

# PALMER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESERVING OUR PAST, SHARING OUR STORIES & MAKING HISTORY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

**Official Publication of the Palmer Historical Society - Volume XXVIII No.1 - Jan 2013 Edition**

## MESSAGE TO OUR MEMBERSHIP

You have a team of Society Members who have stepped forward to serve you, as Board of Directors and to take care of the business needs of the Society. Please, be assured, that while you may have witnessed two resignations in the past three months — all is well and we are moving forward. Lessons have been learned, and we will be taking heed of them in our By-Laws rework project.

In 2013, we have wonderful speakers for our monthly meetings that *Jean Krupa*, our Program Coordinator, has sought out and secured. Our Colony House Museum is the good hands of *Barbara Thomas* and *Gerry Keeling* — from docents to management. *Sheri Hamming* is serving as Secretary to record our minutes of the Board and is becoming more active with our Museum. *Cheryl Babbe*, as Treasurer is keeping our bills paid and, as Membership Chairman, our member rolls current. *Sharon Benson* serves as our Media 'n Press liaison and sees that our activities are promoted to the community. *Clyde* and *June Oberg* serve as Hospitality for our Monthly Meetings.

We are actively seeking two more members to serve with us. Should you be interested in being of *service* to the Society for 2013, please contact one of your current Board Members. As we come out of winter hibernation there will be *many* volunteer opportunities at the Colony House Museum too!

Wishes for a Healthy and Happy New Year,

*Palmer Historical Society Board of Directors*

## MAT-SU DIRTFISHERS RETURN FOR JANUARY 16TH MEETING

Douglas Cruthers, from the MatSu Dirtfishers Association is back by popular demand. He will update us on his latest "digs" and will be joined by fellow digger Dave Gonzales.

Mr. Cruthers spoke to us in April just before the snow melted. He'll be sharing about his most recent investigations and



explain the interesting finds he has discovered during his digs here in the Matanuska Valley. Look forward to an update on the 1953 crash site of an F89-C Air

Force jet which occurred in the Wasilla area. Mr. Cruthers will let us know whether he and Mr. Ken Ray found any more interesting details.

## NEW YEAR - NEW DUES STRUCTURE AND PAYMENT OPTIONS!

Thank you for your support to our revised dues payment schedule which runs on the calendar year of January-December! Many of you have chosen to make payment of your dues in the last few months of 2012. Our Treasurer will be ready to accept your payment at our Wednesday, January 16th meeting too.

The Board has approved the set-up of SquareUp, so we will also be able to accept credit card payments at meetings. With our upcoming website enhancements we will also be adding the ability to make your dues payments online!

In time for our upcoming summer season, we will have a membership brochure to help our community learn about the benefits and activities of the Society and encourage them to join in our activities.

As a reminder, you may mail your dues to PHS Attn: Cheryl, PO Box 1935, Palmer, AK 99645 or make payment at our monthly meetings:

- Individual - \$25
- Household - \$40
- Patron - \$100
- Lifetime - \$500

*Look below the return label for your Society membership expiration date!*

## PHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Members Serving on the Board

#### Media 'n Press

— Sharon Benson - 745-4913

#### Secretary

— Sheri Hamming - 232-6621

#### Treasurer and Membership

— Cheryl Babbe - 745-2013(9A-7P)

#### Colony House Museum

— Gerry Keeling - 745-3703

#### Colony House Docents 'n Tours

— Barbara Thomas - 376-5802

### Members Serving the Society

#### Program Coordinator

— Jean Krupa - 715-1133

#### Webmistress

— Karen Stuart - 745-3462

#### Hospitality at Monthly Meetings

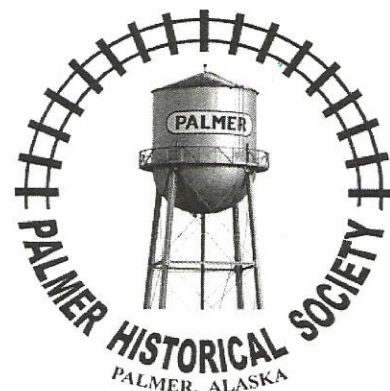
— Clyde and June Oberg

## PHS MEETING INFORMATION

The Palmer Historical Society meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (Sep-Nov and Jan-May) at the Palmer Public Library. We gather at 6:30PM; the program starts at 700PM.

Refreshments are served during the break. Come Join Us on January 16th!

