ALASKANA AWARD

The Alaskana Award is given every year to a publication that has made a significant contribution to the understanding of Alaska, that exhibits originality, depth of research and knowledge of Alaska. This year’s winner is *Imam Cimiucia: Our Changing Sea* by Anne Salomon, Henry Huntington, Nick Tanape Sr. and Principal Photographer Lisa Williams.

This book offers a unique perspective of looking at environmental change within the ecosystem around the Kenai Peninsula, in particular the black leather chiton, a small marine mollusk more commonly known as the “bidarki” (Russian for “little kayak”). Not only does the book look at the decline of the bidarki scientifically, but it also gives a historical perspective to this little creature. At over one hundred pages in length, this book is beautifully put together with a number of illustrations, including historical photographs and quotes from villagers.

The book is sectioned into five main chapters beginning with the how and why the project was started, then a timeline that starts from prehistory to current ways of living, to the web of effects on the ecosystem and what we can do to help the

(Cont. on pg. 14)
Dear AkLA Members:

So far my presidential journey began as an advocacy marathon on three library projects waiting for the governor’s approval as of this moment. The first is to establish the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council that was passed by the House and Senate on April 12, 2012. This act forms a department for the purpose of recommending the establishment or reorganization of programs to support the preservation, restoration, and revitalization of Alaska native languages.

The second project is known as S.L.A.M. (State Library Archive Museum): a new building to provide state-of-the-art protection for Alaska’s treasures as well as to preserve the history of Alaska’s peoples. Our association co-signed a letter of support with Alaska Historical Society and Alaska Museum Association urging the Senate and House Finance Committee to fully fund this project. In March, on behalf of AkLA, I had the experience of publicly testifying to the Senate Finance Committee, requesting full funding of the S.L.A.M project. There was only one minute to present our case. I provided recent examples of how our treasures are used by the public for educational pursuits, genealogy research, and how our archives house precious artifacts. These examples are the reasons that the history of Alaska must be preserved for generations to come.

Finally, the third project is the library construction for Fairbanks/North Pole, Talkeetna, Juneau Mendenhall Valley, and Sitka for $22.4 million. So far, the tremendous lobbying efforts of Judi Andrijanoff have successfully secured funding for ten Alaska communities. For more information about library construction, the link is provided below.

http://www.juneau.org/clerk/PWFCAGENDA/documents/  
Lib_FY13_ConstructPrjts_000.pdf

Also, I want to express my appreciation to Clark Gruening and Ron Inouye for their direction and support as I learned more of the political process. This appreciation
The Irene Ingle Public Library of Wrangell recently went live with its new automation system and its very first automation system! Since October of 2011, the staff has been working with the vendor The Library Corporation (TLC) and has barcoded over 33,000 items to build a web-based library catalog. Patrons can access their accounts online, place holds, and renew books via the internet. Another feature is the library catalog app that is available on the new Wrangell city web page.

Along with these features, a children’s catalog displays an animated puppy on a touch screen computer for younger children to use; however, the library staff has found that it appeals to all ages. A “book river” showing covers of the last 100 items added to the library’s collection is visible on a large computer monitor at the front desk for patrons to watch the book covers float across the screen.

The City and Borough of Wrangell’s staff, including the Economic Director, the Projects Manager, the Librarian, and the Finance Director, contributed numerous hours to assist in writing the various documents for the project. Besides local in-kind contributions, the project was funded by USDA (United States Dept. of Agriculture) $67,000 (52.8%), State of Alaska Dept. of Commerce, Community & Economic Development $25,000 (19.7%), IMLS (Institute of Museum & Library Services) $20,000 (15.8%), Rasmuson Foundation $14,400 (11.3%), and Friends of the Library $500 (.4%).

Since the “go live” date of January 27, 2012, the staff and public are enthused with the various benefits and features of being automated.

Contact Librarian Kay Jabusch at 907/874-3535 or wrangelllibrary@gci.net if you would like more information.

