The Alaska Library Association’s Alaskana Award Committee is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2011 Alaskana Award for titles published in 2010 is *Yupiit Yuraryarait: Yup’ik Ways of Dancing*, by James H. Barker and Ann Fienup-Riordan with Theresa Arevqag John; translations by Marie Meade, David Chanar and Alice Rearden (Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press). Each year the Alaskana Award honors titles that make a significant contribution to the understanding of Alaska and that exhibit originality, depth of research and knowledge of the state. This year it is especially satisfying to honor authors who have not won the award before but whose collective body of work has consistently provided new insights about Alaska.

*Yupiit Yuraryarait* looks at dance as an expression of Yup’ik history and culture by blending research, oral history, song lyrics and choreography. Chapters include subjects such as the origins of dancing, the influence of Yup’ik worldviews on dancing, the props (such as drums, fans and masks) used in the dances, song composition and Yup’ik dancing’s historical suppression as well as its revival. The comprehensive text comes alive with black and white photographs by Mr. Barker, whose mostly candid shots of people dancing capture moments full of animation and motion, sweat and intensity, happiness and fun. A DVD showing archival footage of dancing and interviews with dancers, both young and old, accompanies the book. The book credits its many Yup’ik contributors and includes a glossary of relevant Yup’ik terms.
Dear AkLA members,

It has been a busy legislative session, with several projects of interest to AkLA. Because of the special session that is going on as I write this update, it is still unclear what the final outcome will be.

Under the Public Library Construction and Major Expansion Matching Grant Program, AkLA is supporting projects in Soldotna, Ketchikan, Kodiak and Skagway that will build new libraries or significantly expand existing ones. Funding for these four projects will total $16.65M and currently they are in the Senate budget. Hopefully, they will stay there throughout the special session and survive the governor’s veto pen.

This grant program was enacted in 2008 but without funding. Last year the efforts of many people helped secure funding for library construction projects in six communities. A crucial tool in making this happen was the establishment of a matrix of all known public library projects. This year, we were able to use the matrix very effectively because legislators were familiar with it. David Ongley, Mary Jo Joiner, Patty Linville and others have been working with the Division of Community and Regional Affairs to create the regulations needed to establish the grant program as a regularly funded part of the budget. When this happens, libraries will be able to apply to the grant program and not have to lobby the legislature and hope their project gets funded.

There has also been some effort to secure funding for SLAM, the State Library Archives and Museum project. Over the years, Alaska has gathered a number of valuable historical collections but unfortunately the facilities they are currently housed in are aging, have little room for growth, and provide inadequate protection. Flooding has already damaged some collections. The SLAM project will replace four old facilities with one new facility designed to house all of the collections in one place. Last year $18.5M in bond money was approved to support the design phase. We have been
a bibliography and an index. By the end of this unique book, we understand why elder Paul John declared that “dancing is our most important custom.”

In addition to *Yupiit Yuraryarait*, the committee received two other nominations: *Before the Storm: A Year in the Pribilof Islands, 1941-1942*, by Fredericka Martin, edited with supplemental material by Ray Hudson (Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press); and *Living Our Cultures, Sharing Our Heritage: The First Peoples of Alaska*, edited by Aron Crowell, Rosita Worl, Paul C. Ongtooguk and Dawn Biddison (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Books).

*Before the Storm* tells the story of physician Samuel Berenberg and his wife Fredericka Martin, who arrived on St. Paul Island in late June of 1941, where he had been newly hired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition to her background in nursing and management, Fredericka Martin was a keen observer, well read, socially adept and a tireless (unpaid) worker when it came to improving the clinic and hospital. She began a journal, chronicling what life was like on St. Paul during what turned out to be a pivotal year in Pribilof history – a year which began with the Pribilof people in a serf-like status, then the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Japanese aggression in the Aleutians, and eventually the evacuation of the people to Southeast Alaska. In the midst of this she started work on a manuscript combining her impressions with excerpts from her reading. Her thoughtful, readable prose is supplemented with material added by noted Aleutian historian Ray Hudson.

