Two days of training with enthusiastic librarians and educators have me ready to incorporate space-related activities into Juneau Public Libraries’ Summer Programming.

No, I am not a trained scientist. Turns out you don’t have to be and yet you are still competent to guide kids in science learning. Question: Yes, we do lots of that. Observe: Yes, we can do that. Evaluate: Whether and how our observations answer our question? Yes, we can do that, too. Ask again? Learn more? This we do.

We’ll be implementing three activities into JPL’s summer program. One week will focus on Weather—such a common topic of interest! We’ll incorporate this activity with the readings: Observe what’s happening on that day, and then create individual representations of the sky. Blue paper for base/background. White paper (computer
paper or tissue) will be folded into ten sections (fold in half, then fan-fold 5 sections.) Child will determine how much (proportion) of their “sky” to obscure – then tear/shred the white paper into “clouds” and glue those pieces onto the blue background. This activity is readily adaptable for many ages and abilities.

In collaboration with our school district summer program, we will create a “Jump to Jupiter” course. We will measure the distance from the school to the library, and mark the relative distance of objects in our Solar System along the path the children will take when they walk to the library. Incorporating full body movement into the learning anchors the information in a deeper way. Additional benefit will be derived by other people who walk this path.

Synchronicity always plays a part in our programming. Juneau has a planetarium, located in one of our school buildings. While I was seeking a contact for this volunteer-run program, they were receiving training in a portable system and seeking partners in our community – and found the library! Details of this program are still being developed.

Wishing you a great summer of exploring the Universe! And stories!
Grant Helps to Disperse the Learning that Occurs During Conferences

The Alaska State Library has instituted a CE grant requirement that we believe will help disperse the learning that occurs during conferences. Individuals who have been awarded a CE grant are now required to write a short (up to 250 words) article about their conference attendance to share what’s been learned with the larger library community. We hope this requirement will provide attendees with an opportunity to stop and reflect back on their conference experiences and personally apply what they’ve learned.

Julie Marie Niederhauser
Public Library Coordinator
Alaska State Library

Quite a number of these CE write-ups were received. Some will be included in future issues of Newspoke.

Post-Conference Rebuilding of Our Destroyed Library

My name is Susan Baker, and I attended the 2019 AkLA Conference in Juneau. What a great conference. The food was so good!

I represent the Chiniak Library that was burned and destroyed in the August 2015 wildfire. I’m happy to announce that we finally have a new building! Our borough (Kodiak Island) has built it with insurance money, and it is a more up-to-code building than we had before. We will be given the keys soon and begin to put our library back together.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank everyone who has donated money, books, advice, ideas and encouragement after such a tragedy and the long wait to finally succeed in resurrecting our new library. There was no question that we would fight to gain this important resource back for our community. It has been ingrained in our everyday lives since 1984.

I will also use this opportunity to gather the community together to put shelves together, process books that were donated, organize the library floor plan and share as much as I can the information and resources I have gleaned from the AkLa conference.

We will also be organizing our library board and adding new members. New skills will be accessed and applied to improve the service to the community.

While the community has waited for these last 3+ years we have come up with many ideas for
activities and will be more appreciative of them. We will take advantage of the community’s curiosity and of the new building to build trust and to provide a safe and welcoming space.

Access to the internet will be useful for most of the community since we do not have reliable internet service yet in our area.

The most excited are the kids! I will do my best to help them be lifelong library users!

Susan Baker
Chiniak Library
Kodiak Island

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Conference Provides Opportunities to Improve Skills and Gather New Knowledge

In December of 2018 I received confirmation that I was awarded a FY2019 continuing education grant to attend the 2019 AkLA conference in Juneau. This past June I joined the remarkable staff at the Kodiak Public Library as the Youth Specialist after six years of teaching 7th and 8th grade. During the first few months in this position; I found the learning curve to be quite extensive as I strove to build my library skill set.

I was able to take two vital online courses including: the Infopeople Children’s Services Fundamentals and Supercharged Storytimes, with Samantha Blanquart. These courses were substantially significant in broadening my skills as a children’s librarian. When our new library director came on board in July of 2018, she asked if I would be interested in attending the Juneau conference, and I am glad I responded affirmatively.