## SOCIETY'S NEW MEDIA LOGO



*We are pleased to share our new Palmer Historical Society media logo with you. We will be using this logo in our print media to bring recognition to the Society. Thank you to Richard Estelle, our former President, for his creation!*

visit our website at [www.palmerhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.palmerhistoricalsociety.org)



## COLONY CHRISTMAS - A WONDERFUL PALMER TRADITION

At our December 19th meeting, just a quick week after Palmer's Annual Colony Days Celebration, **Gerry Keeling** praised the many members who stepped forward to make the Colony House Museum come alive for our members and guests who stopped by on December 8th.

The list included tasks from cleaning before decorating began, to our bakers, our singers and those who played

the piano. Members came by to visit, to support our annual bake sale, visit with friends 'n family members and our holiday guests.

The Society is looking for photos from years past - do you have some in your collection that you would be willing to share? Contact **Sheri Hamming** and we'll make arrangements for scanning or obtaining your digital files!

## COLONY HOUSE MUSEUM PREPARES FOR SUMMER GUESTS

While we look out our windows and see the beauty (and bleakness) of winter, be assured that activities and plans for a summer of activity are underway.

**Barbara Thomas** has already been booking tours for summer travelers and taking reservations from area schools for student tours. And, while there is an active docent team carrying forward from

2012, the Museum welcomes *you* to come join in the welcoming of our Museum visitors this summer and sharing stories of the Colony!

Please contact Barbara to volunteer or to learn more about this worthy volunteer role you can play in the history of Palmer and the Colony House Museum.

## SOCIAL MEDIA AND PRESS - WE WANT TO REACH YOU!

**Sharon Benson**, our Media 'n Press guru, has been successful in get our meeting announcements and Colony House Museum activities promoted through *Make-A-Scene*, *Frontiersman*, and the *Anchorage Daily News*.

Have you heard our Society announce-  
**FACEBOOK AND EMAIL AND MORE!**

Be assured, the Society is *not* doing away with a printed newsletter or postcards to reach our membership.

Upon member renewals, our Membership Chairman has been reaching out to update file information for our database such as confirming addresses, contact phone numbers, email addresses and confirming the preferred delivery method. Members may choose from three choices: Print Only, Email Only, or Both.

Currently, we use constantcontact.com for our email, so for those of you who have chosen Email (or Both) please

ments on local radio stations detailing our speakers and meetings?

The Board welcomes your suggestions on local businesses and media outlets to promote the Palmer Historical Society. Please contact Sharon at 745-4913 and share your ideas!

make sure you have phsboard@thefastfrontier.com in your address book. As a confirmation, please call **Cheryl Babbe**, our Membership Chairman if you did not get an e-mail from the Society with a link to this newsletter or email her at the phsboard@thefastfrontier.com address! We want to get through to you with our mailings!

Are you on Facebook? Last fall we added this social media outreach for our membership and those trying to find more information about Palmer's history through the internet. Search for Palmer Historical Society Alaska and "LIKE" us!

## SOCIETY IS A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION

While we look out our windows and see the beauty of winter (and someday's bleakness), be assured that activities and plans for a summer of activity are underway by fellow Society members.

Please make time to volunteer with the

Society and be of *service* to our organization through the newsletter, documenting our collection at the Museum, service on the Board, docenting at the Museum, yardwork, baking during Colony events, our website and more!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Palmer Public Library will again be the site for *most* of our Monthly Membership Meetings in 2013.

We shall continue with the third Wednesday of the month gathering at 630P and the Call to Order at 7P.

Mark your calendars for the following dates for Society meetings:

**January 16th**

**February 20th**

**March 20th\***

**April 17th**

**May 15th**

\*Our March meeting is planned to be held at the Frontiersman building.

The Board will be looking to the summer months for our Annual Picnic and will let you know as soon as the location and date have been set!

## SPEAKERS FOR SPRING 2013

**Jean Krupa**, our Programs Coordinator, has been working to bring a variety of speakers to our Spring meetings.

While we occasionally have to shift months to accomodate changes in travel plans, at this time we offer the following:

January - **Doug Caruthers**

**Mat-Su Dirtfishers**

February - **Wayne Bouwens**

**Cemetery Project**

March - **Frontiersman**

**65th Anniversary Project**

April - **Klaus Naske**

May - **Helen Hegener**

**Colony Barns**

## TEST! TEST! TEST 1-2-3!

Thanks to the many very generous cash donations from our membership and funds raised through the purchase of donated glass cannisters, book sales, and even a beautifully crafted rag rug by June Oberg - we have raised \$850 towards anticipated lectern sound system!!

Started on this quest by Past President **Richard Estelle** and researched by **John Stuart**, we will be having a demonstration of a Fender system from Matanuska Music at our January meeting. We are looking at investing in a system which will give us the ability to have both wired and wireless microphones for our speakers. Come *hear* all about it on the 16th!