began informally with the Channel's first high school basketball team--the JHS girls of 1906. Newspaper accounts of nearly every game, team rosters, photographs, and some context (non-basketball events on the Channel including the controversial Juneau-Douglas schools consolidation vote) tell the story.

A hard copy of the six volumes may be viewed by appointment at the Juneau-Douglas City Museum. All volumes are available for on-demand printing at Capital Copy Ltd. The five members of the committee all attended JHS or DHS during the late 40s and early 50s, and four of them played in the games recounted in the final volume. "We've all enjoyed this 4-year project....among other things, it's reminded us of how much life on the Channel has changed in our lifetimes. And we also learned some new job skills," says Committee member and "key player" Mike Blackwell.

## Call for Applications for the 2010/2011 Juneau History Grant

Local history is preserved in a variety of ways through the Juneau History Grant including: trail guides, films, presentations and books. The preservationists range from elementary school classes (Gold Creek Trail Guide) to informal interest groups (History of Basketball) to single authors (*Running Towards the Fire),* each with their own unique interest in a part of our local history.

"Many events, topics and people still need to be part of our recorded history and the history grant is here to help," says long time Museum volunteer & History Grant Committee Member Marie Darlin.

The Juneau History Grant offers up to $1,000 to individuals and/or groups to assist with projects that further research, enhance documentation or increase accessibility to the history of the Juneau-Douglas area.

Applications for the 2010/2011 Juneau History Grant are available on-line and at the Museum front desk. Applications are due **Monday, June 14, 2010.**

For more information or to view a complete listing of past projects visit: www.juneau.org/parkrec/museum/grant.php or call 586-3572.

# Volunteers On View:

Museum staff and volunteers celebrated the holidays in style on December 14th at the annual Volunteer Holiday Potluck. Volunteers enjoyed good food, great company, and the chance to see each other's holiday sweaters!

Several of our fantastic volunteers reached new achievement levels during 2009 and we would like to recognize them for their hard work and dedication.

**Mucker (250 hours)**

Year-round volunteer Barb Potter and summer volunteers Alma Harris, Elaine Long, and Betty Miller became City Museum Muckers in 2009, with more than 250 hours of volunteerism each. Barb is consistently one of our best-informed volunteers, thanks in part to her work at the Juneau Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Alma, Elaine, and Betty bring to the Museum their unique knowledge as long-time Juneauites.

**Sourdough (1000 hours)**

Museum advocate, historic tour guide, Historic Resource Advisory Committee member, reception volunteer, and researcher extraordinaire Marie Darlin became a City Museum Sourdough this year with more than 1000 hours of volunteerism! We wish to recognize Marie for her efforts both inside and outside the Museum walls and for her part in preserving and sharing Juneau history throughout the community.

Like our staff members, City Museum volunteers wear many hats and lend their hands in many different ways. Do you like to bake cookies? Are you great at leading children's activities? Can you help us paint the walls? Then lend a little of your time and talents to the City Museum! Call Volunteer Coordinator Claire Imamura at 586-3572 or email: claire_imamura@ci.juneau.ak.us .

# Gift Shop: Made Possible by Your Donations

St. Nicholas print by Charles Rohrbacher.

Did you know that the Museum Store is partially sustained by merchandise donations? Donated items (not suitable for the permanent collections) are some of the most unique pieces of Juneau or Alaskan history in the store, including out-of-print books and duplicates of items in the Museum's collection. Also, when you purchase donated items, you'll know your money's going to a good cause! All proceeds from merchandise donations go back to the Museum through two funds. The Museum Acquisition Fund supports the Museum's purchase of art or historical objects for the permanent collections, and the Juneau History Grant Fund provides funding for local history projects, publications, or events.

Some examples of donated items currently available in the Museum Store:

**Crucibles, Cupels, & Scorifier Dishes**: When the John J. Rishel Mineral Center on Mayflower Island closed in 2007, the Bureau of Mines donated their assay lab items to benefit the Museum Acquisition Fund. Each dish has a specific role in the assaying process, which separates gold from ore.

**St. Nicholas Print** (pictured): This icon of St. Nicholas was created specially for St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox church here in Juneau by world-renowned iconographer Charles Rohrbacher. These remarkable prints were donated to the Museum Store and proceeds go to the Juneau History Grant.

**Political & Commemorative Buttons**: Consistently one of our most popular sellers, all the buttons in our button box were donated by community members and proceeds go to the Museum Acquisition Fund.

If you have a Juneau or Alaska-related item that you would like the Museum to consider for its collection, and if not suitable, consider for the gift-shop, contact the Museum at 586-3572. All donations must be approved by Museum staff.

# Recent Art Acquistions at the City Museum

*Setting Fire to Hearts Beat #35*
By Brandon Hauser.

Once again, the Juneau-Douglas City Museum has been fortunate to be a part of the Rasmuson Art Acquisition Initiative; a grant initiative that provides funds to Alaskan collecting institutions for the purpose of collecting contemporary Alaskan art. In the six years since the program's inception, the Museum has been awarded over $76,500 to purchase forty-seven art works. Because our mission is to collect the culture and art of the Juneau-Douglas area these funds have been awarded to Juneau artists.

