



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

Greetings Members and Friends!

We're sending you this updated newsletter because it now contains a few more items that should have been included this month, and we wouldn't want you to miss knowing about them.

Thanks to a great turnout from old friends and new, we had a tremendously successful International Potluck & Annual Membership Meeting on November 1st. We were honored by the presence of so many different communities, as well as dignitaries such as Senator Murkowski and representatives from the governor's office and the office of Congressman Young. As you might gather from the photograph, people from around the globe dined together and learned about each other, and many have already met at or scheduled additional gatherings, and will continue to do so throughout the coming year. We are so excited by the enthusiasm, warmth, and creativity sparked by these gatherings. Hope to see you at upcoming events!



Elsa Sargento, President

Paula Pawlowski, Director

Leadership Anchorage Selects a Bridge Builders
Community Service Project:

Keep Me Safe

*Helping newcomers to Anchorage prepare for emergencies despite
language, cultural and experiential challenges.*

We need your input! Please tell us what you wish *you* had known when you first arrived in Alaska, so we can help current and future newcomers be better prepared for an emergency in this great and challenging environment.

Email suggestions to bridgebuilders@bridgebuildersak.org or call 277-1882. Thank you!

Leadership Anchorage is an Alaska Humanities Forum program. For more information go to <http://www.akhf.org>



Upcoming Bridge Builders Events:

Celebrate Martin Luther
King Day:

Jan. 19, 2009
[Details TBA]

Meet the World:

Feb. 28, 2009
Place: Anchorage Museum
at Rasmuson Center

March in the 4th of July
Parade:

July 4, 2009
Anchorage Parkstrip

Gala 2009 Honoring
Excellence in Community
Service

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

Holiday Gift Idea from Bridge Builders!



During this holiday season there are many ways and reasons to celebrate. If you are looking for a unique, personalized gift for a special friend or relative, please consider making a donation in their honor to Bridge Builders.

Simply send their name and address with your donation* (along with your name and address) to Bridge Builders before December 22nd and we will mail them a personalized card of

appreciation in their name, acknowledging your gift.

* You also have our **NEW PAYPAL OPTION** for donations on our website! If using this option for your gift, just email us the remaining details.

www.bridgebuildersak.org
bridgebuilders@bridgebuildersak.org

Hmong Alaska Traditional New Year Celebration

December 26 & 27
9:00 a.m. - 11:55 p.m.

Location:

Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints
2240 Baxter Rd, Anchorage, AK 99504

- Dance Performance
- Dance Competition: 1st, 2nd & 3rd place
- Culture Shows · Ball Tossing
- Dhia Qeej · Qoj Nkauj Nog Ncas
- Hais Kwv Txhij · Tshuab Nplooj
- Tshuab Tsaj · Tshuab Ncas
- Best singers from Lower 48 and local.

For more information, please contact:

- Arthur Yang 764-3634, cell or 269-0056, work
- Chang Doua Xiong 947-3749
- Youa Thai Vang 947-7669

Alaska Junior Theater presents
ArtsPower National Touring Theatre's

Madeline and the Bad Hat

Following the show on **Saturday, December 13th at 3:00p.m.** there will be a special "Meet the Artists" Reception in Voth Hall in the lobby area of the Discovery Theatre.

The entire afternoon is full of activities starting with pre show readings of the Madeline books at 2:00p.m. to tiptoe little minds into the magical world of Madeline. Be sure to dress up as your

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.

Great News! You will be able to make your donation by participating in the PFD checkoff! Keep posted for how that will happen.

Our 2008 Annual Report and membership forms can be found on our website:
www.bridgebuildersak.org

Core Purpose:

To promote and celebrate harmony and respect among all cultures.

favorite Madeline character so you can participate in the costume contest to win tickets to more great AJT shows. Then enjoy cookies and milk as you mingle with the ArtsPower actors after the show!

Tickets to Madeline range from \$11-\$20 and are available at CenterTix by calling 263-ARTS or online at www.akjt.org.

See you at the show!

Last minute Christmas shopping?

C.O.B. Craft Show!

December 12th, 2008

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

*Consortium Office Building Lobby/Atrium
4000 Ambassador Drive
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium*

Come enjoy fresh coffee and cookies while browsing handmade items made by ANTHC's own crafters!