Kay Jabusch, Librarian
Irene Ingle Public Library

The Ketchikan Public Library’s Teen Advisory Group is turning five in June. It seems that it has all happened so quickly, but if it were a child I’d be sending it off to school in the fall. And I couldn’t be prouder if it were one of my kids—it’s actually dozens of “my” kids, and I am so happy they chose to be a part of this amazing, ever-changing group.

I was an advocate of teen groups in the library long before I got permission to start up KPL’s T.A.G., probably since I had been a member of a library teen group when I was in high school.

The Mesa Public Library’s Young Adult Advisory Council (yes, we were YAAC) was my second family for several years, and they were a bit more encouraging and empowering than my own. That is probably the reason I am so gung-ho for these groups—I know what they can offer to a teen. And I work very hard to make the Ketchikan Teen Advisory Group a very supportive environment.

KETCHIKAN (1)

Five years ago the Ketchikan Public Library had little to no programming for teens... and then there was T.A.G.

(Cont. on pg. 4)
I tried not to have any expectations when I started the group back in 2007; I just wanted to get the teens into the library and hear what they had to say. And it took a while for us to figure each other out, even though my youngest daughter was a part of that first group.

I will say that right off they loved choosing materials for the library—enough so that I asked the librarians to come to a meeting so they could get real guidelines to use when asking for items. We still use those guidelines, but if there is real desire for something that doesn’t quite fit, I am always willing to ask. And no’s are an accepted part of the ritual, though they may be met with loud groaning. The best part is when the materials come in and I take them to a meeting—then stand back so I don’t get caught between a teen and his or her chosen book or movie or CD!

I freely admit it took me a while to let the teens have what they really wanted—after hours programming. The first year we had two; last year we had fifteen. We have done everything from double-feature Fridays to our annual Not-Quite-Halloween costume party to Tea-time with T.A.G. when we enjoyed a semi-formal ‘tea,’ watched the Secret Garden and made edible gardens from oreo crumbs and Fruit by the Foot.

T.A.G. members have hosted events of their own creating—like Morissa Clark’s Style Night, Chrystina Jacobson’s Beading Extravaganza, and my own Jasmyne Johnson’s Poetry with Godzilla series. Next month Geralyn Lovell will be hosting Psychedelic 60s – where she will show folks how to tie-dye with Sharpies.

And of course we are gearing up for the fifth annual Teen Summer Program as well. T.A.G is very much a volunteer group. Every year T.A.G members have helped with clean up at the Friends of the Library book sale; they take tickets at library events; paint faces at the Teddy Bear Picnic; and much more. And of course they set up, host and clean up at all teen events. It may not sound like too much, but in five years they have donated over 800 hours of their time. Whoever may say teens are lazy does not know my T.A.G teens.

Our twice-a-month meetings are where all the planning, picking and reviewing happens. One Saturday afternoon, one Monday evening—these have changed over the years but always two a month. Introductions are completed—there are often new members—the calendar is gone over, plans

(Cont. on pg. 5)
made, materials chosen. Sometimes I have to wait for them to get their chatting done before we can get back to the topic at hand, but usually they police themselves pretty well. And then snacks come out and reviews start—it’s really a lovely way to spend some time, listening to teens talk about a great new book, a funny YouTube video, or a horrible, gross-out movie. I know I’ve enjoyed my time sharing theirs.

Of course five in teen years is a long time. I’ve had 18 very active T.A.G. members graduate out of the program – that was enough so that this year we had our first Alumni Meeting, inviting graduated members back for a visit to share what they have been doing. Many members have moved; this is a very mobile town and teens are a part of that. Right now there are 15 active members in T.A.G., with another five or six not quite so active, but here and there they attend.

This year I have some of the youngest T.A.G. members ever, which is interesting after having the group skewed older for so long. But change is a part of the teen years, and so it must be a part of any teen group.

What hasn’t changed is how wonderful the teens are – and how much fun it is to work with them. They are enthusiastic, funny and creative—when they aren’t being quiet and shy, which only happens for a while. They get over that whole shy thing pretty quickly when they realize there is no down side to speaking out—and speaking out can get them new library materials, cool after-hours programs, excellent prizes for the Teen Summer Program and more.