Coming from an education background I understand how important collaboration and collegial interaction are for any field. At the conference, I discovered that these collaborations, and personal interactions, are of great value to our libraries and the patrons we serve. Each of the sessions at the conference not only provided opportunities to improve skills or gather new knowledge, they also provided a chance to share ideas, gather new ones, and receive affirmation from our peers.

In addition to the face-to-face process, the AkLA conference provided the synthesis of new working relationships with individuals throughout the state. These new relationships are perhaps the capstone of conference attendance as they bring the opportunity for continued collegial development in our field.

Roy Thomas
Kodiak Public Library
Youth Specialist.

(Cont. on pg. 5)
Catching up With Libraries, Librarians, and Issues

I wanted to attend the AkLA annual conference for continuing education purposes. The conference always offers informative and fun workshops and sessions, and I am especially excited about the preconference with Carolyn Martin. I’ve taken several classes with her in the past, and am looking forward to meeting her.

Finally, the conference is a great way to meet and catch up with librarians around the state, and to discuss issues affecting libraries in Alaska and around the nation.

Katja Wolfe
Assistant City Librarian
Soldotna

AkLA Conference
is a Primary Means for Training and Current Information

The Alaska Library Association conference is one of our primary means to obtain training and get current information on local and state issues, technology, and products with other librarians from around Alaska. It is a huge resource of information. It gives us a chance to do face-to-face with our in-state colleagues, to put a face to the voice we hear on the other end of the phone, and it’s a chance to get to know our state librarians.

I have been going to the AKLA conference for 30 years. It never ceases to amaze me how those four days of collaboration can refuel my energy and enthusiasm for the coming year. It reminds me of the big picture that we are not an island but we are a family, a network. Not only are we able to gain knowledge and wisdom from our local colleagues, we are able to participate and share our knowledge and experiences too. We all know these things in the back of our minds, but this conference really solidifies it.

Jo Cassidy
Big Lake Library
AkLA19 Conference Reconfirms
that Libraries are Welcoming, Open Public Spaces

The most important thing I learned at the AKLA19 conference reconfirms what I know and love about libraries: They are welcoming, open public spaces.

A place to learn, work, play, socialize, study, share, exercise and entertain for all ages, from baby lap sit to senior story hour. A place where someone can feel less lonely, share experiences, and have new experiences.

Our library/community hall is the center of our rural town. Conference has given me new tools and motivation to create new programs and inspire curiosity in all. Thank you for this opportunity.

Jen Gardner
Public Services Librarian
Gustavus Public Library

How to Retain, Teach, and Share the Information Presented at Conference

Was this conference that different from all the other conferences I have attended or was my mind in the right place? Was it that I extracted myself from the social aspects after sessions to regroup and resettle my mind instead of allowing the continual bombardment to my senses? I may never know those answers. What I do know is that I was exposed to new information. Digesting and applying that information is overwhelming. For example, my anxiety is building over reviewing our meeting room policies and bulletin board policies in relation to the Bill of Rights and public forum to reduce the possibilities of litigation. Writing my random thoughts on the conference is cathartic and helped me to realize that seeing all the conference information at one time doesn’t work, but taking one session at a time does.

I sit here at my desk just one day after returning from the “Libraries 24/7” 2019 Ak Library Association Conference, with my mind reeling. How am I going to retain, teach, and share the great information that was presented at the conference? How am I going to use the information that was presented to change polices and rearrange thinking? I am counting on the presentations being on the website for the sessions I did not attend or adding to my notes from the ones I was able to attend. I feel there is much more to learn and integrate into how things are at my library.

Beth Skow
Library Director
Palmer Public Library
SLED's Fantastic Resource Called the LearningExpress Library

The AkLA Conference is always a highlight of my work year, and Juneau did not disappoint. I received a lot of valuable information about meeting room use, youth programming, and disaster planning that I am putting to use in my library right away, but I wanted to highlight one session that I attended.

SLED offers a really fantastic resource called the LearningExpress Library through EBSCO. There are all kinds of test prep, career prep, and adult education resources. All of this is free for Alaskans! I am always impressed by all that SLED has to offer, and I really appreciated the opportunity to learn more about this resource. Many thanks to the Conference Planning Committee and to the Alaska State Library for supporting my attendance to conference with a CE Grant.

