



Our Vision
*To make Anchorage the first city
 without prejudice as the first step
 to eliminate racism in Alaska*

Bridge Builders Newsletter

May 2009



Greetings Members and Friends!

May is finally here, heralding the nearness of the summer season and bringing familiar activities and opportunities for new ones. There are many signs of the abundant natural world waking up all around us, so keep an eye out for celebrations you may wish to join: May Day, Cinco de Mayo, Memorial Day, etc.

We are beginning arrangements for marching in the 4th of July parade -- we

hope you'll plan to join us!

Don't forget to vote in Anchorage mayoral runoff election on May 5th. Go to

www.muni.org/elections for voting information or call the Office of the Municipal Clerk 343-4376 and 343-4311.

See you at the voting booths, and out enjoying the warmer weather!

Elsa Sargento, President

Paula Pawlowski, Director

*** NEW * NEW * NEW * NEW ***

Board Spotlight

"Meet" a new member of the Bridge Builders board of directors here every month!

Elsa Malapit Sargento

Elsa is the current President of Bridge Builders of Anchorage. Born in Bangui, Ilocos Norte, Philippines, she immigrated to Alaska on January 5, 1974, and became an American citizen in May 1979. She was previously Executive Director of the Alaska State Community Service Commission, and is a retired teacher from the Anchorage School District.

Elsa was the first Filipino Alaskan inducted to the Asian Academy Hall of Fame in a Knighting ceremony in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 2004. She is the Founder, Past President and Chairman of the Board of Alaska Federation of Filipino Americans, Inc. (AFFA). She is also proud to have been chosen for the following awards:

- Outstanding Filipino Americans 2006 (one of 20)



Cultural Events Calendar

Now available online at:

<http://www.bridgebuildersak.com/BridgeBuilders2009Calendar.pdf>

Please check back often for updates!

Upcoming Bridge Builders Events:

March in the 4th of July Parade:

July 4, 2009

Anchorage Parkstrip

Interested in sponsoring and creating a parade

- Chinook Teacher of the Year 1998
- BP Teacher of Excellence Award Certificate 1998

Education

Master of Education, University of Alaska Anchorage, 1977
 School Administrative Certificate, University of Alaska Anchorage, 1981

Bridge Builders is on Facebook

Come join and visit us at:
<http://www.facebook.com/people/Bridge-Builders/1761601918>

Bridge Builders PSAs

Our Public Service Announcements will be available on our website soon. In the meantime, please view the PSAs from Bridge Builders and Alaska Common Ground at:

http://www.akcommonground.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6&Itemid=8

**Living With Grief:
 Diversity & End-of-Life Care**

Wednesday, April 29, 2009
 9:00am - 12:30pm
 UAA Wendy Williamson Auditorium
FREE parking

This live broadcast of Hospice Foundation of America's 16th Annual National Bereavement Teleconference features Frank Sesno, moderator, and a distinguished panel of practitioners, educators and hospice experts who will examine how diversity influences end-of-life decision making and the impact that culture may have at the time of death and during bereavement.

float? Please call 277-1882.

**Gala Banquet & Ball 2009
 Honoring Excellence in
 Community Service:**
 September 12, 2009
 West High School

*If you would like to
 volunteer on a committee
 for Bridge Builders,
 please call: 277-1882*

**The Pledge of Mutual
 Respect:**

"We the people of Anchorage, Alaska, pledge to respect one another, celebrating the differences that make us unique: our customs, spiritual beliefs, cultures, colors, dreams and ancestral traditions. Standing together, hand in hand, young and old, we affirm that through mutual respect we can build a stronger more harmonious community, a more unified nation and a better, safer world."

Bridge Builders is membership-based and is a registered 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization.

Our 2008 Annual Report and membership forms can be found on our website:

Program registration fee (includes book): \$15

For more information and a registration form please contact:
Hospice of Anchorage
561-5322 ext. 210 or info@hospiceofanchorage.org
www.hospiceofanchorage.org

www.bridgebuildersak.org

Core Purpose:

To promote and celebrate harmony and respect among all cultures.