Trust me, they learn to speak up really quickly! And that is how it should be; teens need to have a voice in their life, in their library and in the community. After five years of working with teens and T.A.G., my only regret is that I didn’t start sooner.

If you would like to see more of T.A.G. we have a website, blog (http://pltagrocks.blogspot.com/) and Facebook page that you are welcome to check out too.

Kelly Johnson
Office Manager
& T.A.G. Staff Liaison
Ketchikan Public Library

(Kongigan (2))

Traditional Storytelling Event at the UAS Ketchikan Campus Library

On the evening of Wednesday, April 4, 2012, the UAS Ketchikan Campus Library hosted the third of a week’s worth of Heritage Language Awareness events led by the Ketchikan Indian Community.

Forty people gathered, including babies hoisted on hips and grandfathers on canes, to hear the story of Tzab Tzab, a cheeky wren, told by Tsimshian elder John Reese, and the splitting of a village by Tlingit elder Capt. Joe Thomas. The two speakers told the tales in their native tongues. Reese’s story was translated by a language intern and Capt. Thomas alternated between Tlingit and English.

There was a question/answer period which included the singing of two songs by Thomas and emphasizing the importance of personal introductions to include lineage. This opportunity allowed UAS Ketchikan to help KIC members and the interested public learn about the language intern program and language resources available locally. KIC expressed interest...
in co-hosting future activities.

Library resources were showcased in two displays, and a subject pathfinder was available on the topic of titles related to the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian tribal groups. The attendees were reminded that the Campus Library is open to the public and First City Libraries cards are welcomed. ❖

Kathy Bolling
UAS Ketchikan Campus Library

You can’t beat IAMSLIC for a clever acronym! It stands for the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers whose members will hold their 38th annual conference from August 26 – 30, 2012 at the UAA/APU Consortium Library. Cyamus, IAMSLIC’s west coast of North America and Hawaii regional group, will meet first (August 24 – 25) and stay on for the full meeting.

Topics include innovative library practice such as patron-driven acquisitions and e-books, mobile devices and social networking, digitization projects, copyright, data librarianship, discovery services, and collaboration with scientists. There will be panel discussions, papers and posters, and a trip to the SeaLife Center in Seward, interspersed with time to meet colleagues and make new friends at coffee and lunch breaks, the welcome reception and the banquet at the Hotel Captain Cook. Local hosts are compiling great suggestions for activities before and after the meetings for those with extra time to get acquainted with all that Alaska has to offer. Watch the conference website for registration information and updates on this exciting conference: http://www.iamslic.org/conf2012/

Submitted by:
IAMSLIC Anchorage 2012 Local Arrangements Committee

Daria O. Carle, Chair
Science Librarian
doc@uaa.alaska.edu
907.786.1869
907.786.1834 (fax)

Sally J. Bremner
Medical Librarian, Alaska Medical Library
afsjb@uaa.alaska.edu
907.786.1609
907.786.1608 (fax)

UAA / APU Consortium Library
University of Alaska Anchorage
World Book Night is an annual celebration designed to spread a love of reading and books. It was held in the U.S. as well as the U.K. and Ireland on April 23, 2012. Tens of thousands of people go out into their communities to spread the joy and love of reading by giving out free *World Book Night* paperbacks.

*World Book Night*, through social media and traditional publicity, promotes the value of reading, of printed books, and of bookstores and libraries to everyone year-round.

Publishers, authors, etc. join together to distribute free books one day of the year.

Patience Frederiksen expressed some reluctance at approaching strangers to hand out free books, but managed the task quite successfully. She selected the bus depot at Dimond Mall at 5:00 p.m.—it was surprisingly un-crowded. People were curious, some actually excited, no one was rude, many accepted, and her twenty books were gone in forty minutes. Two people actually stopped on the spot to begin reading.

