Dear AkLA Membership:

I am pleased to announce the results of our recent AkLA election. 103 members voted in this election, up from 87 last year. We appreciate your participation in the process. The results are as follows:

**Rebecca Moorman**, Treasurer
rmoorman@uss.alaska.edu

**Steven Hunt**, ALA Counselor
sdhunt3@alaska.edu

**Linda Lyshol** was voted in as President-Elect but was unable to accept the office.

As per the AkLA Handbook, the Executive Board recommended candidate(s) to the Executive Council for approval and a vote. The Executive Council voted in favor of appointing **Mollie Good**, current director of the Valdez Public Library and previous AkLA conference coordinator, to the office of President-Elect for a three-year term. Congratulations to Mollie! We look forward to working with our new Board members in the upcoming year.

(Cont. on pg. 2)
A debt of gratitude goes to out-going board members Daniel Cornwall, ALA Representative and Robert Barr, Treasurer. Both have been invaluable Board members with a high level of skill associated with each of their positions. We thank them for their service to the AkLA Board and community.

For those applicants who responded to the call for nominations for President-Elect, I thank you for your time and encourage you to run again next year as we look to fill positions.

Patricia Brown
AkLA President

CONFERENCE—LIBRARIES AS LEADERS

I hope to see you all at the upcoming Alaska Library Association Conference in Fairbanks, March 10-13. There is a great line-up of authors, speakers, events, and sessions covering topics from library advocacy to summer reading program planning. Pre-conferences begin on Wednesday, March 9 with a workshop on digital heritage preservation for Alaska Native Libraries, Archives, and Museums and continue on the 10th to include workshops for school librarians, academic libraries, and Maker Spaces. As always, this is the time to meet face-to-face with roundtables, committees, the ALN board and the AkLA Board. We will also have our AkLA business meeting (this year with an Awards Tea) and an opportunity to hear from our State Librarian and Advocacy committee at the State of the State Breakfast.

I encourage you to look at the many opportunities, register soon, and join us in Fairbanks for a time of inspiration and renewal.
2016: A GOOD YEAR FOR THE ARTS

On New Year’s Eve, my husband and I usually celebrate in downtown Anchorage. We go to the Anchorage Museum, have dinner at Sacks, watch fireworks, see the gingerbread village in the Captain Cook hotel, and spend the night at the Copper Whale B & B. And we talk about the year past and our plans for the next. It’s a great way to celebrate together.

Going to the museum is an important element of our day. The museum, and arts in general, are a big part of my life. Art and literature give me solace, entertainment, and thoughtful ways to understand people. Because of the latter, I’d like to declare 2016 the year for the arts.

With war, terrorism, political strife, and all the other challenges we face, one would think that understanding our fellow humans is vital. As Harper Lee had Atticus say in To Kill a Mockingbird, "First of all . . . if you can learn a simple trick, Scout, you’ll get along a lot better with all kinds of folks. You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view . . . until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."

Art and literature give us an opportunity to see things from other points of view. A recent study shows that reading fiction improves our ability to empathize (http://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/2015/may/13/reading-teach-children-empathy). That should help us come together to find collaborative solutions to the many problems that we’ll face in 2016.

I encourage you to enjoy the arts this year. Read a novel, go to a museum or gallery, watch a dance performance or play, or go to a concert, as often as you can. Also, tell your representatives to support the arts in schools and public places, and donate to a museum or arts group yourself if you can. Let’s spread "the arts" this year, and make the world a better place.

Inspired by Frank Soos’ blog post for 49 Writers—see it at http://49writers.blogspot.com/2015/12/frank-soos-now-what-bonus-blog-by.html

This was first posted at Lynn Lovegreen's blog on Jan 1, 2016.
http://www.lynnlovegreen.com/2016-a-good-year-for-the-arts/

The exciting story is set in Cordova in the early 1900s. Pegau had never written in this genre before, but a friend of hers told her a local legend, and this inspired her to write the book.

The story was that in the 1930s a prostitute was murdered, and her young child also died. Due to social mores, the mother and child were buried in separate cemeteries in Cordova. Pegau decided to create a murder mystery around a woman in a similar circumstance. She changed the time period to the 1900s features to help search on Google screens, as that is a particularly interesting time in Cordova’s history. Pegau’s main character is journalist Charlotte Brody, who has “come to the frontier town of Cordova, where her brother Michael practices medicine, for the same reason many come to Alaska—to start over.”

Thirty people attended the book reading in our brand new Education Room, and many had questions about Pegau’s writing process. She explained that she needs to be in a room by herself, and has to work hard to not get distracted by her other daily chores. She did quite a bit of research about the time period, both by talking to local historians and finding information online.

Pegau said she has a great editor who gives her sound advice. She has also had the same book agent for several years who has been very helpful in marketing her manuscripts. This is Pegau’s fourth published book, but the first to come out in print form.

She has finished the second Charlotte Brody mystery, *Borrowing Death*, which will be available July 2016. Pegau is currently working on the third book of the series, which will be published in March 2017. If you want more information on Cathy Pegau’s books please visit http://cathypegau.com/.

