Tidal Echoes

_Tidal Echoes_ is a literary and art journal that showcases the art and writing of Southeast Alaskans. The journal is published by the University of Alaska Southeast and edited by undergraduate students on the Juneau campus. It may be purchased for $5 from Emily Wall at edwall@alaska.edu.

Cover image: From the children's book _A Seal Named Patches_
Permafrost

*Permafrost* is the farthest north literary journal in the world and is published annually by the graduate students in the UAF Department of English. For submission information and subscription rates, visit www.permafrostmag.com or email editor@permafrostmag.com.
Cool climate gardens need not be drab or fragile! Cool—really cool—plants that are hardy enough to thrive in the far north or at high elevations are the key to creating gorgeous and gratifying gardens in extreme environments. Whether you seek outstanding annuals, bulbs, herbaceous perennials, ornamental grasses, vines, shrubs, or trees for a cold-climate garden, you’ll find great selections vividly described and lushly illustrated with more than 335 dazzling photographs.

Cool Plants for Cold Climates is so much more than a plant encyclopedia—it is the sum of knowledge and wisdom (and wit) of a gardener who loves plants and refuses to be constrained by a short growing season. Adams deftly blends her designer’s perspective and gardening expertise into a wonderfully fresh primer for gardeners of all stripes.

—Richard Hawke, Plant Evaluation Manager, Chicago Botanic Garden
A cold climate is no excuse for a dull, colorless garden. The key is knowing the right plants that will survive and thrive in even the chilliest environments. Who better to guide gardeners than an expert from the far north? Award-winning designer and Alaska gardener Brenda C. Adams has spent decades searching for exceptional plants that flourish in wintry climates. In *Cool Plants for Cold Climates*, she presents vivid and detailed portraits of the best and most beautiful of the bunch.

When Adams moved from the warm Southwest to Alaska, she found herself in a different gardening world, with few guides on how to approach this new ecosystem. Now, more than twenty-five years later, she shares the secrets gained from her years of gardening experiments as well as bountiful advice from friends and local nurseries. She explains how to evaluate a plant, balancing its artistic attributes with its more utilitarian ones, as well as how to evaluate your space and soil. Adams then takes you into the nursery, offering guidance on how to pick the best of the best. Finally, she offers a detailed look at a wide variety of wonderful plants, highlighting those that offer overall beauty, as well as those that are especially easy to care for and hardy. With more than three hundred vivid pictures of both individual plants and full gardens, Adams proves that there is a bounty of plants, in a rainbow of colors, waiting to brighten up your space.

**Brenda C. Adams** is the designer for and founder of Gardens By Design, Alaska’s premier garden design firm, and the author of *There’s a Moose in My Garden: Designing Gardens in Alaska and the Far North*. She lives in Homer, Alaska.
Alaska’s perch at the geographic corner of civilization isn’t all wilderness and reality TV. There’s a darker side too. Above the 49th parallel some of the nation’s highest rates of alcoholism, suicide, and violent crime can be found. While it can be easy to write off or even romanticize these statistics as the product of a lingering Wild West culture, talking with real Alaskans reveals a different story.

Journalist Mary Kudenov set out to find the true stories behind this “end-of-the-road” culture. Through her essays, we meet Alaskans who live outside the common adventurer narrative: a recent graduate of a court-sponsored sobriety program; a long-timer in the Hiland Mountain Correctional Center for women; a slumlord’s emancipated teenage daughter; and even a post-rampage spree killer. Her subjects struggle with poverty and middle-class aspirations, education and minimum wage work, God and psychology. The result is a raw and startling collection of direct, ground-level reporting that will leave you deeply moved.

Mary Kudenov’s non-fiction has appeared in several literary magazines, including Alaska Quarterly Review, Forth Genre, the Southampton Review, and Chautauqua. She lives in Raleigh, North Carolina.
A Seal Named Patches is a good-news story from a place I hold dear. This Antarctic tale teaches children about the icy, beautiful continent and all the animals (like Patches) that call it home.

—Paul Nicklen, National Geographic Photographer and Co-founder of Sea Legacy
Two polar explorers are out to solve a mystery: Where is their special seal, Patches?

Scientists Roxanne Beltran and Patrick Robinson set off on a polar adventure, traveling to Antarctica to study the lives of Weddell seals. By finding Patches, a wily seal they’ve been tracking since its birth, they’ll be able to learn a lot about how much the seals eat and how many pups they raise. A Seal Named Patches takes young readers into the world at the very bottom of the globe, where they meet the extraordinary animals that live in cold, icy conditions. Through breathtaking photos and real-life stories, young readers will learn about how scientists do fieldwork, the challenges of researching animals in harsh climates, and even what it’s like to fly a helicopter over Antarctica. This engaging story will especially entertain and educate children ages five to eight.