*Living Our Cultures, Sharing Our Heritage* was put together to accompany an exhibit of the same name at the Smithsonian’s Arctic Studies Center (ASC), which is partnered and co-located with the Anchorage Museum. The bulk of the book is made up of photographs of exhibit objects and essays covering Inupiaq, St. Lawrence Island Yupik, Yup’ik, Unangax (Aleut), Sugpiaq (Alutiiq), Athabascan, Tingit, Haida and Tsimshian cultures.

The photography of the objects is particularly wonderful: you can almost feel the textures of the leather, wood or other material from which the item is made, and only seeing them in person could be better. Each page is devoted entirely to one object (or a set of objects, such as a bowl and spoon). Below each image is the item’s provenance, a description of and information about the item, a second photo or artwork showing the item in use, and a quote that provides a personal element of context. This additional material, along with the essays that accompany each chapter, effectively breathes life into the otherwise still objects. The book’s essays address topics such as the relationship between culture and the environment, ideas about community and family, and cultural ceremonies and celebrations.

We hope that you have a chance to enjoy these wonderful titles and will consider nominating your favorite 2011 Alaskana titles at the end of the year. Happy reading!

Jude Baldwin, Fairbanks North Star Borough Public Libraries
Sylvia Burns, Fairbanks, retired
Every year, the members of the Alaskana Award Committee review dozens of new titles published about Alaska. While most of these titles do not get nominated for the award, that doesn’t mean they aren’t still wonderful! Here are some of the committee’s favorites that didn’t get nominated this year:

**Bong Hits 4 Jesus: A Perfect Constitutional Storm in Alaska’s Capital**, by James C. Foster (University of Alaska Press). It happened in Juneau, but it could happen anywhere: In 2002 a high school student held up a sign and was suspended from school. The legal case that ensued bumped its way up through the court system for over five years, ending in the U.S. Supreme Court. The combination of personalities and the legal system makes for a fascinating and important book.

**Cold Flashes: Literary Snapshots of Alaska**, edited by Michael Engelhard (University of Alaska Press). “If you can’t say it in one page, you won’t say it in one hundred” is the philosophy behind this compilation of carefully chosen pieces of fiction and nonfiction, the humorous and the thoughtful. Together with beautiful black and white photos, they form a consciousness of Alaskan “being.” A perfect book if you only have 5-10 minutes to ponder.

**Deadliest Sea: The Untold Story Behind the Greatest Rescue in Coast Guard History**, by Kalee Thompson (William Morrow/HarperCollins). There were 47 crewmembers on the fishing trawler *Alaska Ranger* when it began taking on water during a Bering Sea storm. The author explores the why, what and how of the sinking and rescue. This “I can’t put it down book” is much more than just a thriller!

**The Fishes & Dishes Cookbook: Seafood Recipes and Salty Stories from Alaska’s Commercial Fisherwomen**, by Kiyo Marsh, Tomi Marsh and Laura Cooper (Epicenter Books). With its focus on women in a male-dominated...
industry, yummy recipes, color photos and great collage art, it’s no surprise that Library Journal included it on their Best Books 2010 “How To” list. This glimpse into the fishing industry provides a nice alternative to Deadliest Catch.

Lance Mackey Story: How My Obsession With Dog Mushing Saved My Life, by Lance Mackey (Zorro Books). It takes a tough musher and tough dogs to win the Iditarod and the Yukon Quest back-to-back in the same year, and Mackey has done it twice. He has had great challenges and great successes in his life, all met with his own down-to-earth attitude. A fascinating and inspirational book for all Alaskans.

Salmon in the Trees: Life in Alaska’s Tongass Rain Forest, photography by Amy Gulick, illustrations by Ray Troll (The Mountaineers Books). Gulick’s beautiful photos are accompanied by text by various authors, as well as a CD with natural sounds of the Tongass and narration by Richard Nelson. A great multifaceted portrait of the landscape, environment, people and culture of Southeast Alaska.

Something Fishy This Way Comes: The Artwork of Ray Troll, by Ray Troll (Sasquatch Books). Troll’s artwork featuring fish and all things marine is playful, fun and wacky. It’s hard not to enjoy his offbeat humor and word play. As John Straley writes in the book’s foreword: “If there were such a thing, Ray Troll would be the Artist Laureate of Hallucinatory Fish Images.”