Core Values:

Dignity/Respect/ Personal Trust/Openness/ Personal Commitment/Activism

Join us and discover a whole new world!

Anchorage Chamber of Commerce

Citywide Cleanup Week

May 2-9, 2009

Sign-Up to Volunteer and Attend May 7 Clean Sweep Celebration

The 2009 Anchorage Chamber Citywide Cleanup Week will be held from May 2 to 9 with many businesses already onboard to become this year's Cleanup Heroes. Sign-up to volunteer and wrap up the week during the second annual Clean Sweep Celebration, held from 5 to 7 p.m. on May 7 at the Delaney Park Strip.

This year's Clean Sweep Celebration promises to be larger than ever with entertainment, games and events for everyone to enjoy, including a "trash triathlon" and "clean dream wall," to name a few.

Visit Anchoragechamber.org for extensive details on Anchorage Chamber Citywide Cleanup Week, free dump days, where to pick up your orange bags, Captain Cleanup, the "Super Sweepers" program, the Clean Sweep Celebration and check out the newly added frequently asked questions.

For more information, visit Anchoragechamber.org. Specific questions can be directed via e-mail to the Anchorage Chamber Citywide Cleanup coordinator Gail Palmer at gail@artservicesnorth.com.

Upcoming Committee Schedule

A complete list of weekly meetings is available online at Anchoragechamber.org. Citywide Cleanup Committee Staff Contact, Tammy Gossett, (907) 272-2401, info@anchoragechamber.org.



2009 Bridge Builders
of Anchorage

Board of Directors
and Staff:

Elsa Malapit Sargento
Filipino American
President

Angelina Estrada-Burney
Mexican American
Vice President, Public Relations

Donna Stephens
Anglo American
Treasurer

CHILDREN'S DAY FESTIVAL

May 3, 2009
1:00-5:30 PM
East High School

Greetings from the Children's Day Festival and the Anchorage

School District! In commemoration of the Universal Declaration on Children's Rights by the United Nations, please join us Sunday, May 3, 2009 at East High School from 1pm-5:30pm to celebrate the first annual Children's Day Festival in Anchorage!

There will be children's activities and games, food, music and dance presentations. Please come to honor and celebrate our children and youth in Alaska! This event is a FREE community event.

For more information: (907) 317-9386

Alaska Junior Theatre presents

THE FROG BRIDE

Great for ages 7 and up

May 8, 2009

7:30 PM

DISCOVERY THEATRE

Tickets \$11 - \$20

Last year, master storyteller David Gonzalez wowed Anchorage audiences with Aesop Bops! Now he returns with an innovative adaptation of a classic Russian tale. When a King sends his three sons to find their brides, two return with fair ladies. The last returns with... A FROG?!

Set to one of Prokofiev's classics and an original jazz-funk score, Gonzalez performs alongside a violinist and pianist against a backdrop of a stunning live video projection and moving images by Russian painter Wassily Kandinsky. Filled with comic sparkle, The Frog Bride is a "ribbiting" performance for the whole family.

Be sure to arrive early for readings of classic fairy tales in the lobby and stay after the performance to meet the artists!

For tickets and more information:
263-ARTS or <http://www.akjt.org/>

The Alaska Native Heritage Center presents:

Mother's Day Celebration & Art Market

Angela Jimenez
Dominican American
Secretary

Malcolm Roberts
Anglo-American
Immediate Past President

David Alexander
English German

Pastor Thomas Davis
African American

Lusiana Hansen
Samoan American

SJ Klein
Jewish American

Jim La Belle
Inupiaq

Gabrielle LeDoux
Eastern European

Modou E. Manneh
Gambian

Barbara Niziol
Polish American

Mabel Pike
Tlingit

Melvin Williams
African American

Arthur Yang
Hmong

Paula Pawlowski
German Welsh
Director

Denée Dubeau Zah

**Sunday, May 10
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

Join us in celebrating opening day for the summer season and moms. A fun day filled with dancing, food, arts and crafts for the children, prizes and more. Over 60 tables of Alaska Native artists. Debut of the Alaska Statehood Exhibit in the Hall of Cultures. FREE Admission for everyone!