Mollie Good
Head Librarian
Valdez Consortium Library

Alaska Ignite! Lessons Learned in the Library Field

I recently received a CE Grant to attend the 2019 Alaska Library Association Conference in Juneau, Alaska. That opportunity aligned with my continuing education requirements as a Librarian/Library Director for a small, rural public library; it also allowed me to engage with others in my profession.

Being engaged provides me an opportunity for performance improvement, collaboration with others, and interaction with leaders in the library field. I learned about the challenges and successes of others providing public library services and built lasting professional connections.

Not only do I believe learning from them is important, sharing with others about my own library challenges and successes is equally important. I presented a PowerPoint for the Alaska Ignite! Lessons Learned in the Library Field. My presentation was on “Community Resources and Library Programs.” It highlighted creative outreach public programming techniques, and community collaboration with library patrons and other entities within community outreach services.

(Cont. on pg. 8)
I have been in the library field for nearly 19 years and have attended numerous library conferences. I have learned that conference planning is a lot of work and requires much dedication. I am always impressed with the helpful staff and quality of workshops provided. Many of the people involved and speakers are volunteers. So don’t be shy; consider sharing your library story or skills at the next AkLA conference. It will enrich your AkLA conference experience and that of those who attend.

Sheila Ring
Martin Monsen Regional Library
Naknek

Libraries 24/7: A Great Experience

As a non-degreed, novice librarian in the Bush, attending the Libraries 24/7 AkLA Conference was an eye-opening experience, both rewarding and inspiring. My inexperience made me feel a little out of place but hungry for knowledge. And what a feast there was! I seriously wished I had the power to clone myself so I could simultaneously attend different sessions. There were so many valuable offerings to broaden my understanding and the scope of what is possible in our rural library—topics like “Community Conversations: Creating a safe place for civil discourse” and “Patron-Directed Programming: More bang for less buck.” There were so many good, practical ideas shared, I came home with a plan for implementation.

Andrew Aydin’s “Good Trouble in Hard Times,” occurring early in the Conference, was like eating dessert before the main meal. His words alone were worth the 818-mile journey to Juneau. It was a privilege to learn of his struggles and opportunities, and not only did I come away knowing the story behind March: Book One and how libraries made a difference in his remarkable life, I also better understand how to advocate in political circles and what to expect if I ever attend a Comic-Con! I was wholly uplifted knowing that such people as Andrew exist in the world.

The entire event was rather splendid; the Conference committee clearly has librarians’ and their patrons’ best interests at heart.

AJ Gooden
Librarian
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(Cont. on pg. 9)
Who Knew that Libraries were Such a Hotbed of Controversy?

The BEST thing about the AkLA 2019 conference was the two keynote speakers. I very much appreciated everything they said, and it was an honor to meet Andrew Aydin and hear his story. I will confess right now that I had never heard of either the graphic novel “March” nor of John Lewis. I graduated from high school in 1978, and my education of the civil rights movement was slim to none.

I think I learned more about that era from reading “The Help” several years ago than I ever learned in school. I have now gone back and done a bit of reading and am catching up on some long overdue history. So thank you for this!

I also learned quite a bit from the sessions at AkLA and will take a moment to recap some of that information: The session on “Community Conversations” was fantastic. I only wish we had a bigger meeting space in our library to have some of the programs that were discussed in that session, but I hope to implement at least some of the smaller ideas learned there—especially “Lunch with a Council Member.”

(Cont. on pg. 10)
“Patron-Directed Programming” also had far more information than I could probably use in a lifetime, but many gems, and with Liz’s web page address, we can keep looking to see what they are doing. “Bringing the World to Your Library” was exceptional—and if our internet survives the budget cuts we will try out that as well.

My education at the AkLA conference was well-rounded with sessions such as “Free Speech 101” and “Keeping Trustees out of Trouble.” And who knew that libraries were such a hotbed of controversy? While this was my first AkLA conference, I am already looking forward to the next one.