THANK YOU to the publishers AND authors AND booksellers AND librarians AND UPS AND the awesome book manufacturers AND Ingram AND our friends in the UK...AND especially you 25,000 generous, sweet, and thoughtful people who volunteered to hand out books!!

http://www.us.worldbooknight.org/wbn-blog
ALASKA STATE ARCHIVES EXXON VALDEZ LITIGATION RECORDS PROJECT PROGRESSES

The Alaska State Archives made significant advances in the first six months. The Project Team consisting of Sara Bornstein and Larry Hibpshman appraised all 3,528 boxes of Department of Law spill litigation files in State Archives custody. They reviewed and determined which records have permanent historical value and which documents do not possess long-term value and should be disposed.

In March Sara presented a brief update to the Alaska Historical Commission. The Citizen Advisory Task Force held its second teleconference April 4. In April project staff began arranging and describing permanent files. Descriptions will eventually be placed in an online bibliographic network for worldwide access. The State Archives continues its public outreach emphasis.

The Exxon Valdez Litigation Records Project website contains new information: (http://archives.alaska.gov/valdezProject.html). Please contact Larry Hibpshman (907-465-2241(v); larry.hibpshman@alaska.gov) with any questions or comments.

(Cont. on pg. 9)
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 relating to, or of interest to, Alaskan librarians and/or their patrons. Informative material 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 Newspeke.)

Other–determined on an individual basis by “the committee” (defined as a group of at least three AkLA members). If the Newspeke editor or the individual submitting has questions or concerns about any submission, the matter will be sent on to the Newspeke Committee.
Jodee Kawasaki and her fabulous fur hat at the Trans-Alaska Pipeline near Fairbanks.

Mary Jennings and Mary Jo Joiner compare their Chicago fashion sense at the 2012 banquet.

Alaska librarians tour the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory permafrost tunnel in Fairbanks during an AkLA conference tour.

Patience Frederiksen
Agent to the Stars, by John Scalzi, 2008. If you haven’t read this book, you might want to give it a try. It’s his first book, first published online, then as a Subterranean limited edition, and now as a regular Tor paperback. It’s about a young, savvy, up-and-coming Hollywood agent hired by the friendly, but scary-looking and quite smelly, aliens who have decided that they need real PR help before ‘coming out’ to humanity. I suggest you don’t read it in public, while sipping or eating anything, or where you might otherwise not wish to be seen giggling, snorting, etc. When I finished reading it, I realized that there were a couple of serious subjects and observations about our cultures that Scalzi had deftly woven into a delightful read—which is something that he continues to do in his later books. Yes, there are a few Alaska libraries that own this, and, at the moment, the Fairbanks copy is still in readable condition - with only a few scattered stains on the pages. :-) (Georgine Olson, Fairbanks NSB Public Libraries)

Education of a Wandering Man, by Louis L’Amour, 1989. This is an excellent book. Interspersed with L’Amour’s adventures as an able seaman, cattle skinner, lumber worker and desert mine watchman is his list of the huge volume of classical literature he read along the way. Anyone who wants to get an informal liberal education should start here! (Larry Hibpshman, Alaska State Archives)

North Pole, South Pole: The Epic Quest to Solve the Great Mystery of Earth’s Magnetism, by Gillian Turner, 2011. If you’ve ever wondered why a compass doesn’t point towards true north in Alaska or how Earth’s magnetism could possibly be related to continental drift, this book is for you. In addition to tracing the evolution of thought on Earth’s magnetic field, Turner humanizes the many scientists who spend long months in the field and at chalkboards and computers to bring us our current understanding. This title is available as an e-book from ListenAlaskaPlus. (Daniel Cornwall, Alaska State Library)

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, by William Kamkwamba, 2010. I was inspired to pick up The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind after I heard that the author would be visiting Anchorage. This autobiography is a hopeful look at

(Cont. on pg. 12)
growing up in Africa and is a welcome change after all the recent books that detail what it is like living through the civil wars there. Although Kamkwamba describes vividly what it is like to live through a famine, his creativity (and a very small rural library) prevails: he builds a windmill for his family out of an old bicycle, junkyard parts, and a few trees. At first mocked for his foolish contraption, he now is bringing light to his family’s house and a dependable source of water to their farm. Read this refreshing biography and find out how human ingenuity and a few old textbooks in an elementary school library turned one boy’s fortunes around! (Nicole Roohi, Goldenview Middle School)