Performance by: Medicine Dream

For more details, please check the website:
<http://www.alaskanative.net/>

Alaska World Affairs Council

May 1, 2009

"What in the World is Going On: An Intelligence Briefing for Alaskan Leaders"
Speaker: Herb Meyer, Host and Producer of The Siege of Western Civilization

May 8, 2009

"Fewer Children, More Customers? Changes in Japan's Supplementary Education System"
Speaker: Julian Dierkes, Assistant Professor and the Keidanren Chair in Japanese Research at the Institute of Asian Research of the University of British Columbia

May 15, 2009

"Whatever Happened To Japan: The Economic Superpower That Never Was"
Speaker: Paul Dunscomb, Associate Professor of East Asian History at UAA

May 22, 2009

"Preventive Diplomacy: Advancing the Abrahamic Family Reunion"
Speaker: Joe Montville, Director of Toward the Abrahamic Family Reunion and Founder of Preventive Diplomacy at the Center for Strategic and International Studies

May 29, 2009

"US Immigration Policy: Challenges for the Future"
Speaker: Susan Martin, Institute for the Study of International Migration Georgetown University

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AWAC weekly luncheons location: Hilton Hotel
Doors open at 11:30 a.m. - Program begins at 12:00 p.m.
RSVP by telephone 276-8038 or by email to info@AlaskaWorldAffairs.org.
Lunch Program \$20 for Members - \$25 for Non-Members - \$6 for Coffee Only

For more information, go to <http://www.alaskaworldaffairs.org/>

*Finnish Irish
French-Canadian
Administrative Assistant*

Anchorage Community Diversity Project

Community Dialogue on Race & Diversity

MAY 26, 2009

5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

UAA Wendy Williamson Auditorium

The community is invited to participate in a meaningful and authentic dialogue about race and diversity. Participants will also gain an awareness of the ethnic and cultural experiences that are in Anchorage and explore how to interrupt racism. This is FREE and open to the public.

Featured Guest Speaker: **Dr. Martin Brokenleg**

Director Professor of First Nations Theology & Ministry, Vancouver School of Theology.

For 30 years Dr. Brokenleg was a professor of Native American studies at Augustana College of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He has consulted and led training programs throughout North America, New Zealand, and South Africa.

Brought to you by the Anchorage Community Diversity Project
Partners:



Diversity Luau

*BREAKING OUT OF WINTER & VOLCANIC ASHES TO A
SUMMER ALOHA!*

MAY 29, 2009

6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

WENDLER JR. HIGH SCHOOL

2905 Lake Otis Pkwy,

Entrance Fee:

\$20.00 (12 yrs - older), \$10.00 (6yr - 11yr)

Free (5 yr & under)

Includes Entertainment and Food

D.J. Island Music

Tickets will be available at the door and through PAOA & OPAG;
call : 907-229-7244 & 907-276-1059 for more information.

Support by

*PAOA (Polynesian Association. Of Alaska) & OPAG (Older Person
Action Group)*

Non-Profit Agencies of Anchorage

*Funding for this event will help PAOA and OPAG with their
community and non-profit programs.*

Anchorage Public Library Events

2009 Reading Rendezvous Kicks Off APL's Summer Reading Celebration Saturday, May 16

Get excited about reading during the summer on Saturday, May 16! Anchorage Public Library, Alaska Center for the Book and Friends of Pets are hosting Reading Rendezvous on the lawn at the Loussac Library from noon to 4pm. This free, annual event is the traditional kick-off to the Summer Reading Celebration, which encourages and challenges kids, teens and adults to read during the summer months. Children who continue to read during summer vacation perform better in the fall when school resumes. One of the goals of the Reading Rendezvous is to show that reading is a fun activity that can be enjoyed by everyone throughout the year. Enjoy an afternoon of entertainment and fun along the theme of Be Creative @ Your Library. Musical group Fiddle-De-Dee and Magician Don Russell will perform and community booths will feature a variety of activities for kids.