"When we make an application for funds to purchase art works," says director Jane Lindsey, "we look at the quality of the work along with the history of the art form and subject matter in our community. We look for a relationship between the work and our collection and ask: How will this work complement and contribute to our collection?"

This year the Museum purchased an oil painting of an eagle and raven feather by Charity Green; three soft pastels of historic downtown Juneau by Barbara Craver; a wooden dress by David Walker; beaded old-fashioned toys by Ella Bentley-Johnson; a beaded painting by Salty Hanes, an oil painting of memories of life in Southeastern Alaska by David Woodie, and seven photographs of Juneau and our environment by Brandon Hauser.

With Juneau-Douglas City Museum Acquisition Donation Funds, the Museum purchased a Raven diptych, "Prelude, Winter in Juneau," by Tlingit artist and printmaker, Larry McNeil. The Museum also purchased a 43" carved mini totem by Jim Marks who unexpectedly passed away a few months ago. "We are fortunate to have a piece of art from this lifelong Juneau Tlingit carver in our collection and look forward to preserving his work for generations to come," says Lindsey.

Rasmuson and Museum Acquisition Donation Funds afford us the opportunity to enhance and compliment our growing history and art collection and encourage and support the talented artists in our community.

# Collections Corner....

It is December so we are well into our winter collections projects! We received funding from an Alaska State Museum Grant-in-aid to purchase and erect new shelving for the archives and historic photos in the Collections Processing Room. Brenda Wright has been going through our archival collections and photos, updating locations, and moving things to the Collections Processing Room. This project has had the added benefit of clearing up nearly half an aisle in the compactor storage unit! So between last winter's Large Object Storage Project and this Archives Storage Project we will have space for continued collecting for years to come!

We are collecting materials in preparation for our summer show which we have tentatively named "All Things Eagle and Raven." We are currently looking for things that are related to eagles, ravens, and how they are a part of daily life here in Juneau.

Brenda Wright working on year books in the Museum's archival collection.

We have had some wonderful collections come into the museum, including two large photo collections. Intern Jenny Gilmore scanned and cataloged over 300 photos from the Juneau Volunteer Firefighters Association collection which we received during the summer. A collection of photos that came from Leonard Lowell also showed up this summer. These photos date from as early as 1897 to about 1929, cover diverse areas of Juneau and Douglas, and include some day to day views of the area that are really out of the ordinary. Thanks to the Beasons for getting those to us.

Addison Field
Curator of Collections & Exhibits

# Recent Acquisitions *September - December 2009*

| | |
|---|---|
| 2009.32 | Jim Marks Totem, Museum Purchase |
| 2009.33 | Printing Cuts, Transfer from UAS |
| 2009.34 | Dianne Anderson Drawing, Gift of the Artist |
| 2009.35 | Douglas Panoramic 1914 Transfer from Douglas Library |
| 2009.36 | Photographic Collection Gift of Evelyn Beason |
| 2009.37 | City of Douglas Archival Materials CBJ Transfer |
| 2009.38 | Charity Green Oil Painting, Rasmuson Art Acquisition Fund Purchase |
| 2009.39 | Barbara Craver Pastels, Rasmuson Art Acquisition Fund Purchase |

Photo credits: Above: AJ Portal Buildings above Gastineau Ave, 1920, E. Percy Pond Photo, JDCM 2009.36.040. Above to the right: *Power House 1* by Barbara Craver, JDCM2009.39.001. At Left: *Rays* by Salty Hanes, JDCM2009.53.001.

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|---|---|
| 2009.40 | David Walker Garment, Rasmuson Art Acquisition Fund Purchase |
| 2009.41 | AJ Time Booklets, Found in Collection |
| 2009.42 | Ruth Allman Photo, Gift of Nancy Barr |
| 2009.43 | Larry McNeil Digital Photographs Museum Purchase |
| 2009.44 | Halibut Hook and Coastal Pilot Gift of Mike Blackwell |
| 2009.45 | Historic Photo by Ed Andrews Gift of Patrick Wilson |
| 2009.46 | "Totem" Yearbooks, Gift of Pat Monagle |
| 2009.47 | Mary Joyce Archival Materials Gift of Mary Anne Greiner |

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|---|---|
| 2009.48 | David Woodie Oil Painting Rasmuson Art Acquisition Fund Purchase |
| 2009.49 | 25th Anniversary Champagne Bottle Gift of Art Peterson |
| 2009.50 | Beadwork by Ella Johnson-Bentley Rasmuson Art Acquisition Fund Purchase |
| 2009.51 | Script from "Limbo" Gift of Bob Banghart |
| 2009.52 | Juneau Historical Material Gift of Marie Darlin |
| 2009.53 | Beadwork by Salty Hanes Rasmuson Art Acquisition Fund Purchase |
| 2009.54 | Klaxon; Trapping Materials Gift of Jay Crondahl |
| 2009.55 | AJ Mining Collection Gift of Jim & Julie Shook |