



NEWS

Past & Present

Collecting, Preserving and Interpreting Juneau-Douglas History and Culture

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Mike Blackwell: Juneau Loses a Philanthropist

The Juneau-Douglas City Museum is saddened by the passing of long-time Juneau resident, Mike Blackwell. Mike passed away in February shortly after returning to the states from Toronto, Canada. While in Toronto, Mike experienced some health issues and decided to transfer to a care facility in Seattle. Shortly after Mike arrived in Seattle and settled into the new care facility, he passed away. Mike will be greatly missed by the City Museum and the wider Juneau-Douglas community.

Mike Blackwell's passion for history and education resulted in his generous support of local organizations. Mike was a City Museum donor and an active volunteer who willingly shared his wealth of knowledge with the community. He enjoyed leading downtown geology walks every summer and acted as a Museum Docent during the tour season. He was also a founding member of the Friends of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum and served on the board until his death.

In addition to his support of the City Museum, Mike gave generously of his time, knowledge and money to many other organizations in Juneau. Over the years, Mike supported Discovery Southeast, the Zach Gordon Youth Center, the Glory Hall and STEM youth activities. He was also a supporter of the arts. When Marie Darlin passed away in 2018, Mike created a new endowment fund to provide an arts and literature award. The fund is managed by the Juneau Community Foundation. The Marie Darlin Arts & Literature Prize will be awarded annually through the City Museum.

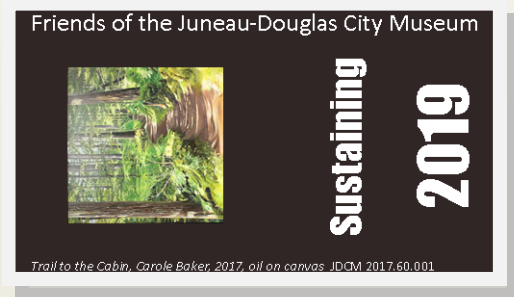
In October of 2018, Mike was named Philanthropist of the Year by the Juneau Community Foundation for his numerous contributions. His dedication to the community will be long remembered.

Donations can be made in Mike Blackwell's memory to the Juneau Community Foundation.



Mike Blackwell shown here in October 2018 with sons Andrew, Matthew, and friend Carolyn Naftel when he was named Philanthropist of the Year by the Juneau Community Foundation. Photo by Michael Penn for the Juneau Empire.

Renew or purchase a 2019 FoJDCM Membership.



Six membership levels available.
Purchase online or call the Museum:

fojdc.org/support/
(907) 586-3572



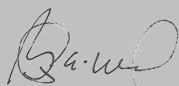
Director's Letter



When the walls are blank between exhibits, I think about the future and the interpretive possibilities that will be played out upon this blank canvas. This exercise is both daunting and exhilarating because there is so much to do from planning and research, to building relationships, to selecting objects and art to fulfilling the vision. Thankfully, our mission, history, community and even the structure of walls guide us as each exhibit is realized. As we move towards the end of the fiscal year in June 2019, there are more than exhibits waiting to be realized. Now is the time to update the museum's strategic plan for the next five years to encompass FY20-FY25. Thankfully, like the walls, a structure exists and I hope you will join us as we envision what is next for the Juneau-Douglas City Museum.

As I look back over the goals accomplished in the past five years, the current plan also anticipates many of the challenges we'll face in the future. Most notably among these seeds yet to be planted is the long-term need for a larger museum. July 2019 will mark the 30th anniversary of the Juneau Memorial Library moving out of the historic Veterans Memorial Building and the JDCM moving into the building. Conceived of and built between 1945 and 1951, this now historic building was the first to be built entirely with public funds and was also the site of the July 4th 1959 Statehood Ceremony when the 49-star flag was officially flown in Alaska's Capital. I see too how the temporary blank walls are a guise to how near to capacity we are for collection storage and exhibit space.

Walls too can divide us by matter or metaphor, but the strategic plan guides us towards a practice of curating, interpreting, and exhibiting the stories and histories of Juneau's diverse people. To do this we must sometimes ask tough, uncomfortable questions about the way things are or were and then be willing to listen and seek earnest reconciliation. Through community dialogue and planning I believe we can become a multifaceted gem of a museum.



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Mission and Vision

The Juneau-Douglas City Museum fosters among its diverse audiences an awareness of Juneau's cultural heritage, values and community memory so we may draw strength and perspective from the past, inspire learning, and find purpose for the future.

As a public trust, we collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit those materials that document the cultures and history of the Juneau and Douglas area.