Wildlife Wednesdays: **Bradford Washburn: A Legacy of Mountain Exploration and Photography** Wednesday, May 13, 7pm Loussac, Wilda Marston Theatre, level 1

Dr. Mike Sfraga, Director of the Integrated Geography Program at UAF, will present the

glacial photography of famed photographer and cartographer Bradford Washburn from more than a half century ago and reveal the effects that climate change has had on these ice fields.

The library's online newsletter has details and more events:
http://lexicon.ci.anchorage.ak.us/events/calendar/2009/Current_Calendar.pdf

The Anchorage Museum reopens with a bang!

OPENING DAY 2009

SATURDAY, MAY 30

9AM - 11AM MEMBERS ONLY PREVIEW

NOON - 1PM OPENING CEREMONIES

1PM - MIDNIGHT OPENING DAY PARTY

FREE admission to museum and Gold exhibit May 30 thanks to major underwriting by Wells Fargo.

Drum roll, please...

It's almost time to see what lies beyond the striped glass of the new museum building. Mark your calendars for May 30, a free day of celebration for a long-awaited debut. Public opening ceremonies begin at noon, including a ribbon cutting and traditional blessing of the building. From noon until midnight, visitors can examine the building's design, immerse themselves in the Gold exhibit, sample the menu at the new café and browse the new, expanded museum store. All of the new addition will be open except the second floor.

Enjoy live entertainment throughout the day, including musicians, dancers, storytellers, food vendors and family activities.

OPENING DAY HEADLINERS:

Gabriel Ayala, classical guitar

Nancy Cassidy, children's music

Dayan Kai, folk and jazz

Diane Ferlatte, storytelling

Alaska performers include Pamyua, Medicine Dream, H-3 and Libby Roderick, as well as Alaska Native drumming and dancing groups.

MAY 31

The fun continues May 31, when an admission ticket includes a day of music, dance and demonstrations by Alaska cultural groups.

More Info: www.anchoragemuseum.org

Contact Information: 907-343-4326

Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center

121 W. 7th Ave; Anchorage, AK 99501

**21st Century Community Learning Center
needs YOUR skills to share cultural activities
with young minds!**

Dear Members of Bridge Builders of Anchorage,

As part of our 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) grant, we are striving to provide cultural enrichment activities for our K-8 students. **We are seeking community members from diverse cultures to teach hands-on activities to our students** so that they might better learn about various cultures, and accept cultural differences. These activities can include arts/crafts, music, language, dance, storytelling, cultural customs, and ethnic cooking.

We are putting together a list of cultural artists who might be willing to do short term Cultural activities with our 21st CCLC students in the 2009/2010 school year.

The Anchorage 21st CCLC model is an afterschool academic enrichment program designed to assist students in developing academic, social, and everyday living skills. The program also encourages family and community involvement.

Currently, the 21st CCLC program provides afterschool enrichment classes for K-6 students in core academics areas through homework help, tutoring, drug and abuse prevention, technology training, team building, social skill development, recreation and the arts. In September, 2009 the new Clark Middle School will open as a 21st CCLC site for 6th-8th grade students.

These centers offer strong afterschool programs which unite schools and communities to help kids develop into healthy adults.

Program Goals

1. To enable students to meet or exceed benchmarks and standards by providing academic support (especially in the areas of math, reading, and science).
2. To enable students to develop positive attitudes, skills, and behaviors.
3. To support students' success through community partnerships and other components that strengthen parents and families.