Still Rainin’, Still Dreamin’: Hall Anderson’s Ketchikan, photos by Hall Anderson (University of Alaska Press). Dramatic, beautiful and sometimes quirky, these black and white photos of Ketchikan were taken in the 1980s and 1990s. Especially refreshing are the photos of children “doing their thing.”

Take Good Care of the Garden and the Dogs: Family, Friendships & Faith in Small-Town Alaska, Heather Lende (Algonquin Books). A devastating car accident, obituary writing, the death of a parent, local celebrations, world events and everyday activities form the backdrop for Lende’s new book on life in Haines. Although infused with more spiritual content, Lende’s newest still has the same small-town charm that reader’s loved in her first book, which won the Alaskana Award in 2006.

Treadwell Gold: An Alaska Saga of Riches and Ruin, by Sheila Kelly (University of Alaska Press). The author’s interest in her own family history blossomed into a fascination with the town of Treadwell, its mine, the workers and their families. The result is this very readable history including many photos, extensive notes, a bibliography and a timeline.

True North: New Alaskan Architecture, by Julie Decker (Braun). Unless it features quirky outhouses, there aren’t very many books covering Alaska’s architecture, making this book very welcome. Even if the contemporary style of these buildings doesn’t appeal to your taste, the color photos and the explanatory text will keep you turning the pages.

(Not Forgotten - Cont. from pg. 4)
ANCHORAGE

Library Networking Night

The Anchorage chapter held a very special April meeting, designed to bring new and future librarians together with more experienced librarians and hiring managers. We called the event “Library Networking Night” and combined structured events, largely focused on job searching, with time for networking, socializing and snacking. The evening opened with a panel of hiring managers, including Ann Morgester, Karen Keller and Page Brannon, who answered questions and provided advice for potential library job seekers. They were followed by a second panel consisting of new librarians and library school students, including Lisa Sam, Sigrid Brudie, D’Arcy Hutchings and Erik Carlson, who talked about their library school experiences and their own perspectives on job hunting. Following the panels, Christie Ericson and Susan Mitchell were kind enough to reprise their “Get the Library Job You Want” presentation from the Annual Conference in Juneau. We had many excellent discussions, both during the sessions and afterward.

Our next meeting will be a book swap and picnic, June 14, at 11am, at Lucy Cuddy Park by Loussac. Be sure to watch the listservs and social media for further announcements about our up-coming meetings!

Mt. View Library Featured in ALA’s Library Design Showcase

Anchorage Public Library’s newest library, Mountain View, is featured in the American Library Association’s 2011 Library Design Showcase, which highlights top libraries across the country. The neighborhood library is recognized in the Sustainable Construction, Navigation and Color, and Children’s and Teens Spaces categories of the showcase.

The remodeled building, which opened last September, is certified as LEED Gold by the U.S. Green Building Council, one of the highest levels attainable for green building design. As one of the first LEED Gold buildings in Alaska,

(Cont. on pg. 7)
(Chapter News - Cont. from pg.6)

the Library is a leader in sustainability and building efficiency.

The building project included a 3,500-square-foot addition for the community room. The team of McCool Carlson and Green architects with SR Bales Construction retained 95 percent of the building’s existing walls, floors and roof in the remodeling.

Light is provided by 50,000-hour-lifespan LED lights. Daylight sensors automatically adjust illumination based on incoming daylight. Other features include indigenous vegetation in the landscaping, monitoring systems to enhance indoor air quality and low-emitting indoor materials.

The Mountain View renovation completes phase one of the Anchorage Library Renewal Initiative—the largest investment in our public libraries in over 20 years. The Municipality and Anchorage Library Foundation raised more than $14M in private, state, federal and bond funds to build or renovate four branch libraries.

The second phase of the Initiative includes the creation of Loussac’s Teen Underground, opening this summer, and a generational renovation of the Z.J. Loussac Library.