Hide Me Among The Graves, Tim Powers, 2012. The sequel to The Stress of Her Regard (arguably one of the best vampire books ever written), Hide Me Among The Graves continues Powers’ twisting of history—this time following the exploits of the bloodthirsty wraith that was once John Polidori, Lord Byron’s private physician before he succumbed to the nephilim. Polidori has connections to the Rossetti family (poet Christina and painter Dante), and the blessing and curse of the nephilim threatens after Polidori resurrects Dante’s dead wife and she becomes a vampire. I never read Twilight, but I loved Dracula.

The Stress of Her Regard is beautiful, terrifying, and thought-provoking, especially since Powers uses Keats’, Byron’s and Shelley’s own words to twist the story toward the supernatural. Hide Me Among The Graves arrived more than 20 years after publication of the first book. It was worth the wait. (Amy K. Marshall, Craig Public Library)

Northern Lights, by Nora Roberts, 2005. Placed in the small Alaskan town of Lunacy, this mystery/romance novel follows a Baltimore cop on his adventures as a new Alaskan chief of police. I had not read a Nora Roberts book before, but I found the detail in character conversations and scene descriptions kept me engaged to the finish! (Deborah Mole, UAA/APU Consortium Library)

The Unauthorized Autobiography of Ethan Jacobs, Dan Dillard, 2012. I’d recommend this self-published gem here because it is a pulse-pounding read. It starts slowly, but not because it lacks pacing. It starts slowly because Ethan Jacobs is just a guy in a work-a-day world, until he starts to think about the existence of something beyond the living. It quickly goes wrong. Terribly wrong. In a good way wrong. It’s not a hack’n’slash, gratuitous horror read, it’s a darkly psychological, I’m not reading THIS with a book light in the middle of the night, read. It’s also a tribute to self-publishing. Self-published doesn’t mean it’s...
all dross, sometimes these authors are just these guys—like Ethan—who are terribly impatient. (Amy K. Marshall, Craig Public Library)

Divergent, by Veronica Roth, 2012. If you have been stuck in a YA Hunger Games frame of mind, you should read this book. The action is set in a dystopian Chicago where society is divided into five factions devoted to certain virtues (Candor, Abnegation, Dauntless, Amity and Erudite). At 16, teens select the faction that they will join after undergoing a series of tests to determine which virtue they most embody. The element of choice allows them to choose and no one talks about the unnamed virtue—Divergent. The sequel is out in May…can’t wait. (Mary Jo Joiner, Kenai Community Library)

Partials, by Dan Wells, 2012. And then there is Partials, set in a world where humans are almost extinct after exposure to a virus that they believe was engineered by the Partials (engineered organic beings indistinguishable from humans). The story begins with the birth and death of an infant in a society where the youngest person is now 11 and no infant survives more than a day. Pregnancy is mandatory and some humans are rebelling against the everlowering of the mandatory pregnancy age. Virtually everyone alive is clustered on Long Island and humans doesn’t dare venture into the “wilderness” for fear of the Partials. (Mary Jo Joiner, Kenai Community Library)

A First Rate Madness: Uncovering the Links between Leadership and Mental Illness, by Nassir Ghaemi, 2011. This book says normal leaders do well in times of calm, but mentally ill people actually are more effective during crisis. Ghaemi, a Tufts psychiatry professor, suggests that mentally ill people develop enhanced levels of resilience, realism, creativity, and empathy. Case studies include: General William Sherman, Ted Turner, Churchill, Lincoln, Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Franklin Roosevelt, Hitler, and Nixon. Ghaemi claims he is writing a new psychological history. I’m unsure whether he’s right, but I enjoyed his attempt to convince me. (Larry Hibphsman, Alaska State Archives)