If you are interested and/or know of someone who might be interested in sharing his or her talents with our students, **please contact Greta Ingram** at the 21st CCLC administrative office at **742-4410**.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,

Sharron Harris
Fairview 21st CCLC Coordinator
21st Century Community Learning Centers
5530 East Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage Alaska 99504
(907) 742-4410

ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CALENDAR DIVERSITY EVENTS:

LGBT SPRING BBQ

May 2, 2009, 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Calendar: Parks & Rec Activities, MultiCultural & Diversity

Asian Pacific American Month

May 16, 2009, Noon - 2:00 PM

Calendar: MultiCultural & Diversity

Come join the Mayor's Office of Equal Opportunity in celebrating Asian Pacific American Month. There will be lots of free entertainment and a free ethnic pot luck. Awards will be presented by Acting Mayor Matt Claman. This year's theme is "Honoring the past... Building the future". The event will be held at the Spenard Recreational Center.

For more events and details, go to MUNI's Multicultural & Diversity Calendar at <http://www.muni.org/contents1/events.cfm>

Consortia for Administrators of Native American Rehabilitation

CANAR Mid-Year Conference

"Believing in Common Values ~ Honoring all Abilities"

May 10 - 13, 2009

Anchorage Hilton

The CANAR, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose mission is to serve as an avenue for collaboration and cooperation between administrators of rehabilitation projects serving Native American persons with disabilities, to increase and enhance the quality of services, resulting in positive outcomes for Native American persons with disabilities.

For more information, including agenda and registration form, go to <http://www.canar.org/>

Anchorage Youth Development Coalition news highlights:

YWCA Presents the Power of Giving - Women and Philanthropy

May 12, 12:00-1:00pm

Dena'ina Convention Center

This event aims to inspire and encourage women to make positive change in our community through personal philanthropy. For more info contact YWCA at 644-9600.

For more events and details, go to <http://www.aydc.org/>

FREE Legal Clinics

Anchorage Legal Clinics Schedule for May 2009

Pro Se Custody Clinic

May 20, starts 10:30am
Fairview Rec. Center

Designed for unmarried parents seeking child custody and child support orders.

Pro Se Divorce Clinic

May 13, starts 10:30am
Fairview Rec. Center

Designed to teach people how to file their own paper work in an uncontested, default divorce.

Landlord/Tenant

May 7, 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Fairview Rec. Center

Provides in-depth advice on Landlord/Tenant Law, as well as offering special assistance for some tenants with certain types of problems.

Chapter 7 Bankruptcy

May 14, BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
Please call ALSC at 272-9431 in Anchorage

Designed to teach people how to file their own paper work in a Chapter 7 Bankruptcy. This clinic is **not open to the general public**.

All of our legal clinics are free and open to the general public. Visit www.AlaskaLawHelp.org for additional resources!

Erick Cordero Giorgana, VAS Director
Volunteer Attorney Support
1016 W 6th Avenue, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 272-9431
ecordero@alsc-law.org

Youth Fun Programs

Organizations who are interested in starting Venturing units for boys and girls ages 14 through 20 should get in touch with Clarence Renfroe or Dave Counts at the Boy Scouts of America office at 3117 Patterson St. or call 337-9547. Venturing is a high adventure outdoors program that does canoeing, hiking, camping. We have a new facility at Talkeetna from which hiking and camping trips into the Denali National and

State parks are staged.

PAX Exchange Students

Greetings to all!

Yes, it's that time again. I am looking for a few good host families. If you or anyone you know is interesting in hosting an international student for the 2009-10 school year please contact me at 248-2166 or leokland@yahoo.com.

Linda Okland
Anchorage PAX coordinator
248-2166
leokland@yahoo.org

PAX - Program of Academic Exchange is a non-profit educational organization that promotes and arranges international student exchange. More information about PAX is available at www.PAX.org. The students currently in need of host families are recipients of US State Department scholarships through the FLEX and YES programs. FLEX - Future Leaders Exchange is a highly competitive program open to high school students from former Soviet Union Republics. YES - Youth Exchange and Study is for students from countries with significant Muslim populations. It was started after 9/11/01 to help build bridges of understanding between the US and the Muslim world. Links to both programs can be found on the PAX web site.