Roxanne Beltran studies the influences of ecology and physiology on animal behavior at the University of Alaska. Patrick Robinson is reserve director for the University of California Natural Reserve System.
ENDS OF THE

EARTH

KATE PARTRIDGE
Ends of the Earth
Poems

KATE PARTRIDGE

Ends of the Earth uses the landscape of Alaska as a testing ground for love and elegy. It is a poetry collection that contains both lyric responses to the urban Alaska environment and extended sequences that cycle between autobiography, mythic allusion, and the literary archive. In her work, Kate Partridge combines the fresh perspective of a newcomer with explorations of the landscape and lifestyles through allusions to classic literature.

While the poems turn an inquisitive, contemporary lens to the subject of Alaska, elements throughout the book are influenced by twentieth-century writers like Elizabeth Bishop and Marianne Moore. The manuscript also combines personal experience with material from the Epic of Gilgamesh, Walt Whitman’s notebooks, and other classic sources, to investigate the ideas of love, isolation, and location. Through humor and observation, Partridge takes a new look at what it means to live in urban Alaska and the world at large.

Kate Partridge is a graduate school fellow at the University of Southern California. Her poems have appeared in Colorado Review, Blackbird, Pleiades, Alaska Quarterly Review, and Passages North.
When she was a toddler, Jessica Goodfellow’s twenty-two-year-old uncle, along with six other climbers from the 1967 Wilcox Expedition to Denali, was lost in an unprecedented ten-day storm that blasted winds of up to three hundred miles per hour. Just as North America’s highest peak is so massive that it has its own distinct weather system—changeable and perilous, subject to sudden whiteout conditions—a family whose loved one is irretrievably lost has a grief so blinding and vast that it also creates its own capricious internal weather, one that lasts for generations. *Whiteout* is Goodfellow’s account of growing up in this unnavigable and often unspoken-of climate of bereavement.

Although her poems begin with a missing body, they are not an elegy. Instead, Goodfellow struggles with the absence of cultural ritual for the uncontainable loss of a loved one whose body is never recovered and whose final story is unknowable. There is no solace here, no possible reconciliation. Instead, *Whiteout* is a defiant gaze into a storm that engulfs both the wildness of Alaska and of familial mourning.

Jessica Goodfellow was the 2016 writer-in-residence at Denali National Park and Preserve. She is the author of *Mendeleev’s Mandala*, *The Insomniac’s Weather Report*, and *A Pilgrim’s Guide to Chaos in the Heartland*. Her work has been broadcast on NPR’s *The Writer’s Almanac* and on *A Way with Words*. She lives in Japan.
Melting the Ice Curtain  The Extraordinary Story of Citizen Diplomacy on the Russia-Alaska Frontier

David Ramseur
Just five years after a Soviet missile blew a civilian airliner out of the sky over the North Pacific, an Alaska Airlines jet braved Cold War tensions to fly into tomorrow. Crossing the Bering Strait between Alaska and the Russian Far East, the 1988 Friendship Flight reunited Native peoples of common languages and cultures for the first time in four decades. It and other dramatic efforts to thaw what was known as the Ice Curtain launched a thirty-year era of perilous, yet prolific, progress.

*Melting the Ice Curtain* tells the story of how inspiration, courage, and persistence by citizen-diplomats bridged a widening gap in superpower relations. David Ramseur was a firsthand witness to the danger and political intrigue, having flown on that first Friendship Flight, and having spent thirty years behind the scenes with some of Alaska’s highest officials. As Alaska celebrates the 150th anniversary of its purchase, and as diplomatic ties with Russia become perilous, *Melting the Ice Curtain* shows that history might hold the best lessons for restoring diplomacy between nuclear neighbors.

David Ramseur is a visiting scholar in public policy at the University of Alaska Anchorage’s Institute of Social and Economic Research. He served as press secretary, communications director, chief of staff, and foreign policy advisor to Alaska Governors Steve Cowper and Tony Knowles and to Anchorage mayor and US Senator Mark Begich. He has visited the Soviet Union and Russia more than a dozen times starting with the Alaska Airlines’ Friendship Flight in 1988.
For more than a thousand years, the Chilkat and Chilkoot Tlingit controlled a 2.4 million acre homeland called Jilkaat Aani at the terminus of North America’s largest fjord. Seated at the confluence of glaciers, vertical mountains, forested valleys, and Inside Passage seas, the tribes thrived in a realm that they stewarded and defended against intruders.

Enter John Muir, father of the American environmental movement, whose Alaska expedition of 1879 may have forever altered the destiny of Jilkaat Aani residents while transforming his own relationship with Native America.

The first book to trace Muir’s journey from racism to respect for indigenous people, Across the Shaman’s River shows that as Muir’s attitudes evolved, so did his vision for wilderness preservation—a policy that would ultimately dispossess Alaska Natives from their traditional lands. In addition to extensive use of historic documents, this compelling narrative draws from previously unpublished Muir journals and the author’s interviews with Tlingit elders.

At a time of great cultural upheaval among the Tlingit Indians of Southeast Alaska, naturalist John Muir acted as an agent of Manifest Destiny, opening the floodgates of the Klondike Gold Rush.

This enthralling book is much more than a history of Alaska. It is a detailed account of First Contact, good intentions and devious ones, a convergence of cultures on a grand scale, all sides fairly represented with vivid portraits; a valuable record of the complex fate of the last wilderness on earth.


