



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

Bridge Builders of Anchorage

October Newsletter

We apologize for this newsletter being late due to an electrical outage.

This newsletter is a new format for Bridge Builders. We hope this is a faster, easier way to communicate "news you can use". You also can forward this news to friends and other interested folk and they can sign up to receive the newsletter using their own email. Please let us know how this works for you!

Elsa Sargento, President
Paula Pawlowski, Director

If you have not seen the pictures of our Annual Gala Awards Banquet yet, you can still go to:

www.lifetouchevents.com and type in the password:

bridge builders



Bridge Builders International Potluck & Annual Membership Meeting
5:00 PM to 8:00 PM November 1, 2008 at West High School

Cafeteria

Our **13th Annual Bridge Builders International Potluck and Membership Meeting** is right around the corner. We would like to invite our members to get involved and become this year's table captains. We need about 25 table captains.

Being a Table Captain simply means being the "host" at your table. It's a lovely tradition that offers people an opportunity to further their acquaintance and even develop ongoing friendships. *** We will provide you with all information (plus icebreaker ideas!) before the Potluck and we will have a brief meeting (20-30 min. long) right before the event begins.***

If being a table captain is something that you would like to do, please let us know. If you have an idea of anyone else who would like to be table captain, please send us their contact information.

This year's Potluck will be held on Saturday, November 1st, at West High School, 1700 Hillcrest Drive, 5:00PM to 8:00PM.

Please plan on attending this annual Bridge Builders event. Bring a dish to share that will feed 8-10 people and enjoy the evening's entertainment. We hope to see everyone there and would love to have member participation in this great event.

Please let us know no later than by Monday, October 13th if you'd like to be a table captain.

You can call the Bridge Builders office at: 277-1882 OR email: bridgebuilders@bridgebuildersak.org

One last thing, if you have attended the potluck and participated in events with other people from your table, please consider sharing your pictures or stories with the Bridge Builders office. We would love to hear from you.

Thank you!
Barbara Niziol, Chair of Table Captains

Upcoming Bridge Builders Events:

Annual POTLUCK & Membership Meeting
NOVEMBER 1, 2008
Place: West High School
Time: 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Meet the World February 23, 2009 Place: TBA

March in the 4th of July Parade

Gala 2009 Honoring Excellence in Community Service

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,

Potluck Committee: Pastor Thomas Davis, Chair; Gabrielle LeDoux; Angelina Estrada-Burney; Arthur Yang; Elsa Sargento.

THE CLEAN HOUSE, By Sarah Ruhl,
September 19th-October 12th

One of America's hottest, newest playwrights, Sarah Ruhl, still in her early 30's, has already been a Pulitzer finalist and the recipient of a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. A quirky and moving comedy about love, loss and the power of a good joke. Suehyla El-Attar leads the small, strong cast as Mathilde, a Brazilian immigrant who finds herself working as a housekeeper despite the fact that she hates to clean. The ADN says "The Clean House" is wonderful. Thursday night's preview audience left the house laughing, wiping away tears and gushing about the performance. Cyrano's Theatre Company sets the bar higher every season, and "The Clean House" clears it with room to spare."

You still have time to catch this outstanding play. "The Clean House" runs Thurs.-Sat. at 7 p.m. and Sun. at 3 p.m. through Oct. 12 at Cyrano's Off-Center Playhouse, 413 D Street. Tickets at www.centertix.net or 274-2599.

AND it is with great appreciation to Cyrano's for the donation of proceeds given to Bridge Builders from the Sneak Preview Performance.

Arctic Sirens Cabaret: A Benefit for Access Alaska

October 3rd, Friday, Snow Goose Theater (717 West Third Avenue) doors open at 6:45 pm. (performance starts at 7:30pm)

Arctic Siren Productions cabaret features five singers and a jazz trio for a relaxing, music filled evening. Tickets are \$15 and are available by calling Dana at 263-1913 or at the door. For more information call 245-7311

Please forward to a friend.

October 4th, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Alaska Men's ministry and men from all over the community will be holding a FREE tire and oil change service on Saturday at Changepoint.

If you are a single mom, widow, elderly, or just need a hand, they'd love to help. Oil and filters will be provided at no charge. No donations will be accepted.