*Library Design Showcase: [http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/librarydesign11](http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/librarydesign11)

*U.S. Green Building Council: [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)

*Anchorage Public Library: [www.AnchorageLibrary.org](http://www.AnchorageLibrary.org)

Clare Stockert
Anchorage Public Library

KETCHIKAN

UAS Ketchikan Presents One Ketchikan One Book

During the Spring Semester 2011, the UAS Ketchikan Campus

(Cont. on pg. 8)
Library has been instrumental in coordinating a community-wide reading event titled: One Ketchikan One Book. The program is based on One City One Book, a concept for a community reading program that encourages everyone in a city to read and discuss the same book. The first One City One Book project took place in Seattle in 1998. It was called "If All of Seattle Read the Same Book" and was started by Nancy Pearl of the Seattle Public Library's Washington Center for the Book.

All of Ketchikan was encouraged to read one book, The Soloist, by Steve Lopez. The Soloist was chosen by a committee of faculty members and Kathleen Wiechelman, the UAS Ketchikan librarian. Local businesses, neighborhoods, churches, agencies and government entities were invited to read The Soloist and support attendance of book discussions and other One Ketchikan One Book events in order to help build a sense of community, strengthen literacy and advance the common good for Ketchikan.

The themes of music, mental health and homelessness were rich discussion points to explore, and the Campus Library hosted many related events, beginning in early December and lasting until late April 2011. Local musicians, UAS staff and faculty, or young music students played at the start of each activity. One presenter even brought two violins so the participants could have a go at making music. The One Ketchikan One Book program began with a dramatic reading and reception during the local Arts Council's Winter ArtWalk (see photo). Events included three book discussion groups, live music on several occasions, and a showing of the film The Soloist (starring Jamie Foxx as Nathaniel Anthony Ayers and Robert Downey, Jr. as Steve Lopez) with discussion following.

A highlight event involving several local agencies was a roundtable discussion relating to homelessness and mental illness and exploring Ketchikan's response to the needs of its homeless population. Representatives from the Salvation Army, the day shelter, Borough Assembly, a psychologist, and the coordinator for a local donation clearinghouse each described their services and discussed needs and dynamics specific to Ketchikan. The forum allowed these agencies a rare opportunity to personally interact.

The panel was led by Dr. William Urquhart, Assistant Professor of Sociology for UAS. The story was embraced by Ketchikan readers who took advantage of the multiple copies of the book. Several bookstores ordered extras and offered a discounted price. Local book clubs included the title on their reading lists and joined in the campus-sponsored events. Several of the UAS Ketchikan faculty incorporated the book into their curricula during the Spring Semester. Assignments included:
*source analysis essays which required students to be signed off by a librarian after completing a brief session on accessing library resources in their research;
*three-chapter summaries;
*book reviews; and
*a works-cited exercise.

One instructor noted, "Remember that these are English 092 students, developing readers and writers whose skill grew through the semester, through the reading of the book and attending the events you planned."

Events were recorded for distance students to view at their convenience, and students were also able to call in to the book and panel discussions and even ask questions, enabling them to participate in real time.

One Ketchikan One Book and the selection of The Soloist resulted in a semester of lively events enticing many members of the public through the UAS Ketchikan Campus Library doors. The themes of the book made for enriching discussions among students, faculty, staff and community members.

Kathy Bolling
UAS Ketchikan Campus Library
MARC AND DEWEY WORKSHOPS

Three workshops are being offered on MARC coding and on Dewey Decimal classification. They will be taught by Lynn Fields of The MARC of Quality (TMQ).

These workshops are supported by an Interlibrary Cooperation grant which was requested by the Cataloging Roundtable of the Alaska Library Association. The workshops are available and free to library staff who work in Alaska. Membership in the Alaska Library Association is not required. Seating is limited.

1) MARC21 in Your Library. Part Two, MARC Coding

Monday, August 1, 2011, 9 am to 4 pm
An introduction to MARC21 intended for directors, reference people, acquisitions people, copy catalogers, beginning catalogers, and experienced but untrained catalogers, who need to understand the importance of MARC in their libraries.

Required text: None.
Prerequisite: Before Part One, a prerequisite, is a self-paced set of modules available on the Internet at http://www.marcofquality.com/webinars/webm21.html

Description of “MARC Coding in Your Library.” (pdf file)
http://akcathandbook.wetpaint.com/page/MARC+AND+DEWEY+WORKSHOPS

2) Dewey Daze 1
Tuesday and Wednesday, August 2-3, 2011, 9 am to 4 pm
An introductory course on the Dewey Classification system.