2010 CENSUS JOBS

COUNT FOR SOMETHING IMPORTANT
WITH THE UNITED STATES CENSUS BUREAU

The regional office is looking to increase the diversity of the local census offices and are reaching out to leaders in the communities to assist us in finding candidates for management positions. Thank you for your help. Should you have any questions or if you know anyone interested in applying please feel free to give them my contact information.

Eric Morrison, partnership specialist team leader
eric.j.morrison@census.gov

ELCO Management Recruiting Update 4/15/09

RCC Recruiting is looking to Partnership Staff to assist in boosting the diversity of the applicant pool for the management positions.

- The Jobs will only be open through the first week in May. **Closing date is 5/4/2009!**
- Jobs may last 9 months to a year.
- Application Process consists of two distinct steps. Both steps must be completed to be considered for a Management position.

Vacancy Information can be found at...
<http://www.census.gov/rosea/www/Jobs/LCO-VacancyChart-Apr09.pdf>

1. Call the phone number associated with the geographical area of interest.
Anchorage, AK: (907) 249-2920

2. [Go to http://www.census.gov/rosea/www/employ.html](http://www.census.gov/rosea/www/employ.html)
Print out the recruiting bulletins for the geographic area of interest. Follow instructions in the bulletin on how to apply. **All requested materials must be Post-marked by 5/4/2009!** Application materials are not being accepted at the test site!

* * *

The Census Bureau is recruiting NOW for the 2010 Census, and you can be a part of it. Data gathered during the census is essential to determining how federal monies are spent on the things that matter the most to you: Health Care, Education, Jobs, Home ownership, Community safety; Community services; Aid for children and seniors.

We are beginning operations throughout Alaska. The Census Bureau offers great pay, flexible hours, paid training and an amazing opportunity for you to further your career and improve your community!

Recruiting Assistants (\$19.00/hr)

We are looking for a diverse group of energetic team-players who are active withing their communities.

For more information call 1-866-861-2010 NOW!

Census Job Posting Website:
www.census.gov/rosea/www/employ.html

HUD Misc.

Student Program Announcements on USAJOBS

There is actually only one announcement number for the clerical positions, however, they are showing up separately on USAJOBS because of the two duty locations (Anchorage & Fairbanks).

Go to <http://www.usajobs.gov/> and paste in the following info (separately):

AAL-ATO-09-STUDENT-13013, Clerical & Assistant Support
AAL-ATO-09-STUDENT-13041, Engineering Aid/Technician

Making Homes Affordable

Alert - Don't Become a Victim of Mortgage Scams Affordable. The Obama Administration recently announced the Making Home Affordable Program, designed to assist up to nine million American families refinance or modify their loans to a monthly mortgage payment that is more affordable. Due to the overwhelming interest in the plan, homeowners are increasingly becoming the target of scammers trying to take advantage of families with false promises and steep fees to provide foreclosure assistance. With President Obama's plan, a homeowner NEVER has to pay to participate in the program. If you wish to obtain counseling assistance, HUD urges you to contact a local HUD-approved housing counseling agency to ensure they are receiving legitimate information.

Where to Turn: Making Home Affordable
www.makinghomeaffordable.gov

HUD Approved Counselor
www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/hcc/hcs.cfm

HUD Housing Counseling
800-569-4287

Hope Now
888-995-4673

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation Fair Housing Workshop,
April 28th in Anchorage. For more, visit
<http://www.hud.gov/apps/calendar/event.cfm?state=ak&record=9292&scheduleID=9053&calendarID=5>

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More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at
www.hud.gov and espanol.hud.gov.

BECOME A ROUSTABOUT!

ROUSTABOUT COURSE

This is entry-level training for those interested in a career in oil and gas exploration and drilling. Roustabouts must be capable of physically demanding work and the have the ability to work long hours.