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

Membership forms can be found on our website: 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!!

See Changepointalaska.com or call 344-7780 for more details.
Take Minnesota to Raspberry and follow the signs.

October 4th, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Young Alaskans, ages 16-25, have an opportunity to make their voices heard across Alaska in the real and virtual world during the Forum of Young Alaskans. Using Internet and videoconferencing technologies, the Forum will connect simultaneous mass meetings occurring in Fairbanks, Juneau, Anchorage as well as smaller communities around the state and online at: <http://youngalaskans.org> people will discuss, debate and delve into the issues that are important to them and issues that are affecting the state today. The theme of the event is *Alaska's past, present and future*. For additional questions contact Ian-Michael Hebert, Project Coordinator, (907) 978-2925, ian@iialaska.com.

October 7, Tuesday, 6:00pm-10:00pm. World Religions Conference is convened by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community (British Canadian Branch) to ask the question: If God Exists, Why Human Suffering? This event is brought to you with the co-operation of Bridge Builders of Anchorage, Abbott Loop Church, Wat Dhammabhavana Buddhist Center, Congregation Beth Shalom, Sikh Community Anchorage, Hindu Community Alaska.

The Moderators will be Mrs. Andrea Gusty (Channel 11 News) and Mrs. Paula Pawlowski (Bridge Builders). Speakers will be: Rashmi Prasad (Hinduism), Rabbi Michael Oblath (Judaism), Venerable Phamaha Prawet Srijankaew (Buddhism), Pastor Richard C. Benjamin Jr. (Christianity), Mr. Naseem Mahdi (Islam), Dr. Tarlochan Singh Randhawa (Sikhism).

Please join this important discussion.

October 7, Tuesday, 7:00 pm Join the Providence Cancer Center for a viewing and discussion of the documentary: *In The Family*, an inside look at genetic testing for hereditary breast and ovarian cancer. Providence Cancer Center, Media Center, 2nd Level, 3851 Piper Street. For more information, contact genetic counseling at 212-6874 or visit: <http://inthefamily.kartemquin.com>

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, Continuing Events

October 15 Fort Richardson Army Base Hispanic Month Celebration, Fort Richardson Theater, Keynote Speaker: Erick Cordero, Past President of HACA, 1:00pm - 2:00pm, POC:

Chris Webb, chris.webb1@us.army.mil or Erick Cordero: 982-0353

October 18 Annual Anniversary 2008, Loussac Library, 3600 Denali Street, Xochiquetzal Tiquin Dancers, POC Ana Gutierrez-Scholl, 441-5642

October 17-18 Global Film Initiative presents Global Lens 2008, *The Custodian*, a film from Argentina, \$9.00, 7:30 pm at Out North Theater, 3800 Debarr Road, PO: Out North 279-8099

October 31-November 1 Global Film Initiatives presents Global Lens 2008. *Kept and Dreamless*, a film from Argentina, \$9.00, 7:30pm at Out North Theater, 3800 Debarr Road, POC: Out North, 279-8099

November 2 Dia de Los Muertos Art Gallery Exhibit Featuring several Latino artists from the Anchorage community, 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Out North Theater POC: 279-8099

October 18, 3:00pm, Catholic Social Services, 3710 E 20th, will host a fundraiser for the South Sudanese American Community Association (SSACA). Contact Bajek Deng at 907-720-6309 if you can help. Mr. Deng will be speaking about the Sudanese Civil War. Please attend.

October 28, 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm, Hotel Captain Cook, **Seeing With Our Hearts**, a fundraising event for the Alaska Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Please call 248-7770 for reservations by Thursday, October 23rd.

Alaska World Affairs Council is a non-profit, non-partisan educational organization whose vision since 1958 has been to promote greater understanding of world issues and to bring the world to Alaska. The Council achieves its goals through public events, weekly luncheons, educational activities, the International Visitor Leadership Program, and much more. October events are:

- Turkish Travels, Traumas and Triumphs (October 3)
- Palestinian-Israeli Peace, an Agenda for the Next President (October 10)
- After Nine Decades: The Enduring Legacy of the Armenian Genocide (October 17)
- The Future of Korea (October 24)
- Natural Resource Management in the Developing World (October 31)

Please go to their website www.alaskaworldaffairs.org for information and deadlines for these events.