The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves, and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History, by Robert Edsel, 2009. Among the many things the Axis pillaged were cultural treasures: art, public monuments and archives. Jewish citizens’ collections were abandoned and confiscated, anything deemed Germanic was moved to Germany, and the Nazi elite grabbed as much as possible for themselves. The military’s Anglo-American Monuments Fine Arts and Archives units, generally one or two men per numbered army, managed to identify and rescue most major treasure caches before the Nazis could destroy them. Two men from these units
were actually killed in action. In Edsel’s book, stolen archival materials take a back seat to the fine arts, though it was often research in archival records that saved the paintings. (Larry Hibpsman, Alaska State Archives)

survival of this little shellfish. A combination of science and traditional knowledge, this is a story of the ecosystem of the Kenai Peninsula written in a way that flows easily to the reader. The book not only explains what is happening to the bidarki and the environment, but it gives us a vivid picture of the course of events with photographs and illustrations on almost every page.

Teressa Williams, Anchorage Museum Atwood Resource Center

I’d like to share with our members information about the Strategic Planning Retreat that just took place on April 28 and 29 in Anchorage. We had a great group who represented our organization to review mission and values statements. They identified three initiatives that include an action plan, timeline, and accountability over the next five years. The initiatives are advocacy, membership, and traditional Cultural Expressions. There are more initiatives to address and be added to the plan at a later date. The strategic plan will be edited by a subcommittee for a final presentation at the September E-council face-to-face meeting for discussion and possible ratification.

The process was facilitated by Nina Malyshev, State Librarian for the Alaska Library Network. Her guidance and experience are greatly appreciated.
MISSION OF CHANGE IN SOUTHWEST ALASKA
Conversations with Father René Astruc and Paul Dixon on Their Work with Yup’ik People

http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/distributed/M/bo13169635.html

Mission of Change is an oral history describing various types of change—political, social, cultural, and religious—as seen through the eyes of Father Astruc and Paul Dixon, non-Natives who dedicated their lives to working with the Yup’ik people. Their stories are framed by an analytic history of regional changes, together with current anthropological theory on the nature of cultural change and the formation of cultural identity.

The book presents a subtle and emotionally moving account of the region and the roles of two men, both of whom view issues from a Catholic perspective yet are closely attuned to and involved with changes in the Yup’ik community.

The editor of this book, Ann Fienup-Riordan, is a cultural anthropologist who has lived and worked in Alaska since 1973. In 2000, she received the Alaska Federation of Natives President’s Award for her work with Alaska Natives.

BOOTS, BIKES, AND BOMBERS:
Adventures of Alaska Conservationist Ginny Hill Wood


Boots, Bikes, and Bombers is an intimate biography of Ginny Hill Wood, a pioneering Alaska conservationist and outdoorswoman. Born in Washington in 1917, Wood served as a Women’s Airforce Service Pilot (WASP) in World War II and flew a military surplus airplane to Alaska in 1946. Settling in Fairbanks, she went on to co-found Camp Denali, Alaska’s first wilderness ecotourism lodge, helped start the Alaska Conservation Society, the state’s first environmental organization; and applied her love of the outdoors to her work as a backcountry guide and an advocate for trail construction and preservation.

An innovative and collaborative life history, Boots, Bikes, and Bombers is a valuable contribution to the history of Alaska as well as a testament to the joys of living a life full of passion and adventure.

Karen Brewster, Editor, is a research associate with the Oral History Program at the Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska, Fairbanks. She is the editor of The Whales, They Give Themselves: Conversations with Harry Brower, Sr.
ALASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
PO Box 81084
Fairbanks, AK 99708

CALANDER

AkLA meets for Anchorage Citywide Cleanup, 10:00 a.m., 6th and D
May 19, 2012
Intl. Conf. of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums, Tulsa, OK
Jun. 4-7, 2012
American Library Association Annual Conference, Anaheim, CA
Jun. 21-26, 2012
Pacific Northwest Library Assn. Annual Conference, Anchorage, AK
Aug. 1-3, 2012
International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and
Information Centers, UAA/APU Consortium Library, Anchorage, AK
Aug. 24-30, 2012
American Library Association Midwinter Meeting, Seattle, WA
Jan. 25-29, 2013