With Tlingit elders as narrative partners, Henry has rendered a unique retelling of John Muir’s encounters with Alaska's landscapes and people. Comprehensive and thoroughly sourced, this is an essential book for those who seek fresh perspectives on the complexities of the Northern experience.

—Deb Vanasse, author of Wealth Woman and Cold Spell
Across the Shaman’s River: John Muir, the Tlingit Stronghold, and the Opening of the North

Daniel Henry

Across the Shaman’s River is the story of one of Alaska’s last Native American strongholds, a Tlingit community closed off for a century until a fateful encounter between a shaman, a preacher, and John Muir.

Tucked in the corner of Southeast Alaska, the Tlingits had successfully warded off the Anglo influences that had swept into other corners of the territory. This tribe was viewed by European and American outsiders as the last wild tribe and a frustrating impediment to access. Missionaries and prospectors alike had widely failed to bring the Tlingit into their power. Yet, when John Muir arrived in 1879, accompanied by a fiery preacher, it only took a speech about “brotherhood”—and some encouragement from the revered local shaman Skandoo’o—to finally transform these “hostile heathens.”

Using Muir’s original journal entries, as well as historic writings of explorers juxtaposed with insights from contemporary tribal descendants, Across the Shaman’s River reveals how Muir’s famous canoe journey changed the course of history and had profound consequences on the region’s Native Americans.

Daniel Henry is an instructor at Lane Community College in Eugene, Oregon, and the founder of the Alaska Native Oratory Society. He maintains a summer residence on a remote shore near Haines, Alaska.
Our biggest debt is to the men and women who shared these stories. Their dramatic and lively contributions eloquently make the point that so-called traditional stories are never anonymous. They are the authors of this book, and as translators and editors, our role has been to share their narrative performances so that they may be enjoyed for generations to come.

—Ann Fienup-Riordan
This bilingual collection shares new translations of old stories recorded over the past four decades through interviews with Yup’iik elders from throughout southwest Alaska. Some are true qulirat (traditional tales), while others are recent. Some are well known, like the adventures of the wily raven, while others are rarely told. All are part of a great narrative tradition, shared and treasured by Yup’iik people into the present day.

This is the first region-wide collection of traditional Yup’iik tales and stories from southwest Alaska. The elders and translators who contributed to this collection embrace the great irony of oral traditions: that the best way to keep these stories is to give them away. By retelling these stories, they hope to create a future in which the Yup’iik view of the world will be both recognized and valued.

Ann Fienup-Riordan has written and edited more than twenty books on Yup’iik history and oral traditions.

Alice Rearden is a fluent Yup’iik speaker and the primary translator and oral historian for Calista Education and Culture, Inc. Their most recent collaboration from the University of Alaska Press is Anguyiim Nallini/Time of Warring.
Ninety years ago, Knud Rasmussen’s popular account of his scientific expeditions through Greenland and North America introduced readers to the culture and history of arctic Natives. In the intervening century, a robust field of ethnographic research has grown around the Inuit and Yupiit of North America—but, until now, English-language readers have had little access to the broad corpus of work on Greenlandic Natives.

*Worldviews of the Greenlanders* draws upon extensive Danish and Greenlandic research on Inuit arctic peoples—as well as Birgitte Sonne’s own decades of scholarship and fieldwork—to present in rich detail the key symbols and traditional beliefs of Greenlandic Natives, as well as the changes brought about by contact with colonial traders and Christian missionaries. It includes critical updates to our knowledge of the Greenlanders’ precolonial world and their ideas on space, time, and otherworldly beings. This expansive work will be a touchstone of arctic Native studies for academics who wish to expand their knowledge past the boundaries of North America.

*Birgitte Sonne* is alternating research fellow and associate professor in the Department of Eskimology at the University of Copenhagen. She lives in Denmark.
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The southern coast of Alaska stretches over six hundred miles, its sweeping crescent studded with glaciers and beaches that connect temperate rainforest to frozen islands. While its soaring beauty attracts thousands of visitors a year, it also hides a deadly energy, due to its volcanoes and its location on one of the most active earthquake zones on the planet. Salmon and bears are some of the more famous residents of this fascinating area, but the coast is home to an astonishing diversity of marine and terrestrial creatures.

A Coast Beyond Compare introduces the general reader to coastal geology and the ecology of this majestic coastline. It starts with the basic physical processes that shaped this region and shows how earthquakes, waves, and tsunamis all had a role in creating the present landscape. It then moves through the many mammals, birds, fish, kelp, and grasses that live on and just off the coast. The guide then turns to the eleven distinct ecologies that form the state’s southern border, pointing out each area’s unique characteristics. It also includes suggestions of where to visit, so that residents and tourists alike can experience these unique ecosystems for themselves.

Miles O. Hayes is chairman of the board of Research Planning Inc. (RPI), a science technology company located in Columbia, South Carolina. He has spent fifty years as a coastal geomorphologist and sedimentologist. Jacqueline Michel is president of RPI and is an internationally recognized expert in oil and hazardous materials spill response and assessment.