You are invited to learn more about the **Highway to Highway (H2H)** project and provide feedback. The main goal of the H2H project is to improve the connection between the Seward and Glenn Highway to address problems with congestion, slow travel and safety. These meetings are focused on public interaction and listening - this is where the project team needs your assistance!

We need your help in ensuring that community members that we have not heard from have a voice in this project.

The project poses a number of potential benefits and challenges to Anchorage citizens. These could include:

- Air quality and other health effects
- Quality of life issues like noise impacts and neighborhood cut through traffic

- Private property and business acquisitions
- Pedestrian access and safety
- Neighborhood connectivity
- Traffic congestion and safety
- Opportunities for transit and other non-motorized modes of transportation
- Impacts or benefits to low income populations and/or minority populations
- And more

We want to make sure the diverse demographics of Anchorage's population are afforded the opportunity to have their voices heard. Help us make sure we succeed! The more people who get involved in this project will help ensure better decision making. Interpretation will be provided for Spanish, Samoan, Hmong and Tagalog speakers.

Three identical open houses will be held to present the revised Purpose & Need Statement, preliminary alternatives and proposed screening criteria. The public meetings will be held on the following dates and locations:

Monday, October 27, 2008
 Tyson Elementary School
 2801 Richmond Avenue, Anchorage
 Open House 6:00 to 8:00pm
 Presentation 7:00pm

Tuesday, October 28, 2008
 Fairview Elementary School
 1327 Nelchina Street, Anchorage
 Open House 6:00 to 8:00pm
 Presentation 7:00pm

Wednesday, October 29, 2008
 Bartlett High School
 1101 N. Muldoon Road, Anchorage
 Open House 6:00 to 8:00pm
 Presentation 7:00pm

An update from **Catholic Social Services' Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services**
 (www.cssalaska.org) or contact: Karen Ferguson (kferguson@cssalaska.org) Program Director/State Refugee Coordinator

It is an exciting time for the Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services (RAIS) program at Catholic Social Services. We have been helping more Hmong refugees who are relocating to Anchorage from other states. In addition, we continue to receive refugees coming straight from their country of origin. In the last 6 or so weeks alone we just received the following family units: 1. A single man from Darfur 2. A family of 5 (mother, 3 sons and a daughter) from Former Zaire 3. A family of 3 (mother, father and 1 year old girl) from Darfur 4. Another family of 3 (mother, father and 11 year old girl) from Darfur 5. A Grandmother from Georgia joining the rest of her family who we resettled a few months ago. We have a family of 3 arriving from Former Zaire (mother, father and 7 year old daughter) on Tuesday Sept. 30th. The family is Pentacostal and speaks French. In addition, we are still awaiting more families from Africa as well as possibly Iraq and Bhutan before December 31st. Our process for resettlement has gotten smoother this year with all your help.

Job Opportunities:

1. Refugee Case Management Assistant -- work with refugees who are just arriving to the US. This work is temporary and up to full time in hours for the next 3 months. Especially looking for Arabic, French or possibly Nepali speaking individuals but anyone with a passion to help welcome refugees can apply. Right now we only have funding through the end of December, but it is possible that we will continue to have some funding for next year at reduced hours.
2. Orientation and Job Readiness Instructor -- part-time ongoing employment. Use developed curriculum materials to teach refugees about becoming independent in Alaska through finding jobs and adjusting to life in America. All classes taught using very basic English, although bilingual staff are encouraged to apply. Classes are small and very interactive.

A great way to work closely with incoming refugees.

If you are interested in either position, you can view more at the CSS website (www.cssalaska.org) OR call Karen Ferguson, Program Director at 222-7376.

The Hmong Community of Anchorage is planning the Hmong New Year Celebration on December 26th & 27th but need help securing a sound system for the event. If you can help, please call: Arthur Yang, 344-1350

Volunteers of America Alaska has a partnership with Scholastic Books, Inc. They recently received about 4000 books printed in Arabic and now are in search of children that can use these books. If you know of a family or a group that can utilize these books, please call: 279-6930 or email: seniorpower@ak.net (Sally Dial, Volunteer Coordinator, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program).

Contact Information

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