

ORAL HISTORY 2016-08



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## Lecture Invitation

Tanana-Yukon Historical Society <tyhs@alaska.net>

Mon, Mar 7, 2016 at 10:31 AM

The Tanana Yukon Historical Society  
presents

The 6th program of the 2015-2016 Season

**Wednesday, 16 March 2016**  
**7 p.m.**

**Pioneer Hall at Pioneer Park**

**"The Life and Art of Alfred Skondovitch"**

**Presenter: Jessica Zaydak**

Born in 1927 and Russian-Jewish by heritage, Alfred Skondovitch was raised in London, England's East End. In 1947, he jumped ship in New York City, and immersed himself in the City's culture and artistic community. Later, in the 1950's, he became involved in the second wave of New York Abstract Expressionist artists.

Continuously searching for the next adventure he eventually arrived in Fairbanks, where he met his wife, Patti Howard Skondovitch. Here he settled down to raise a family, work in a business, and freely pursue his art.

This presentation will explore his journey from birth to his arrival in Alaska while discussing specific turning points throughout his life and how they influenced his view on life and art.

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In 2006, Jessica Zaydak moved from rural western Pennsylvania to Fairbanks. Beginning her studies at UAF, she graduated in 2011 with a Bachelor in Fine Arts in drawing and painting. Since graduation, she has remained involved with the Fairbanks art community.

Attending the solo exhibition of Skondovitch's work in 2012, she met his widow, Patti Skondovitch. With Patti's support and encouragement, Zaydak began pursuing her graduate thesis on Alfred through the Arctic and Northern Studies program, with an anticipated graduation of May 2017. At this point in Zaydak's research, she has worked extensively in Skondovitch's studio with Patti, conducted multiple interviews with his family and friends, drafted two chapters towards her thesis, curated an exhibition of his work, and is preparing a short film for 2017 Northern Jewish Film Festival

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For more information about this and other lectures sponsored by the Tanana Yukon Historical Society, please call 488-3383, or e-mail [tyhs@alaska.net](mailto:tyhs@alaska.net)

All TYHS events are free and open to the public.

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or "friend" us on Facebook: Tanana-Yukon Historical Society