



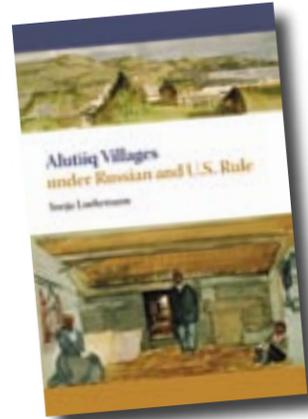
# BARANOV QUARTERLY

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KODIAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY ♦ SPRING 2008

## New Exhibits and Programs this Spring at the Baranov Museum

There will be much to see and do at the Baranov Museum throughout our Bicentennial year. This spring we are offering exciting new programs and partnering with local organizations to bring you two new exhibits.

Our Bicentennial Speaker's Series kicks off on Thursday, April 10 at 5 p.m., with the presentation "Alutiiq or Russian? The Creoles of Russian America and their fate after 1867," with anthropologist Sonja Luehrmann. Sonja is the author of the newly published *Alutiiq Villages Under Russian and U.S. Rule*, a work drawing upon Russian-American Company correspondence and records from the Russian Orthodox Church in Alaska. The book examines the differences and similarities between the Russian and American periods of colonial rule in Alaska, as they affected the lives of Alutiiq people. Pick up your copy of Sonja's book from the Museum gift shop and come early on April 10 for a good seat. Our Bicentennial Speakers series is funded through a donation from Subway of Kodiak. Long known for their support of local sports and recreational activities, we are very pleased to have Subway's sponsorship for our exciting series of scholarly presentations.



Saturday, April 12 will mark the opening day of a traveling exhibit in honor of the 12th annual Kodiak Whalefest. In partnership with the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Kodiak Laboratory, we will present an exhibit on the history of the commercial harvest of northern fur seals in the Pribilof Islands. The Pribilof Islands northern fur seal exhibit was produced in 2007 by NOAA Fisheries Service and NOAA's Ocean Service, as part of the larger "Treasures of NOAA's Ark" exhibit, which was displayed at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle from March - Sept 2007. The exhibit covers the history of NOAA's involvement in the Pribilof Islands, first in the fur seal commercial harvest, and later in conservation of and research on fur seals. Items in the exhibit include artifacts used during the harvest of fur seals, instruments used in research, photographs of fur seal colonies and a slide show about the Pribilof Islands. Enjoy free admission to the Museum all day for the exhibit opening on Saturday, April 12. To highlight the exhibit themes, we will also host film screenings at the choral pod on Saturday, April 19th. Join us at 3 p.m. for *Henry Wood Elliot: Defender of the Fur Seal* (30 minutes) to be followed by *Aleut Story* (90 minutes).

See page 6 inside for a complete schedule of spring programs and exhibits.

## An Othello for Alaska

Can you imagine the scheming Iago and the conflicted Othello as officers in the Russian-American Company in the mid-19th century? The forward-thinking theater company Edgware Productions did, and secured a *Shakespeare in American Communities* grant to develop the idea and bring the production on the road. This Alaskan adaptation of William Shakespeare's *Othello* opened at Cyrano's Theater in Anchorage with well-known Alaska Native actor Allan Hayton in the title role. The show will travel to Kodiak for a one-night performance on **Friday, March 28th at 7 p.m. at the Gerald C. Wilson Auditorium mainstage**. Tickets are available at the Baranov Museum, or at the Box Office one hour before the show. Come enjoy a night of great theater with an intriguing Alaskan angle.



The Othello artwork by Alvin Amason.

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Surveys, Assessments and Interns, oh my! Throughout 2008, we will offer some fantastic public programs and host exciting new exhibits. There will be many opportunities for visitors young and old to get involved and even get a little dirty (stay tuned for the dig this summer!). But our small and dedicated staff of five continues to work behind the scenes - evaluating our services, responding to audience needs, and planning for the future.

If you have stopped by the Museum in the past three months, you have likely been asked to complete a three-page visitor's survey. We are participating in a nationwide program administered by the American Association of State and Local History to evaluate our visitors' expectations and experiences. The resulting data will help identify our strengths, and areas of needed improvement, as perceived by those we are here to serve.