Required text: Bring your copy of DDC 22. Do not bring an abridged version.
Prerequisites: None.

Please note that we will be working with examples from DDC 22, not from DDC 23, which might have been published by the time of the workshop. All of the basic principles of assigning Dewey numbers will be unchanged, and we will touch, briefly, on the major changes between the 22nd and 23rd editions, but we will not have had time to incorporate any DDC 23 examples into the workshop.

3) Dewey Daze 2
Thursday, August 4, 2011, 9 am to 4 pm

Required text: Bring your copy of DDC 22. Do not bring an abridged version.
Prerequisites: Dewey Daze 1 or prior experience with Dewey classification.

(Cont. on pg. 10)
(Workshops - Cont. from pg. 9)

**Location:** The workshops will be held August 1-4, 2011 at the Consortium Library, Room 307, University of Alaska, Anchorage. The address is 3211 Providence Drive, Anchorage, Alaska, 99508. The building lies directly across the street (on the north side) from Providence Hospital.

Room 307 is on the third floor. The stairs coil around the Pendulum next to the reference desk. Elevators are past the reference collection and large world map. For online maps of the library location and floors: [http://consortiumlibrary.org/about/maps/](http://consortiumlibrary.org/about/maps/)

If you are interested in volunteering for certain duties, please let me know.

**Contact:**

Ed Kazzimir  
Alaska Resources Library and Information Services  
3211 Providence Drive, Suite 111  
Anchorage, AK 99508  

[ed@arlis.org](mailto:ed@arlis.org)  
Phone: (907) 786-7672  
Fax: (907) 786-7652

Participants may apply to support travel to the workshops. To learn more about the workshops and to register, see the Cataloging Handbook webpage:  

---

**ALASKA STATE ARCHIVES EXHIBIT**

The State Archives opened its first small exhibit in nearly two decades, a collaborative effort, April 30. Abby Focht, Larry Hibpshman and Linda Wynne of the State Archives designed the exhibit with support from Bob Banghart and other Alaska State Museum staff. *The Road To Statehood* examines the ongoing Statehood concept from 1897 (yes! 1897!) through the present. Most items are drawn from State Archives collections; the State Archivist Dean Dawson lent a mint condition 1959 license plate, and the Office of the Governor lent a 6’X4’ 49 star flag. You can see the exhibit through the end of the year. Then something new from State Archives holdings will replace it.

Larry Hibpshman  
Alaska State Archives
Picture tables set in two U-shaped patterns with white tablecloths, scattered with small blue and yellow stars and Hershey's kisses, and a fabulous salad of mozzarella cheese, mandarin orange, finely sliced red onion and basil at the table waiting for you. Then imagine sitting next to and talking with respectful, reflective, conversant young men between 15 and 18 years old about their plans for the future, interest in sports, books and gardening, and experiences growing up. From this description, it sounds like an experience you may have at a formal event or holiday meal. Eight librarians had the good fortune to have this experience at the Johnson Youth Center in Juneau, on Saturday, February 19, thanks to Julie Coghill, Librarian at Johnson Youth Center; MJ Grande, AkLA Conference Coordinator; and Jo Dahl, teacher extraordinaire at the Johnson Youth Center.

On the snowy Saturday evening, when other librarians scattered to restaurants throughout the city, eight librarians drove in two cars to the gated Johnson Youth Center, where we were greeted by Jo. Two enthusiastic young men proudly showed us their hallway collection of books and spoke of their favorites—books like The Hunger Games, and authors like Sherman Alexie. We got the chance to congratulate one on his Battle of the Books win in 2010. After the library tour, we entered the gym which had been transformed into a fine dining room evident by the decorated tables. Here we were welcomed by our hosts. Once we were seated—one librarian, then two young men, in pattern—the evening flowed in a wonderful way.

The five-star dinner salad was followed by a main course of pastry-wrapped salmon, with asparagus and zucchini, prepared by the culinary arts students at the center. The meal's presentation was as beautiful as it was delicious. The pastry was decorated with two small pastry leaves on top, which the student chefs had carefully cut out of the extra dough. They then carved the fine lines you would find on nature's leaves. The care put into this event was evident.