Topics covered include: Rig Safety, Petroleum Geology, Rig Components, General Duties, Health and Safety, and Hazwoper.

NOTE: Completion of training does not guarantee a job nor does the Mining and Petroleum Training Service provide any job placement.

Companies require that potential employees be able to pass a drug test.

COURSE DATE: May 4-22, 2009
LOCATION: 3901 Old Seward Hwy., #118
(University Center Mall)
Anchorage, Alaska
TIME: 8 AM - 5 PM
COST: \$1,000.00

Pre-registration is required. Attached registration form can be faxed to 907-786-6414 or mailed to P.O. Box 240428, Anchorage, AK 99524. Make checks payable to UA/MAPTS.

Class is limited to 25 students. Registration is first-come, first served.

Mining and Petroleum Training Service
Univ. of AK Statewide Corporate Programs
3901 Old Seward Hwy., #118/P.O. Box 240428
Anchorage, AK 99524
(907) 786-6413 fax: (907) 786-6414

National Kidney Foundation Brings Patient Services to Alaska Summer 2009

The National Kidney Foundation serving Alaska will be conducting free kidney health screenings for those at risk through the Foundation's Kidney Early Evaluation Program (KEEP).

Early Detection Saves Lives

The National Kidney Foundation's Kidney Early Evaluation Program screens those 18 years and older who have high blood pressure, diabetes or a parent, brother or sister with diabetes, high blood pressure, or kidney disease. The KEEP program is designed to raise awareness among high risk individuals and provide free testing and educational information, so that kidney disease and its complications can be prevented or delayed. The program, which has screened more than 125,000 since its inception, is finding kidney disease at the earliest stage possible.

Participants receive a comprehensive health risk appraisal, blood pressure measurement, blood and urine testing and the opportunity to discuss their health and review results with onsite clinicians.

When will the KEEP screenings be held in Alaska?

Starting in the summer of 2009, the NKF will be offering this program in Alaska. Five programs will be scheduled in Alaska this first year.

If you have questions, would like to volunteer, or register for a KEEP screening contact Kristie Lemmon at 907.223.1562 or Kristie.lemmon@kidney.org.

YOU BE THE JUDGE!

Color of Justice

Encouraging Diversity in the Judiciary

Wednesday-Friday, June 17-19, 2009

University of Alaska Anchorage & the Alaska Court System

Workshops on Law & Legal Careers Taught by NorthwestLaw School Professors and Alaskan Judges and Attorneys

The Color of Justice program seeks to promote diversity in the legal profession and judiciary through law-related education and career guidance. Now in its 7th year, Color of Justice has offered hundreds of diverse Alaskan youth an opportunity to learn first-hand about law and legal careers, through participation in workshops presented by law school professors and admissions officials and presentation of their own mock trials. Recently, the program expanded to include a special "Advisors Track" for teachers, counselors and others who work with diverse young people as they pursue their education and career goals. Color of Justice 2009 promises to be an

exciting and worthwhile event and we hope you will consider attending. Also, we would greatly appreciate it if you could share information about the program with any students or colleagues who may be interested.

Registration (including meals) is FREE; **Space is limited, so please REGISTER EARLY.**

For more information, to obtain a registration form, or to apply for travel assistance, please see our website: <http://www.state.ak.us/courts/outreach.htm#coj>

Emergency Preparedness Fair Sept. 12, 2009

September is National Emergency Preparedness Month. This is your opportunity to help prepare your family, friends and neighbors by providing necessary resources to make this collaborative effort possible.

If you would like to participate by providing promotional support, prizes, services or capital, please contact Toni McPherson, Anchorage Loussac Library, 343-2981.

Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services (RAIS) UPDATE

Dear Friends,

First we need to put out a plea...

We have had a hopefully temporary change in our furniture donation set up. We are currently not working with Safe Harbor Inn. But right now **we need mattresses desperately** - especially twin bed sizes. We prefer to get the full set, mattress box spring and frame, but we will make due with whatever we can receive. If you have a mattress please call Kerina at 222-7359 and she will work with you about how to get it here. If you can drop them off that is great, if not, we will try to figure out a way to come by and collect.