Karen Petersen
Friends of the Thorne Bay Library
As a Newcomer to Alaska, the Sessions were Tremendously Informative

As a seasoned conference attender and presenter, I registered for the AkLA conference with the pre-disposition that much of what I learned would, in actuality, be of very little use to me in my current situation. Very happily, the conference proved me quite wrong!

AkLA was well balanced with presentations concerning the current state of libraries fiscally, as well as presentations that are applicable to the small library in which I am employed. As a newcomer to Alaska, the sessions introducing the State Archives and the State Museum were of tremendous interest. The holdings of both groups are extensive and informational, and the presenters did an excellent job. I have shared what I learned with many Alaskans who had no idea such tremendous facilities exist in our state’s capital.

Additionally, the sessions on Alaska Native Cultural Heritage were both informative and essential. Finally, I am most grateful for the sessions in which librarians in other locales shared their expertise, knowledge, and tips on serving the needs of our patrons. The sessions on accessible workstations, disaster preparedness, self-guided learning, and even the “weeding” process were enjoyable and informative.

Just having a chance to meet and hear librarians from all over this massive state share stories from their different settings was worth the trip in itself. From a small tribal library somewhere in the Aleutians to a huge university library in Anchorage, each of these presenters and participants spend their working days trying to make the lives of their patrons more enjoyable and/or more fulfilled. I am honored to be one of them!

Joy O. Graves
Haines Borough Public Library

Another Excellent AkLA Experience!

Another excellent AkLA experience! A HUGE thank you to all who work so hard to put together these opportunities for rural librarians to learn and network. After a lovely, sunny extended weekend in Juneau, I came home with so many new ideas to help improve my service to our community. I remember as a patron years ago, when the librarians would return from an AkLA Conference, they would be so energized! They loved to show me new tips and tricks they had learned and books to read.

Thanks again everyone!

Bre Ohlson
Gustavus Public Library

(Cont. on pg. 12)
My Experience as an Attendee was Both Informative and Inspirational

My experience participating as a first time attendee to the Alaska Library Association Conference was both informative and inspirational. As we all know, Alaska is a large state with a small town familiarity, and this conference offered a great way to network statewide, to introduce myself (as a first time attendee) to the greater library community, and to take part in a wide range of learning opportunities while expanding my knowledge base.

The variety of topics presented throughout the conference provided all the attendees ample choice. The depth of knowledge and depth of content provided by each presenter(s) resulted in time well spent. From copyright to programming; from community surveys to virtual fieldtrips-- all attendees, and especially this attendee, appreciated the opportunity to talk with, visit with, and learn from all the great librarians who gathered from all over Alaska for this conference.

The preconference tour of the Andrew P. Kashevaroff archives as well as the personal introduction and future guidance offered by the Alaska State archivists will undoubtedly continue to be a resource for the Sitka Public librarians as we work towards developing our policies and best practices maintaining our Local History Collection.

Kathryn Hurtley, Director
Sitka Public Library

Earthquake Preparedness—A Wake-up Call

I learned so much at the “All Shook Up” session at the AkLA conference in Juneau. The photos and stories of the earthquake damage were shocking and a real wake up call. When I returned to my library, I checked and our disaster preparedness plan has not been updated in more than ten years. Listening to the stories that librarians shared about their damaged buildings and the challenges they faced with communication among co-workers and supervisors has motivated me to get our plan updated as soon as possible.

We need to check all our on-site emergency supplies, from first-aide kits to water storage to plastic sheeting and more. We need to make sure the entire City staff, not just the library, has a paper copy
of the emergency phone tree, as well as having a list of everyone’s cell phone number. Hearing the stories about librarians or staff wanting to go into buildings right away to see what the damage was—without checking to see if the structure was actually safe—really impacted me. I realized that would be my first impulse, too, if an event happened outside of working hours. Remembering to stop, look at a disaster procedures list, and wait for instructions from supervisors or First Responders was very valuable advice. It was also a reminder to make sure things at home are in order, as well.

Thanks, presenters!

Joyce McCombs, Director
Delta Community Library

Valuable Information for Any Library or Museum

I really enjoyed the 2019 AKLA Conference in Juneau this year. I was very fortunate to choose the preconferences Archives 101 and Museums 101. My library (the Kegoayah Kozga Public Library located in Nome, Alaska) is contained in a multi-purpose building that includes a museum and a cultural center. Therefore, I have an interest in acquiring additional education about these institutions.