Miriam Dunbar, Director
Cordova Public Library
talking about themselves isn’t working, so they’ve shifted to what our profession sees as a natural niche—helping people. Find out how private sector companies like Hilton, swimming pool builders and even taxi drivers are answering their customers’ questions on social media and other online places. Then think about how you can get into the spaces your patrons are at. (Daniel Cornwall, Alaska State Library, Juneau)

Great overview on the current science of weight loss and why almost everything you think you know about dieting is wrong. See how even the definition of “successful diet” has changed over the years and how few people make the progressively lowered bar. The last part of the book is about eating better with less willpower needed. (Daniel Cornwall, Alaska State Library, Juneau)

Marketers have realized that

The author takes responsibility for her actions, but is not shy in pointing out problems with corrections in the U.S. She recognizes she had it relatively easy. Indeed, the biggest surprise of the book was seeing how much relative freedom was available at her institution.

The book is read well, with clear diction. Characters are brought to life both by skillful writing and enjoyable accents the reader employs. This is a great read/listen for your bedside table, easy, interesting, but not so engrossing that it'll keep you awake.

(Freya Anderson, Alaska State Library, Juneau)


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(Do not hallucinate.)
I have never visited Kotzebue, but after reading Seth Kanter's three books, I think I would recognize this place if plunked down there wearing a blindfold.

His first two books, *Ordinary Wolves* and *Shopping for Porcupine*, presented a fiction/nonfiction hat trick telling the story of homesteading with his parents and brother in northwest Alaska.

In his newest book, Seth groups his essays into life topics such as "Life Around the Igloo," "Bringing Home the Bounty," and "Ice and Snow." His love of this style of living, his humor, and his humanity shine through.

For example, he suggests ripping his daughter's massive textbook apart so she can bring just the chapters she needs on a hunting trip. It’s funny when his wife simply says, No. But it’s much funnier when you realize his wife is a librarian and you can imagine the dryness of her one word response. Highly enjoyable and highly recommended. *(Patience Frederiksen, Alaska State Library, Anchorage.)*

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**Hanukkah in Alaska.** **Barbara Brown, 2013.** Holt.

What a treat! My picture book was picked by Storyline Online (an initiative of the SAG Foundation), animated, and read by an actor.

Molly Ephraim is the reader, and you can see the video at [http://www.storylineonline.net/hanukkah-in-alaska/](http://www.storylineonline.net/hanukkah-in-alaska/).

For the story of how the story, the book, and video came to be, check my blog post at [3rdthirds.blogspot.com](http://3rdthirds.blogspot.com). It all started with my volunteering to help Anchorage Public Library with a visiting author. Too exciting! *(Barbara Brown, Anchorage.)*

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**The Screen Actors Guild Foundation**

**OUR MISSION**

**OUR VISION**

The Foundation provides vital assistance and educational programming to the professionals of SAG-AFTRA while serving the public at large through its signature children’s literacy programs.

We believe in a world where all artists can realize their dreams, and children are empowered to create their own.

- See more at: [http://sagaftrafoundation/about/mission-vision/#sthash.q13Scd09.dpuf](http://sagaftrafoundation/about/mission-vision/#sthash.q13Scd09.dpuf)
Researchers have found a key that may unlock the only library of classical antiquity to survive along with its documents, raising at least a possibility of recovering vanished works of ancient Greek and Roman authors such as the lost books of Livy’s history of Rome.

The library is that of a villa in Herculaneum, a town that was destroyed in A.D. 79 by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius that obliterated nearby Pompeii.

Though the hot gases did not burn the many papyrus rolls in the villa’s library, they turned them into cylinders of carbonized plant material.

Many attempts have been made to unroll the carbonized scrolls since they were excavated in 1752. But all were highly destructive, and scholars eventually decided to leave the scrolls alone in the hope that better methods would be invented. More than 300 scrolls survive more or less intact.

Researchers now say that for the first time, they can read letters inside the scrolls without unrolling them. Using a laser-like beam of X-rays, they were able to pick up the very slight contrast between the carbonized papyrus fibers and the ancient ink—soot-based and also made of carbon.

For complete article:
http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/21/science/more-progress-made-toward-learning-contents-of-herculaneum-scrolls.html?_r=1
Search Better

Google Search Tips

Resources
To learn more about searching, visit these resources below.

Google search
• **Inside Search:** This site gives a behind-the-scenes look at Google, including tips and tricks, new search features, and more.
• **A Google a Day:** This site has a new "puzzle" each day, which you can solve by conducting Google searches. It's a great way to practice your search skills.
• **Google Search Education:** Teachers can find lesson plans, activities, webinars, and more on this site.
• **Classroom Posters:** Here, you can download and print posters containing tips and other info about Google search.
• **Google Alerts:** Google Alerts can monitor the Web for new sites and then email you with relevant results. It can be useful if you want to keep track of the latest news about a specific company, topic, or sports team.
• **Get More Out of Google:** This is an infographic that contains many useful search tips.

Other resources
• **Search Tip for Students:** Try Predicting Your Search Results: This article gives some good advice for improving your search terms.
• **Wolfram Alpha:** Wolfram Alpha is a unique kind of search engine designed to answer questions about science, math, history, and more. For example, you could ask, "Which country has the highest elevation?"
GENERAL GUIDELINES TO PUBLISHING 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, 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 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.

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION TO SUPPORT NATIONAL READATHON DAY 2016 ON MAY 21 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE

The American Library Association today announced that it has joined with Penguin Random House to support the second annual National Readathon Day, which will take place Saturday, May 21, 2016.

Visit www.readathonday.com for more information
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CALENDAR
AkLA Annual Conference, Westmark Hotel, Fairbanks, AK  Mar. 10-13, 2016
PLA 2016 Conference, Denver, CO  Apr. 5-9, 2016
ALA Annual Conference, Orlando, FL  June 23-28, 2016