ARRIVALS...

BURMESE

The biggest change is that the 5 Burmese we were expecting were diverted to another state. We had not been granted final Department of State approval for this group and so it was decided that this group needed to be directed to an approved site. However the good news is that our response to preparing for these 5 made it possible for us to request approval in the future and I think we may indeed do this!

Another smaller change was that a single man from Sudan was held up from arrival. He is still awaiting resettlement but there must have been some hold up -- this can be for administrative reasons,

paperwork, getting the flu, needing other medical follow up etc. We are not informed of the reason, just the delay. We hope to welcome him soon.

SOMALI

Our first Somali family arrived -- two parents, 4 minor children and grandmother. They have never experienced a westernized lifestyle and have had to learn a lot very quickly! Learning how to use locks, how to use a refrigerator and how to ride in cars have all been firsts for them these few weeks. But they are starting to get settled in with the help of the staff, an excellent volunteer family mentor team and the Somali community support. They will be enrolling in English classes and school in the next 1-2 weeks as soon as all the medical issues are covered. We are grateful to see how much everyone has pulled together around this family.

FORMER ZAIRE (Democratic Republic of Congo)

Two Congolese single men arrived in March. This may be the end of our Congo clients for awhile, we don't have others on the waitlist at this time.

BHUTANESE

But we do have Bhutanese families now on the waitlist! We have 43 individuals all together that we are expecting and we have news of our first arrivals. A single man arrived 4/16 and then two families each of 4 individuals arrived 4/22. For those of you involved with the children -- we will be providing you with more specifics as the time gets closer :)

SUDANESE

Three single men from Sudan arrived in early April. Thanks to a terrific landlord team we have been able to hold a few one bedroom apartments that they will be set up in that will then hopefully become apartments we can rotate to other refugees over the course of the year. If any other landlords are willing to do this it would be terrific for the program and keeps the landlord without vacancies, once the apartments become initially occupied.

Thank you to everyone who has been engaged with us in these activities -- it has really enhanced all that the program is able to provide to the clients we serve.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Warm Meal Providers

We currently have openings on our Warm Meal List. This is a group of volunteers who prepare culturally appropriate meals for our new arrivals. Often it takes weeks for clients' public assistance to come through and they have almost no money. You can assist our clients in a most basic way by donating prepared food. Contact Melissa for more information.

World Refugee Day

This celebration is on Friday, **June 19th** at the Mountain View Lion's Club Park. Steering Committee members needed! Please contact Ellen Krsnak at 222-7327.

ESL Tutors

People with ESL experience are needed to assist our clients who have employment conflicts with regularly schedule English Language Classes. If you would like to work one-on-one with a refugee to help them learn English, Please contact Melissa, 222-7344.

Family Mentors

We are always in need of Family Mentors to help new clients feel welcome to Alaska. This is a hefty time commitment - at least two hours a week and we recommend this opportunity to people who have had previous cross-cultural experience. Please be prepared to remain on our waiting list for up to 4 months.

Thank you for your interest and continued support of the Refugee Assistance & Immigration Service program.

Karen Ferguson, Ph.D.
Program Director/ State Refugee Coordinator
Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services (RAIS)
Catholic Social Services
3710 E. 20th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99508
(907) 222-7376 phone, (907) 276-5539 fax
Kferguson@cssalaska.org
Providing Help/ Creating Hope

Is there something happening in your community that you would like to see included here? Please email the details to us at bridgebuilders@bridgebuildersak.org.

Thank you for sending us information about your special event. We think this tool will help keep you informed and give you your options for activities of interest.

Contact Information

Paula Pawlowski, Director
phone: 277-1882 fax: 277-1883
email: bridgebuilders@bridgebuildersak.org
website: www.bridgebuildersak.org

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