We are also working our way through an 18-month general institutional evaluation through the American Association of Museum's Museum Assessment Program. Considered the building blocks toward national accreditation, the program leads us through lengthy self-study, a peer review and an implementation period. In 2006, we engaged in the Museum Assessment Program in the area of collections management and continue to implement the resulting priorities and recommendations from that evaluation.

One such recommendation is the development of a Collections Plan. The plan will supplement our collections policy and help guide the decisions of our acquisitions committee. It will articulate the scope and significance of our collections and outline areas for growth and refinement. We are looking forward to developing the plan with the assistance of our summer intern Elizabeth Manekin. Elizabeth is a graduate student in Public Humanities at Brown University and will spend ten weeks in Kodiak this summer thanks to an internship pilot program administered through the Alaska State Museum. We look forward to offering Elizabeth more hands-on museum experience and making use of her skills and training in our collections planning process.

In short, we are doing our very best to offer new opportunities, celebrate the 200-year-milestone of our incredible building, and work steadily and carefully to plan for the future. If you did not get the opportunity to complete a visitor's survey, remember your thoughts and comments on programs and exhibits are always welcome. We hope you stop by with your sunny season guests in the months ahead and take advantage of all that we have to offer at the Baranov Museum.

Sincerely,

Katie Oliver,  
Executive Director

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## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Kodiak Historical Society is to collect, preserve, research and exhibit historically significant artifacts, documents, photographs and other data relative to the Kodiak and Aleutian Islands area; to evaluate and interpret the materials in the collections for educational purposes and presentation to the public; and to continue to develop and maintain a library of rare books about the Kodiak and Aleutian Islands area.

## MUSEUM STAFF

Katie Oliver, Executive Director  
Alice Ryser, Archivist  
Ellen Lester, Curator of Collections  
Ani Thomas, Education Coordinator  
Nancy Pierce, Gallery & Gift Shop

## MUSEUM HOURS

Winter Hours  
Tues - Sat: 10 - 3  
Closed Sunday & Monday  
Summer Hours  
Mon - Sat: 10 - 4, Sun: 12 - 4  
Admission \$3.00

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Museum Exhibit Facelift

During last years exhibit case reorganization and the addition of interpretive wall and case labels, the main exhibit room has a new look. A dedicated volunteer, Evelyn Wiszinckas, and curator Ellen Lester have been documenting the changing exhibits as part of a digital inventory. As visitors enter the enclosed porch, they can view the historical picture panels of the Russian American Magazin/Baranov Museum and Kodiak's Changing Waterfront or view DVDs of the historical house's history, Kodiak bears, and the fishing industry sitting on a unique bench made from a log found in the attic of the museum. Entering the museum there are two cases portraying Alutiiq culture at the time of Russian exploration, the first, with stone, bone, and ivory tools and a grass mat and the second, featuring Alutiiq hunting hats and a kamleika and other maritime objects used for hunting sea otter. Next, the Russian American settlement and development case introduces the Russian double eagle on the Russian-American Company flag and an exquisite carving by former Kodiak resident and teacher, Dean Otteson. This replica of the Russian Imperial Crest is carved from yellow cedar. Russian coins and a 10 kopec note printed on seal skin, that was used as money by the Russian-American Company, are surrounded by Russian trade beads, flintlock pistols, scale weights, handcuffs and wooden planes used for constructing log structures.

An 1849 chart of Kodiak and the iron bust of Tsar Alexander I (1805-1825), which used to sit on the front gable of the Russian American Magazin, are followed by the Russian Orthodoxy exhibit. Icons, traveling size to large religious images, a brass Russian crucifix cross, and a book of four Gospels are some of the objects displayed with new labels. The last case blends the Russian to American period, which started in 1867, as do the tool walls show Russian ice saws, axe heads and American tools. News labels will help interpret the other exhibits rooms during the summer and fall.



Family Fun Nights have begun!