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Museum News

Behind the Curtain: Curation and Exhibits

Stepping In

As most of you know, we had a bit of a transition period between our previous Curator of Collections and Exhibits, Jodi DeBruyne, and our current Curator, Niko Sanguinetti. While our staff did an amazing job at pulling together and accomplishing what needed to be done, it did mean that a few projects were not able to be addressed.

Enter Mary Pat Wyatt.

Former Director of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum, and dedicated volunteer, Mary Pat has stepped in to help evaluate the legacy of Marie Darlin.

A lifelong resident of Juneau, Marie was a dedicated advocate for preserving Juneau's history. After her passing in June of last year, her daughter, Sue Nielsen, brought us nearly ten boxes containing years of research and historical memorabilia collected by her mother for review and possible donation. Unfortunately, at that time we were without a Curator to assess the materials and determine what was best to add to the JDCM collection.



Photo: Mary Pat Wyatt helps assess a donation from the family of Marie Darlin.

Mary Pat has spent many hours looking through this collection which spans decades and covers a wide range of topics. Her insight and suggestions have proved invaluable to our incoming Curator.

Going the Distance

Sometimes we have such generous donations that a Curator working alone would struggle to process everything. Luckily, we have fantastic volunteers and interns who spend their time doing the painstakingly detailed work of photo documentation and cataloguing.

Brenda Wright is a dedicated JDCM volunteer who works both at the front desk and as an all-around collections superstar. She is currently working on the collection of photographs donated by Joan Harju. This particular collection contains hundreds of individual photographs that cover decades of Juneau's history as seen through Joan's camera lens.

Brenda is assisted by Gabby Price, our high school CHOICE intern. Gabby's work enables Brenda to directly enter all images when fully cataloguing each item. As a team, they have been systematically working through the hundreds of photographs, enabling Niko, our new Curator, to focus more time on other projects.

Projects such as these are ideal for those wishing to learn more about collections management or museum work in general. Volunteers and interns have the opportunity to touch history with their own hands and play a vital role in Museum development. If you are interested in collections management volunteer/internship opportunities please contact the Museum.



Brenda ensures that all photographs are properly stored, labeled and catalogued into our collections management database. **Photo:** Brenda, hard at work at cataloguing the Harju Collection.



Gabby is responsible for individually scanning all photographs from this collection. **Photo:** Gabby scans and prepares the photographs in the Harju Collection for cataloguing.

Collections



A Message from our New Curator

Collections management and exhibition design is my passion and I am ecstatic to be working at the Juneau-Douglas City Museum. For a small museum, the JDCM approaches exhibiting with vision. A rigorous schedule of rotating exhibitions allows us to showcase not only objects in our own collection, but to act as a canvas for local artists as well. Our museum culture also embraces change as a way to continue to best represent the history and people of Juneau. This is represented through updates and redesigns of current permanent exhibits and by embracing new programming and educational opportunities.

As a newcomer to Juneau, I am still learning about the stories and people who have helped shape the history of this town. I have found everyone to be welcoming and helpful in my constant quest for information and resources. It comes as no surprise that this museum continues to thrive and grow as it reflects a passionate and proud community.

Collections Corner

Due to our transition period, the JDCM mostly enforced a collections hiatus from May to November of 2018. However, as is the case in most museums, the new Curator was greeted with a backlog. Backlogs are not uncommon due to the fact that there is often only one person responsible for the time consuming task of fully cataloging and documenting any new acquisitions. In this case, it meant that our new Curator was able to get up close and personal with the newer additions to our Permanent Collection.

As you will see in the notations accompanying the photos, our new acquisitions have arrived through a variety of methods. Some have come from generous donors. Some were collected by JDCM staff members and a final portion are what we call FIC, Found in Collection.

From my basement headquarters, I am hard at work ensuring that our collections are properly maintained and planning new and exciting exhibits that I hope will showcase the singularity of Juneau and its people. Collections and exhibits aren't always glamorous. Some days I come home with paint in my hair and dust streaked across my cheek. Other days I spend the whole day in front of a desk. But what I can say is that it is never dull and there is nowhere else I'd rather be.

As I move forward in this role, we will be offering internship and volunteer opportunities to help with the work necessary for maintaining a large collection. If museum or cultural heritage is something you are interested in, keep an eye on our Facebook page for upcoming events and opportunities.

I am excited to be working with such a visionary team and I am eager to see what the future holds for us at the Juneau-Douglas City Museum.