Both of these preconferences were located in the new Andrew P. Kashevaroff (“APK”) Building. It was my first visit to this building, and having the preconferences in this building allowed me to explore this wonderful facility. During the Museum preconference, we learned about Museum Collections Policies and Collections Management. In addition, I really enjoyed Ellen Carrlee's presentation: Agents of Deterioration. We have a rare book collection at our library, and her presentation was very informative. We learned about temperature, humidity, light, pests, water, fire, pollutants, physical forces, thieves/vandals, and dissociation. This presentation highlighted many areas that all institutions need to keep in mind when preparing a plan to protect our collections.

I went back to my facility having decided to purchase insect strips to determine what type of insects might be visiting my facility, and with the knowledge that I needed to check that all important materials were off the floor and elevated in case of flooding.

The APK building also sponsored a wonderful conference kick-off that included the Woosh.ji.een Dance Group and music by Tom Locher and Heather Mitchell.

Marguerite La Riviere, Director
Kegoayah Kozga Public Library
Nome

Woosh.ji.een Dance Group. They combine traditional Pow Wow songs with elements of hip-hop to promote inclusivity and representation of First Nations peoples. [https://www.ktoo.org/tag/woosh-ji-een/](https://www.ktoo.org/tag/woosh-ji-een/)
NASA Workshop

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

The Alaska State Library in partnership with the Loussac Library was selected as one of 10 State Library Agencies to work with NASA@ My Library team members to bring a hands-on, space science themed workshop to a group of Alaska public library staff.

To support rural librarians' attendance at the NASA STEM workshop, the Alaska State Library offered 12 travel grants of up to $500.00 for travel reimbursement.

Goals for participants during the workshop:
1. Gain confidence in facilitating hands-on space science activities for ages 5-13 and their families at libraries.
2. Gain confidence in making connections to current NASA science and mission with NASA apps, video clips, images, and other educational and promotional resources.
3. Network with others involved in facilitating innovative science and technology programs.
4. Connect to a broader online community of practice through the STAR Library Network.

Following are NASA Workshop Attendees' reports:
(Several of these were received; more will be included in future editions of Newspoke.)

Experimenting with Edible “Moon Ooze” and so Much More

One of the most helpful aspects of the NASA STEM workshop was trying out different activities and then talking to other librarians about the challenges we might encounter leading similar activities in our libraries, and ways we might overcome these challenges. We talked about issues of staffing and budget, diverse age ranges in children’s programs, and being cognizant of food access issues in a community before deciding which activities to lead involving edible materials.

I came away from this training with lots of new ideas for activities to lead in our Summer Reading Program, and a rough outline of what activities we will do each week during the summer. After going through the activities myself, I feel confident in leading several of them, and confident in which types of activities are realistic for our library in terms of budget and staffing.

(Cont. on pg. 15)
Some of the activities I learned at the training which I plan to implement are:

- Building model planets out of Styrofoam balls and modeling clay
- Experimenting with UV-reactive beads
- Edible “moon ooze” recreating the creation of the moon’s surface as it cooled
- Solar viewing with eclipse glasses
- Cloud identification and artwork
- Replicating the creation of the moon’s craters using pans of sand, flour, and cocoa powder

Jen Gardner
Gustavus Public Library
Gustavus

Much to Inspire Us to Investigate Further

I was one of the lucky Librarians to attend the two-day NASA STEM workshop at the Loussac Library in Anchorage on April 12-13. We had two wonderful presenters from STAR NET/Space Science Institute who gave us myriad ideas to possibly use for our Summer Reading Programs (SRP) this year. Also, a great many additional websites and resources were provided to inspire us to investigate opportunities further.

After having the Anchorage Solar System Ambassadors guest speakers show us their telescopes and talk about the possibility of having similar ambassadors within different regions of the state, I reached out to some of the Ambassadors in my area and was referred to the area coordinator for the Alaska Space Grant Program. We will be doing a Martian colony activity where kids can design and create a sustainable community on Mars using recycled materials. We think the kids will be extremely excited about building these for themselves.