First Friday Family Fun Nights with Free admission are a great opportunity for families to explore and enjoy the museum together. On the first Friday of every month, we will offer extended hours, free admission, children's activities and more! Visitors in March were able to learn about Russian Easter traditions, decorate their own "black laquer" egg, sample some delicious Kulich baked by Classic Cakes Bakery, tackle a Mystery Objects challenge, and explore a variety of artifacts from our teaching collection. Each month will have a new theme and different learning objectives with a variety of activities for young minds. Mark your calendars!



Education Coordinator Ani Thomas shows the interior of a model samovar to kids and parents at the Family Fun Night on March 7th. Join us on the first Friday of every month for family activities at the Museum. Photo courtesy Sven Haakanson.

Outside the box...

Are you looking for a unique way to present history to your students? Let us come to your classroom! We offer several arts and education programs from which to choose, or you can request a custom program on a topic you are exploring in class. Touchable artifacts and historical photographs will be on hand to compliment the program of your choice. Collaborate with our education staff to find out what programs will work for your grade level and curriculum requirements. Classroom visits are a great way to prepare students for a field trip. It is not only a great education, but a fun, and memorable experience for your students.

The museum encourages repeat visits! The goal of multi visits goes beyond the actual history presented. We find that through repeat visits, the students feel a sense of community; that the museum belongs to them. This connection deepens with each encounter. The students should feel that the museum is a place of unlimited learning and pleasure, not just something you do once. From volcanoes to basket weaving, from whaling to earthquakes, there is a story to inspire every one of us. We want to help students experience those stories. We strive for a new experience with each visit.

These programs are available for school and homeschool groups, as well as other youth groups. Best of all, classroom visits and museum trips are FREE! Contact Education Coordinator Ani Thomas at programs@baranov.us or 486-5920 to learn more or to schedule a visit.

*"Thanks for coming to our classroom. The kids LOVED your visits and the art project."*

*- Susan Hailey, Peterson Elementary*



Students in Ms. Hailey's 2nd grade class at Peterson Elementary learned about whale species in Kodiak waters and about the commercial whaling industry in the early 20th century. In the photo above the students display their scrimshaw art project.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES...

In April of 1963 my home was in Cordova, Alaska, and it was at that time I received a phone call from my mother, Mollie Balas, inviting me and my three children to come to Kodiak for the Kodiak King Crab Festival.

It just so happened that I had seen a promotional film on the Festival and I was very excited to accept the invitation to visit Kodiak for the first time. As I recall the parade was very short and while I was looking to see if there was more someone said, "That's it."

My children and I came for that first visit and stayed. My landlord at that time was Jess Blinn, Beoma's father.

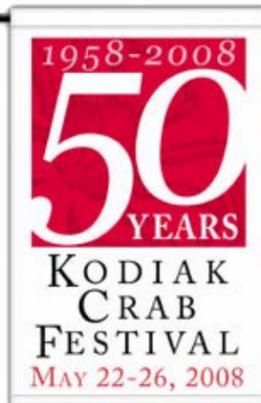
Following are photographs taken from that first King Crab Festival in May 1958, provided by Beoma for the upcoming 50th anniversary exhibit.

- Alice Ryser

Top: Crab Festival Queen contestants, 1958 - Beoma Blinn is in the center.

Middle: In this photograph a crown made from King crab shells is placed upon the head of Beoma the new reigning queen.

Bottom: Beoma Blinn Oakely rides in the Crab Festival parade in 1982, celebrating the 25th anniversary of this uniquely Kodiak event.



These and many more images of Kodiak Crab Festival will be featured in a retrospective exhibit in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the festival.

## SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS AND EXHIBITS

March

March 28, 2008 at 7 p.m.: Othello. An Alaska Native adaptation of William Shakespeare's tragedy, set in 1849 Russian America. Performance will be held at the Gerald C. Wilson Auditorium, tickets are available at the Baranov Museum prior to the show.



Baskets made by artist and instructor Hazel Jones.