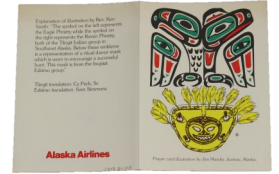
As an institution grows and ages, it is not uncommon to see a multitude of staff and volunteers come and go. Each person has their particular way of performing tasks and various teams approach the Museum differently. As a result, objects sometimes slip through the cracks. We don't always know their full history (or provenance as we like to call it in the collections world) but that only makes their story more unique. These objects are accessioned through the same process as objects acquired by donations and added to our permanent collection.

If you, or someone you know, are interested in making a donation to the Juneau-Douglas City Museum, feel free to contact our Curator of Collections and Exhibits, Niko Sanguinetti.

Collections

Recent Acquisitions

- 2018.21. Alaska Airlines Prayer Book. Donated by Margery A. Welker.
- 2018.23. Four Photographs of 240 Mill, Douglas School House, Valley, Glacier. Donated by Theresa Walden.
- 2018.24. Proclamation Designating Women's Bowler's Week. Donated by Margery A. Welker.
- 2018.25. Boiler Plate, Boiler Door, JHS Handbook, Inauguration Program, Chautauqua Poster, Tax Rally Card, Two Tax Rally Buttons. Found in Collection.
- 2018.27 I Voted Stickers, by Pat Race. Staff Collected
- 2018.29. Two Stereographs of Juneau. Staff Collected.
- 2019.01. The Fiddler, by Bill Ray. Print donated by Northrim Bank.
- 2019.01. St. Nicholas Church, by Laurie Craig. Painting Donated by Northrim Bank.



Alaska Airlines Prayer Book
Donated by Margery A. Welker
JDCM 2018.21.003



I Voted Stickers.
JDCM Staff Collected.
JDCM 2018.27.008.



St. Nicholas Church
Donated by Northrim Bank.
JDCM 2019.01.003

The Museum Store

Visit the Museum Store this summer to see our locally made items and Capitol souvenirs. We sell unique merchandise made by locals and are continually seeking new inventory. Here are some of the items we currently sell:

- Barbara Craver Wall Calendars
- Plein Rein Desk Calendars
- Gold Pan Shortbread Cookies by Chef Stef
- Coloring Books and Jewelry by Meet Me in Alaska
- Crystal Jewelry by Theyes Schaub
- Capitol Mugs by Tom's Pots
- Books by Local Authors



2019 Plein Rein Desk
Calendars: On Location with
Sydney Laurence



Gold Pan Shortbread
Cookies by local baker,
Chef Stef .

Visitor Services

With just four staff members, the Juneau-Douglas City Museum relies on volunteers to provide a variety of services for our visitors year-round. We are fortunate to have a dedicated group who enjoy interacting with visitors and sharing a wide range of information about our place, history and culture. Each City Museum volunteer comes to us with a unique background story which connects them to our community. Barbara Potter and Hetty Barthel are two volunteers who work at the front desk greeting visitors.

Barbara Potter arrived in Juneau in July of 1961, fresh out of college when her father transferred with the Coast Guard. “I came along for the adventure. My parents left after two years, I stayed.” Barb taught school for two years, married and then stayed home while her children were young. Twelve years later, Barb returned to education, subbing for a few years and then teaching kindergarten at Harborview and Capital Schools.

Barb started volunteering with Juneau Convention & Visitor’s Bureau (JCVB) in the mid-eighties and then moved to North Carolina with her husband after they both retired. In 2016, several years after her husband passed away, Barb returned to Juneau. She began volunteering at the City Museum at the urging of her friend, Judy Cole, and continued to volunteer for JCVB, (now Travel Juneau).

“I really enjoy visiting with travelers coming through Juneau. Most visitors are happy to be here, even in the rain. I always ask where their hometown is located. Sometimes, it’s a very small world. We may even know the same people. I also enjoy talking to people from other parts of the world. People still ask us about Sarah Palin.”

The winter months are much slower at the City Museum but volunteers are needed at this time too. “We are sometimes given small tasks to keep us busy during our winter shifts. Three hour shifts are very doable.”



Barb Potter in the Tlingit History Gallery.



Hetty Barthel at the front desk with volunteer, Kirk Smith.

Hetty Barthel moved to Juneau in 1980. She says it was the beautiful trees of Southeast Alaska that brought her here. Prior to moving to Juneau, Hetty taught high school for three years in Bethel at the Bethel Regional High School. On the various occasions when she ventured out of Bethel, Hetty witnessed the “SE Alaska décor” and was amazed.