Some of the ideas that we plan to pursue for SRP that were presented during the workshop were “How We Explore” a Lunar touch-down activity using a solo cup, straws, a coaster, marshmallows, index cards, and tape, as well as the “Strange New Planet:” Create your own planet activity using a Styrofoam ball and modeling clay. We will also be having a local physics student/amateur astronomer talk about the sun, demonstrate some activities, and bring a special telescope for viewing the sun—similar to what we also did during our workshop.

(Cont. on pg. 16)
Cloud Science Coming Soon to the Homer Public Library

For many libraries around the U.S., the theme for this summer’s reading and learning program, Universe of Stories, equates to events inspired by the night sky. The connection between the dark background seen in images of the universe and the night sky is obvious—unless Alaska is where you find yourself in the summer months.

For some, it may be hard to reconcile those beautiful photos of the Moon or Mars and the seemingly endless night with the bright sky we see from Earth at all hours during June and July. But “space,” and all its wonders, is still out there.

At a recent workshop for librarians, educators from NASA’s Star.net project, https://www.star-netlibraries.org/, and some local guests gave a crash course on program ideas, interesting digital resources and in-state organizations that will help connect families to space this summer. The rich lineup included a program introduced by Christi Buffington from the University of Alaska Fairbanks International Arctic Research Center. The GLOBE Observer Citizen Science cloud program https://above.nasa.gov/implementation_plan/globe.html? lets families learn about and contribute to important cloud data needed by scientists studying the role clouds play in the changing climate.

The program’s mobile app is user-friendly for ages 8 and up (younger with the help of a grown-up) and promotes intergenerational joint media engagement (grown-ups and kids learning together with media). In addition to more predictable space activities, Homer families will have the chance to learn about clouds and try their skills at observation and citizen science at the library this summer.

Claudia Haines
Youth Services Librarian
Homer Public Library

(Cont. on pg. 17)
Participants Make Several Quick Trips to Strange New Planets

It was a wonderful experience to attend the NASA STEM Workshop at the Z.J. Loussac Public Library on April 12 and 13, 2019. The program was presented by the STAR Library Network (STAR Net) and the main presenters, Brooks Mitchell and Keliann LaConte, were extremely bright, knowledgeable, and engaging presenters. I highly recommend participating in any future webinars that they offer. We covered so much material that it is difficult to pick just a few of the topics to mention in this article. I recommend that you look at the online materials at http://www.starnetlibraries.org/

My best advice is to go to the section under A Universe of Stories where they recommend numerous activities that you can use in your summer reading program. You can easily sort the list of activities by categories such as age group, time, and cost among other helpful options. During the workshop we participated in many of the activities listed. My favorites were the “Strange New Planet,” “Loony Lunar Phases,” and “UV Kid.”

In the Strange New Planet activity, youth can learn about the process of space exploration. A planet is available for them to do several quick trips. After each trip, they can brainstorm about what they saw. It is so much fun! After the activity, each participant can use their creative skills to make their own planet. I plan to start off my summer program with the Elementary School kids and this activity. Although you can make your own telescope out of a paper towel roll, I purchased simple DIY telescopes from the Upstart website.

I also really enjoyed the “Loony Lunar Phases” activity. This activity requires using an Oreo type of cookie to carve out the filling into the different lunar phases. I rarely have food in our library, but thought I would wait until we have a nice sunny day and take this activity outside. Then after the kids learn about the lunar phases in a fun way they can eat the special treat cookies. I might also save this for our end-of-the-year party when we always offer food to the kids.

The final activity that was a lot of fun was the “UV Kid.” It required the use of UV beads and pipe cleaners. You can also make bracelets and do the same activity. We did the UV Kid in the workshop, but on the website they also list that bracelet activity with the same craft supplies. However, I think it will be a lot of fun for the youth to design their own UV person. This is an activity that could even be fun for the teens. When you make the UV person, it opens up a few more creative options, but I think the younger ages might have an easier time with the bracelet.

I am very thankful to the Alaska State Library for this opportunity. In addition to our presenters, I am very thankful to Public Library Coordinator Julie Niederhauser for organizing the program and giving me the opportunity to attend, and to Anchorage Public Library Youth Services Coordinator Elizabeth Moreau Nicolai for hosting us at her library and making us feel so welcome.