March 31 - April 29, 2008. Monday, Tuesday & Thursdays from 1 - 2:30 p.m.: Grass Basket Weaving Classes. Learn this intricate and uniquely Alaska artform with instructor Hazel Jones. Class size is limited so please call to pre-register.

April 4, 2008, 4:30 - 7 p.m.: First Friday Family Fun Night. What does slaying a dragon have to do with the Baranov Museum? Come find out! A fun opportunity for families to explore the Museum together. Extended hours, children's activities and a new theme each month.

April 10, 2008, 5 p.m. Bicentennial Speaker's Series: Alutiiq or Russian? The Creoles of Russian America and their fate after 1867. A research presentation and book signing with anthropologist Sonja Luehrmann. Sonja's new book *Alutiiq Villages Under Russian and U.S. Rule* is available for purchase at the Museum gift shop.

April 12, 2008, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Pribilof Fur Seal Exhibit Opening. Enjoy free admission all day and view this traveling exhibit on the history of the Pribilof Island's fur seal industry. This Kodiak Whalefest event is presented in collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association and the Alaska Fisheries Science Center.

April 19, 2008, 3 p.m.: Fur Seal Exhibit Companion Films Screening. Join us at the Choral Pod for a viewing of two films relating to the the natural and cultural history of the Pribilof Islands. *Henry Wood Elliot: Defender of the Fur Sea* screens at 3 p.m. with *Aleut Story* directly following. The films will also be available for viewing at the Museum during regular hours.

April 22, 2008, 1 p.m.: Orca Curriculum Presentation. The Alaska Fisheries Science Center has developed an elementary school curriculum around the story of Springer, the young killer whale who was found orphaned in the Puget Sound, Washington, in 2002. Join us as AFSC scientist Lisa Hiruki-Raring shares the killer whale curriculum and the Pribilof Islands display with the homeschool community

April 26, 2008, 10 a.m.: Kids Scrimshaw Activity. Childre ages 8 and over are welcome to participate in this free fun etching activity and explore Kodiak's whaling history. Please call to pre-register.

May 2, 2008, 4:30 - 7 p.m.: First Friday Family Fun Night. A fun opportunity for families to explore the Museum together. Extended hours, children's activities and a new theme each month.

May 10, 2008: 50th Anniversary Crab Festival Exhibit Discover the history of Kodiak's most celebrated & popular annual event (and the halycon days of the King Crab industry that inspired it!). A joint exhibit by the Kodiak Chamber of Commerce and the Baranov Museum featuring more than 100 historic photographs.

May 25, 2008, 1 p.m.: Kodiak Russian Balalaika Players Performance. A Crab Festival tradition since 1988! Join us for authentic Russian folks songs by the talented local ensemble.

Balalaika Players Casey Janz and Nancy Kotula enjoy the sunshine on the Museum lawn. Photo courtesy Bob Brodie.



April

May

## MEMBERSHIP

We would like to extend sincere thanks to all of our new and renewing members from January, February and March. Your continuing support is truly appreciated.

### BENEFACTORS

In Memory of Sara Bulen

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To become a new or renewing member please call the Baranov Museum at 486-5920. If we have inadvertently left you, your spouse, or your business off the list, please call for corrections.

The Baranov Museum is operated in partnership between the Kodiak Historical Society and the City of Kodiak. The Kodiak Historical Society is funded in part by the City of Kodiak, Kodiak Island Borough, Alaska State Council on the Arts, Alaska State Museum, Museums Alaska, the Rasmuson Foundation, and many private donors. We thank you all for your support!



KODIAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BARANOV MUSEUM

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## Capital Campaign Update

Since the announcement of our *Save America's Treasures* award in December 2007, the Kodiak Historical Society has received nearly \$10,000 in cash gifts and pledges from individual supporters for our Bicentennial Capital Campaign. We appreciate very much your financial support for our work to preserve and improve the Baranov Museum:



Valerie Bond	Vern & Debra Hall
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## Yes! I want to help preserve and share Kodiak history

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My check made payable to the Baranov Museum is enclosed

Please charge my membership(s) to my credit card:

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