“In Bethel we had the Bethel National Forest which consisted of one pine tree. So viewing the elegant surroundings of Juneau from the ferry deck planted Juneau in my brain.”

Hetty and her husband left Bethel to live in Anchorage until 1977 and then ventured out again for advanced degrees. After attaining a Masters in Library Science, Hetty moved to Juneau with her husband and applied for a job with the Juneau Memorial Library. She was given the job of Bush Librarian working in the Veteran’s Memorial Building which is now the Juneau-Douglas City Museum. Hetty worked as a librarian until 1988 when the library moved to its current location on top of the downtown parking garage. “The building was my earnest place-of-profession,” states Hetty.

Hetty began working at the Juneau-Douglas City Museum in 2006. She works in visitor services at the front desk and is interested in leading Capitol tours. “I have been volunteering with Michelle Storer for years. My time at the Juneau-Douglas City Museum is a gift to me of learning about our Alaska area and representing the area to tourists/visitors. Everyone wants to know what it is like to live here.”

Summer Exhibit Spotlight

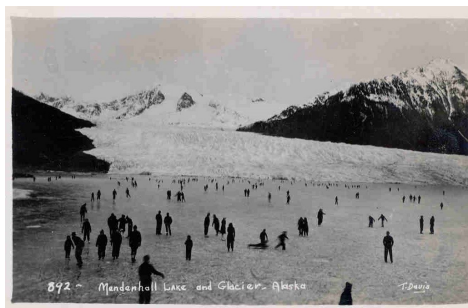
The Rhythm of Winter

What We Do in the Cold and Dark



Late 19th century postcard of Franklin Street downtown Juneau by Winter & Pond. JDCM 2007.42.001

1940 postcard of Mendenhall lake and Glacier by Trevor Davis. JDCM 2002.35.005



Visitor FAQ's
What is it like here in the winter?

What do people do in winter when it is dark and cold outside?

This summer, the City Museum will seek to answer a frequently asked question by our summer visitors: “What is it like to live here in winter?” In response, the exhibition, *The Rhythm of Winter: What We Do in the Cold and Dark* will illustrate the history of the indomitable Juneau spirit by showcasing what we do in winter, past and present. Historically, Juneauites strive to find joy in all manner of activities from outdoor sports, such as skiing and ice skating, to indoor activities, like basketball and theater.

Come visit the Juneau-Douglas City Museum this summer for a snapshot of how our Juneau community spirit brings us together and sustains us through the long winter months. *The Rhythm of Winter* will open with a First Friday reception on May 3rd from 4:30 to 7:00pm and will be on display in the Murray Gallery through October 2019.

Calendar of Events

- March** #5WomenArtists | Every Friday on Facebook | 9:00am
- March 1** **First Friday** | Elements, 15th Annual 12x12 Community Art Exhibit Opening Reception | 4:30 -7pm
Exhibit runs through April 18th.
- March 9** **Coffee & Collections** | Corinne Conlon, author of *Gardening Near Glaciers: Growing Vegetables in Southeast Alaska* | 10:30am to noon
- April 1** **First Friday** | Stump the Historian: An Evening in Memory of Marie Darlin | 4:30 -7 pm
- April 6** **Coffee & Collections** | Death as a Headline: Murder in Juneau/Douglas 1900-1960. A presentation by former reporters, Betsy Longenbaugh & Ed Schoenfeld | 10:30 am to noon
- April 19** **Burn Thompson Poetry Reading** | 5:00 -7 pm
- May 3** **First Friday** | The Rhythm of Winter Opening Reception | 4:30-7pm
Exhibit runs through September 2019.
- May-Sept.** **Historic Downtown Walking Tours** | Every Tuesday, Wednesdays & Thursday | 1:30 -3 pm
Downtown Geology and Treadwell Walking Tours | Monthly TBD
Capitol Tours | Weekly TBD

Juneau-Douglas City Museum
155 South Seward St.
Juneau, AK 99801



Admission

Fall/Winter: October-April

FREE admission thanks to our sponsors:

January 2019	Michelle Storer
February 2019	Don and Alma Harris
March 2019	In Memory of Scott Carrlee
April 2019	Michelle Storer

Spring/Summer: May-September

\$6 Ages 13 to 64
\$5 Ages 65 & older
FREE Ages 12 & Younger

Hours

Fall/Winter: October-April

Tuesday-Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm
Closed Sunday & Monday

Spring/Summer: May-September

Monday-Friday 9:00am to 6:00pm
Saturday & Sunday 10:00am to 4:30pm

Museum affiliate members enjoy FREE summer admission with current membership card or military ID