Marguerite La Riviere, Director
Kegoayah Kozga Public Library
Nome

People with common names may not get this, but every time I hear my name in a book or movie, I get a little thrill. So, you may imagine that this book would be fun for me even if it weren’t well researched, written, and read. Fortunately, the author did a great job, too! The stories are true to the originals (as much as is possible, given inconsistencies and regional variations in the myths themselves). Gaiman’s dry wit fits well with the material. Big thumbs up, even if you aren’t named for a Norse goddess.

_Freya Anderson_  
*Alaska State Library*  
*Juneau*


I found the beginning of the book a bit repetitive. There are lots of citations, although following up on them can be a bit tricky with an audio-book. The second part of the book, though, covers Dr. Gregor’s Daily Dozen, a checklist of recommended food types. This is substantive, with information on which specific foods are better than others, how big a serving is, where to find high quality and/or inexpensive options, and recipes. The advice is practical, interesting, and helpful, and the author is clearly of the opinion that a lifestyle change with food you enjoy and can maintain is better than a painful diet that lasts for a week or a month.

_Freya Anderson_  
*Alaska State Library*  
*Juneau*


(Cont. on pg. 19)
This book speaks to my heart, possibly because I have a somewhat similar religious background as the author, although it resulted in fewer tattoos (or rather, none) for me. Pastor Bolz-Weber is a bit profane, a bit funny, and very insightful. She shows people who are broken, sinful, and beloved, who, like all of us, are both sinners and saints. A bonus of the audiobook is that many of the chapters start with a beautiful choral chant.

Freya Anderson
Alaska State Library
Juneau


Explore hidden chapters of U.S. history with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. From Crispus Attucks, the African American who may have sparked the Boston Massacre; to Harriet Tubman's exploitation of slaveholders' prejudices to free slaves; to Bass Reeves, the lawman who always got his man—in batches. Mr. Abdul Jabbar paints vivid documented portraits of brave and clever African-Americans who helped to build America.

Daniel Cornwall
Alaska State Library
Juneau

Shen Yun. My niece and I attended this production at the Anchorage Center for the Performing Arts. It was well worth our excursion from the Kenai Peninsula. It was impressive. I enjoyed it very much. The point of view is Daoist; the counterpoint is certainly anti-Communist and the artistic level is very high. Scenery is impressive, costumes are beautiful and performers outstanding. If this theater performs again in our region, you should definitely see it!

Larry Hibpshman
Kenai

(Cont. on pg. 20)
Alaska Experience Corner

Submitted by Larry Hibpshman, Book Buzz Manager (Kenai)

But you too can submit to the Alaska Experience column
ILbombastico@yahoo.com

This time I want to feature some rather special resources. From time to time I come upon very small, very short material that either is published by rather ephemeral entities, or perhaps was never meant as a publication at all. Yet often the information contained and the artwork included is unique, and very useful if you have special Alaska or community collections to share. Here are a few I’ve found over the years:


I found this in the Urban Eskimo shop in Juneau. Mine is only a photocopy and I doubt it is easy to find an original today. The pamphlet includes a November 15, 2012 note by Larry and Laura Rorem, who pastored the Lutheran Church ca. 1972. Style is repetitive, often states the obvious and frustrates, because you really would like to know these young people’s pride in their village and provides a few facts that may not be known outside the community. Students’ drawings and maps are a valuable documentary resource.


This woman performed as a ‘Madame’ in Skagway, White Horse and on the White Pass and Yukon Railroad. She exemplifies the life of the Alaskan wanderer —she calls herself sort of a Gypsy. She lived or performed at Anchorage, Atlin, Barrow, Cracker Creek, Dillingham, Glennallen, Lake Louise, Liarsville, Skagway, Stony River, Tolsana Lake, Valdez, and Whitehorse; and worked as cook, waitress, maid, tour guide and gold miner. The narrative is a little erratic, but the stories are usually very funny, and she tells them with ram-bunctious uninhibited glee. I wish, however, she had included more about her work as hostess of the railroad parlor car.