The company was amazing. For two hours there was the continuous hum of talking. The librarians found themselves connecting with the young men they were sitting next to. In my case, the conversations began with books, but soon moved to their goals and aspirations, and then to their families and experiences, including the poor choices made that brought them there. When Julie Coghill had prepared us for this event, she spoke of the type of conversation we might experience and emphasized the importance of confidentiality. I did not realize how openly and honestly the young men could speak of their past experiences. Two of them spoke of their poor choices with amazing maturity, taking responsibility for those actions. They also projected optimism about their plans for the future. Between conversations about their interest in college, plans for work, and writing music, I learned a great deal from these young men. I found out later that they rarely have the chance to participate in adult social conversation with outsiders. I would not have known that from the way they carried themselves that evening.

You can't have a five-star meal without a delicious dessert. Ours was cheesecake covered in blueberries. Clearly, we were treated like royalty from beginning to end. I am so proud of the young men who hosted us and cooked such a great meal. They have the ability to do great things with their lives, as we also do! Thank you Jo, thank you Julie, thank you MJ, for giving us this opportunity, and thank you, again, to the young men at Johnson Youth Center. Alaskan library colleagues, should you have the
The dates for AkLA 2012 are Thursday, February 23 - Sunday, February 26. The Conference will be held in downtown Fairbanks at the Westmark Hotel and Conference Center. Since AkLA was last held at the Westmark, the hotel has been renovated with very nice conference space and rooms. The conference website is currently under construction but please be thinking about all the great things you do in your libraries and about sharing them with your colleagues at AkLA 2012. Direct questions to Diane Ruess, Conference Coordinator, Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, deruess@alaska.edu, 907-474-6349.

Diane Ruess
UAF
Mindless Eating, by Brian Wansink, 2006. I recently re-read this book, a favorite of mine. It’s not a diet book, it’s a food psychology book. Wansink explains through humorous anecdotes, results of studies from his food lab, and historical examples what affects our food choices and how we eat far more than we think we do, no matter how savvy we think we are. Without ever becoming a diet book full of do-this, don’t eat that lists, there are some very good, simple tips that can help you rewrite your food scripts and lose some weight. It’s a perfect choice for anyone interested in psychology, eating better, or just fed up with the run-of-the-mill diet book. (Elizabeth Moreau, Mountain View Neighborhood Library)

One Second After, by William R. Forstchen, 2009. The book, a Nenana Public Library Book Club selection, is about a very dangerous weapon and what would happen if this weapon were used on the U.S. This is a work of fiction, but it is so informative about the effects of an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) weapon, that you forget you are reading fiction. I almost felt as if I were reading about the future. This book is engaging and exciting, yet frightening, and is more of a warning to all of us. It really makes you think about how fragile our world is and how dependent we are on our modern technologies. Our way of life would be drastically and instantly changed if this happened. Many would not survive. The foreword is by Newt Gingrich; he believes EMP weapons to be a real threat to our country. This truly is a book that every American should read and contemplate. (Darcia Grace, Nenana City Library)

Half Broke Horses: A True-life Novel, by Jeannette Walls, 2010. Essentially the prequel to The Glass Castle: A Memoir, this is the story of Jeanette’s maternal grandmother, Lily Casey Smith. Walls didn’t have enough material to flesh out a biography of her grandmother, so she adapted it into a novel. Growing up on a Southwestern ranch pre-
Helen, and her own experiences to become a school teacher are poignant and hilarious. As Popeye would say, "I 'yams what I 'yams, and dats all that I 'yams," and that would sum up what Lily is. There's little in the book as far as her feelings or those of others are concerned, but rather the focus is on events. Still, I couldn't put Half-Broke Horses down.

(Aldean Kilbourn, Keith B. Mather Library, Fairbanks)

Who Fears Death, by Nnedi Okorafor, 2010. I've read almost every fantasy trope there is: the chosen one, magic wielding, castles, shape changing, spells, evil, dragons, cats with wings, you name it, I've read it. I am enjoying it, even though the subject matter is pretty harsh. The author is Nigerian American, which you don't see that often in fantasy. Who Fears Death explores topics I haven't read in fantasy before. It is post-apocalyptic 'chosen one' is a poor girl who fights genocide, discrimination and racism that are deeply entrenched and accepted in her world. Okorafor keeps the plot flowing along smoothly and addictively. I'm having a hard time finding a good stopping place at night and have read past 1 am more than once, even though I had to get up for work. Okorafor keeps revealing subtle little details, one at a time, so deliciously that you can't wait to find out what happens next. This, combined with the newness of the setting, makes it a really original fantasy, and for me, that isn't easy! (Jen Stutesman, UAF Rasmuson Library)

The Canterbury Tales, by Geoffrey Chaucer, translated by Burton Raffel, 2008. Chaucer's book is immortal both because it is the first great English-language literature and because it opens a fascinating window to how people thought, acted and lived in one of the most tumultuous times in Western history. Raffel's version is intended to impart the flavor of Chaucer's style, while cleaning up some of the confusion that 350 years have wreaked on the language as it moved from Middle English to Modern English. The Tales were written to be heard and to entertain, and listening to the cast reading of Raffel's translation while supplementing the audio with separate print readings allows both. (Greg Hill, FNSB Public Library)

Jimi Sounds Like A Rainbow, by Gary Golio and Javaka Steptoe, 2010. This outstanding new biography picture book is a story of the young Jimi Hendrix. His music story jumps off the collaged pages and you can just hear his music while reading. A wonderful addition to your collection for older kids and younger ones as well. This book
The Governor’s Denali Peak Performance Awards annually recognize outstanding performance of Alaska State employees in eight categories of government service excellence. This year, the Customer Service Excellence Team Award was awarded to the Alaska State Museum Protection & Visitor Services Section. This section in the Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums is led by Lisa Golisek-Nankervis and includes Mary Irvine, Sara Chubb, Mellissa Kramer, and Janet Kowalski at the State Museum in Juneau and Peter Gorman, Lisa Bykonen, and Deborah Doland at Sitka’s Sheldon Jackson Museum. They provide customer support and security services throughout the year.

Permanent full time staff is supported by seasonal and part-time employees during times of peak activity. These employees assist a large number of the public, of all ages, from all walks of life, and from throughout the world. This team is being recognized for unfailingly prompt, patient, courteous and thorough attention to the needs of the public, who are the State Museum’s primary reason for existence. The award ceremony was held May 12 in Juneau’s Centennial Hall. 

Patience Frederiksen
Alaska State Library
For those who want more, Decker also published *Modern North: Architecture on the Frozen Edge* in 2010, which covers architecture all around the circumpolar north.

*Walking Home: A Traveler in the Alaskan Wilderness, A Journey Into the Human Heart,* by Lynn Schooler (Bloomsbury). Facing problems and heartache in his personal life, Schooler ventures solo into the wilderness hoping to find answers. His beautiful and evocative prose makes the book hard to put down and will keep people wanting to read “just a little bit more.”

Jude Baldwin, Fairbanks North Star Borough Public Libraries
Sylvia Burns, Fairbanks, retired

Finally, I’d like to talk about *Snapshot: One Day in the Life of Alaskan Libraries* (http://snapshotak.pbworks.com/w/page/37001355/FrontPage) which is modeled on the national Library Snapshot Day. Hopefully by the time you read this, your library has already participated in this event and uploaded your photos and statistics to the website. Many thanks to Freya Anderson, Jonas Lamb, Coral Sheldon-Hess and others who made this great project possible. Stay tuned for a website which highlights what’s been collected. Hopefully this turns into an annual event that celebrates our libraries while generating materials to help illustrate our value to the communities we serve.

Deborah Mole
UAA/APU Consortium Library

opportunity to partake in this dinner event during the next AkLA Conference in Juneau, I say, go for it! If your experience is like ours, you will walk away full and enlightened!

Deborah Mole
UAA/APU Consortium Library
Dear Librarians,

We believe that librarians are essential to content literacy instruction. We need you next fall, to present current research methods and technology applications that will enable teachers and students to access support materials for discipline-specific teaching. This is your opportunity to share effective practices with Alaskan educators at our statewide professional development institute.