(Cont. on pg. 21)

There is very little text in the cartoon pamphlet—just some basic facts. Mr. Lowell, his wife and daughter arrived in 1958, homesteaded near Anchor Point until 1966, then moved to Anchorage. He established the Penthouse School of Art and Gallery. The booklet includes two portraits: one hand-drawn and one photograph, and 26 black and white cartoons that depict life on a 1960s family homestead. Sometimes pictures really are better than words.

The sales pamphlet includes color reproductions of Mr. Lowell’s work; some brief descriptive text; a short narrative of his Alaskan life from 1958; and publication notes about his book Alaskan Cache of Thoughts & Sketches (1st edition 1982). His work is fairly typical of Alaskan scenic landscapes with good use of the play of light. Wish I could locate a copy of the book.


These are stories written by St. Lawrence Island students with Siberian Yupik and English texts. Sulpik is a child of indeterminate age, who charges thru life with verve and joy. Along the way we become better acquainted with island life and culture. The style reflects the same traditional Eskimo story telling style as Mayokok’s two pamphlets. Alaska Native cultural vitality is not gone; it has just appropriated and adapted the common culture’s elements to its own use.

I found this pamphlet for sale in the Hope Historical Museum. It presents letters by two missionaries working at different times in Hope. Harry Munro was a Disciples of Christ minister assigned to Hope and Seward 1916-1917. Bertha McGhee, a Methodist Jesse Lee Home house parent, served during the children’s home’s World War II closure as pastor at Hope, 1944-1948.

Both letters give valuable information not only about denominational activities, but also about life in general and of particular people in Hope during both world wars.


This 48 page pamphlet is a delight to read. Mr. Seveck tells the story of his life, from his birth ca. 1890 through 1973. He was not a proficient English speaker and the narrative is in a broken pidgin. One suspects it was prepared from oral recitation by Mr. Seveck’s friend, bush pilot and Territorial Senator Frank Whaley.

Mr. Seveck was employed as a reindeer herder from 1908 and became chief herder in 1940. Thus the primary subject is reindeer culture, but the text also touches on a variety of incidental personal and social issues: ice pack hunting; whaling; a survival story; Spanish Influenza; making a film; and his contributions to public relations and the tourist trade. This is a record of a life well lived.

This by no means exhausts the possibilities. I’ll include some more and longer examples next time.
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, 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, of appropriate length, “decently” well-written; author is willing to submit to possible editorial changes. This may include length, perhaps 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 Newspeak.)

Other—determined on an individual basis by “the committee” (defined as a group of at least three AkLA members).

If the Newspeak editor, or the individual submitting, has questions or concerns about any submission, the matter will be sent on to the Newspeak Committee.
# ALASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Robert Barr</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Robert.Barr@juneau.org">Robert.Barr@juneau.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President-Elect</td>
<td>Deborah Rinio</td>
<td><a href="mailto:northermlightslibrarian@gmail.com">northermlightslibrarian@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past-President</td>
<td>Erin Hollingsworth</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Erin.Hollingsworth@nsbsd.org">Erin.Hollingsworth@nsbsd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Paul Adasiak</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pfadasiak@alaska.edu">pfadasiak@alaska.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Rebecca Moorman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rmoorman@alaska.edu">rmoorman@alaska.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Coordinator</td>
<td>Robert Barr</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Robert.Barr@juneau.org">Robert.Barr@juneau.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNLA 2020</td>
<td>Freya Anderson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:freya.anderson@alaska.gov">freya.anderson@alaska.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALA Representative</td>
<td>Lorelei Sterling</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lsterling@alaska.edu">lsterling@alaska.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNLA Representative</td>
<td>Julie Niederhauser</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Julie.niederhauser@alaska.gov">Julie.niederhauser@alaska.gov</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Publications**
- * Newspoke, Loretta Andress  
  aflma@gci.net  
  http://www.akla.org  
  aklalist@akla.org

**Website**  
http://www.akla.org

**E-list**  
aklalist@akla.org

## CALENDAR

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<td>ALA Annual Conf., WA, DC</td>
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<td>Amer. Assn School Librarians Nati Conf., Louisville, KY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Card Signup</td>
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<tr>
<td>September is Library Card Sign-up Month</td>
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<td>Banned Books Wk.</td>
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