The Alaska State Literacy Association is presenting this institute next fall, October 17 and 18. This will be Juneau's district-wide staff inservice. The theme of the conference is Digging Deeper—Mining for Meaning Across the Disciplines. The institute will be organized into four tracks: K-1, 2-3, 4-5, and 6-12. These sectionals will be further sorted by content areas and components of literacy. Educators will find presentations specific to their needs and interests.

In appreciation for your time and effort, each presenter will receive a ticket to the Alaska Author's Event on Monday, from 6-8 pm.

To obtain a presenter proposal form, contact Mary Capobianco at mary_capobianco@jsd.k12.ak.us. Please send your proposal to Paula Kalbrener, c/o Auke Bay School, 11880 Glacier Hwy., Juneau, AK, 99801, by June 1. If you have any questions about this event or how you can help, please email.

Thank you in advance for committing to share your expertise!

Mary Capobianco
Paula Kalbrener

General guidelines to publication in Newspoke, Alaska Library Association newsletter:

Not accepted: paid advertising; material intended to “sell; make a profit” rather than to “inform.” Submissions viewed as advertisements, unless item is of particular interest to Alaska, Alaskan patrons and/or libraries, or is submitted by an AkLA member.

Accepted: Alaskana—books, book reviews, or articles related to libraries and librarianship, especially in regard to Alaska.

Most anything submitted by AkLA members—reasonably “tasteful and well-written,” of an appropriate length (much leeway here); author is willing to submit to possible editorial changes, which may include length, spellings, downsizing of convoluted sentences. . . (Editor will make every effort to let the author know of, and pre-approve, any significant changes before the material is published in Newspoke.)

Other—determined on an individual basis by “the committee” (defined as a group of at least three AkLA members). If the Newspoke editor or the individual submitting has questions or concerns about any submission, the matter will be sent on to the Newspoke Committee.  

Mary Capobianco
Paula Kalbrener
Alaska Library Assn. members and friends participated in Anchorage clean-up week May 7 at 5th and E St.

Mollie and Sallie Bynum
Roz Goodman and Sara Piasecki
Loretta Andress
Craig Stark
Coral and Dale Sheldon-Hess
This 160-page new release is primarily a photographic journey that showcases the images of Michael Melford, who has worked with National Geographic on a wide variety of books and articles since 1993. He shot some 20,000 photographs for a feature last December in the magazine about the controversy surrounding the proposed Pebble Mine project in Bristol Bay.

Melford and Atcheson describe their project as “ultimately a work of hope—hope that much of Alaska and especially Bristol Bay will remain wild.” It is a book, they say, “whose purpose is not to be a record of what we may potentially lose but rather what can still be saved.”

Hidden Alaska does a wonderful job of correcting distortions [of Alaska] and presenting an accurate and lovely view of what it’s like to live up here. Since the book is produced by National Geographic, you would expect the photos by Michael Melford to be exquisite, and they are. What might surprise you is how outstanding the prose is that accompanies the spectacular photos. The author, Dave Atcheson, has spent many years in Alaska, and the depth of his experience in and love for Alaska comes through in every word. It’s what makes this book such an effective counterpoint to so much that you might see on “reality” TV.
ALASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

President Michael Robinson afmcr@uaa.alaska.edu
President-Elect Linda Wynne linda.wynne@sealaska.com
Past-President David Ongley david.ongley@tuzzy.org
Secretary Julie Niederhauser jniederhauser@ci.kenai.ak.us
Treasurer Patricia Linville plinville@cityofseward.net
Conference Coordinator M. J. Grande mjgrande@juneau.lib.ak.us
ALA Representative Sue Sheriff sue.sheriff@alaska.gov
PNLA Representative Sara Saxton sara.saxton@tuzzy.org
Publications * Alaska Library Directory aflma@gci.net
* Newspoke, Loretta Andress maryj@gci.net
Executive Officer P. Niederhauser akalalist@akla.org
E-list http://www.akla.org/
Website

CALENDAR

AkLA-A Meeting, 11:00 am, Lucy Cuddy Park by Loussac Jun. 14, 2011
AkLA-A Meeting, 4:30 pm http://home.gci.net/~aklaa/AkLAA_Mtgs.html Jul. 12, 2011
American Library Association Midwinter Meeting, Dallas, TX Jan. 20-24, 2012