The Crowberry's will play holiday music 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

If you have any questions please contact
Michelle Gonzalez at 729-1900 extension 3632

ANTHC's 2008 HOLIDAY GIFT BOXES TO IRAQ & AFGHANISTAN

We at ANTHC were able to send out 52 Holiday Gift Boxes to deployed troops in Iraq & Afghanistan. There are still 4 to 6 boxes that have not been turned in...if they do turn them in, I will mail them out. All the boxes were mailed to 2 names, LTC's stationed at Medical Units of Balad/Iraq and Bagram/Afghanistan; I asked the LTC's to find soldiers who were not receiving mail nor presents and share ours with them. Each box is supposed to be an individual gift for one soldier. We sent practical gifts that they can tuck into their uniform pockets. We had several boxes adopted by children (one with their Grandmother!) and several by

Core Values:
Dignity/Respect/ Personal
Trust/Openness/ Personal
Commitment/Activism

Join us and discover a
whole new world!



Don't forget! You will now be able to give directly to Bridge Builders when you fill out your application for the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend.

2008 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

Angela Jimenez
Dominican American

Veterans. It was a very moving experience for me, so thank you, thank each one who participated!

Originally when I took the first half of the stack of boxes to the front lobby to await our turn in line (to mail them out), every one was groaning. Chris was solemn as I walked up to his position...however before the whole thing was done, we had become great new friends, complete with laughing, joking, and even singing Christmas songs. Well, the songs were started by this elderly veteran in line who is a Rotarian and they had sent their packages out the week before us. He started humming tunes and then he & the lady next to him started softly singing songs...soon we couldn't help but join in. This was all a wee bit emotional for the recently returned soldier in his green fatigues. He had just returned from Iraq and was there to mail some stuff. He stayed around long enough to sing with us, share stories and get a lot of hugs... he declared, "Thanks folks, this is just what I needed!" Gosh, it was definitely a special moment. Anyhow, even with all the help we were giving Chris, his shift ended before he could process all the boxes. So Jim was next on duty and he processed the final 15 boxes.

So folks, THANK YOU for all the donations that made this magical moment happen!!! I can't wait until we receive some photos back from Balad, Iraq and Bagram, Afghanistan.

I know that we have given already but I do kindly remind you that in our own communities there are needy who will have meager holidays. Please find it in your hearts to give an extra gift, food or money to our local non-profits. There are the 4As (Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association), Beans Cafe, Brother Francis, Covenant House, Salvation Army, United Way, AWAIC, USO, Homeward Bound/RurAL CAP, etc.

We truly are blessed in that we have jobs, homes, sufficient food, and great co-workers.

Respectfully,
Ida Nelson
Trauma Dept.

DON'T FORGET TO COME DOWN AND SIGN YOUR NAME ON THE HOLIDAY CARDS TO THE RECOVERING VETS program at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C. - Located in Room 1W101 across from the Chilkat Blanket near the Espresso Shop! Call Ida at ext 2793 if you need entrance into the area. The 300 cards will be there all week before they are boxed up and mailed out as well.

Alaska World Affairs Council

December 12, 2008
"Root Causes of Terrorism"
Dr. Karin von Hippel
Co-Director of the CSIS Post-Conflict Reconstruction Project and Senior Fellow with

Secretary

Malcolm Roberts
Anglo-American
Immediate Past President

David Alexander
English German

Jim Bailey
English Irish Dutch
American Indian

Pastor Thomas Davis
African American

Lusiana Hansen
Samoan American

SJ Klein
Anglo-American

Jim LaBelle
Inupiaq

Gabrielle LeDoux
Eastern European

Modou E. Manneh
Gambian

Barbara Niziol
Polish American

Yohyon Pharr
Korean American

Mabel Pike
Tlingit

Melvin Williams
African American

Arthur Yang
Hmong

the CSIS International Security Program

Hilton Hotel - Doors open at 11:30 a.m. - Program begins at 12:00 p.m.
RSVP by Wednesday, 10th December to the Alaska World Affairs Council
by telephone 276-8038 or by email to AlaskaWorldAffairs.org .
Lunch Program \$20 for Members - \$25 for Non-Members - \$6 for Coffee Only

December 19, 2008 - January 2, 2009: **Holiday Break**

Public Hearing - December 30, 2008

Effective June 24, 2008, the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) and the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) entered into a ten-year **Moving To Work Agreement** (MTW). An amendment to the agreement was recently proposed by HUD. Before recommending the amendment to the Board of Directors, AHFC has scheduled a thirty day public comment period and public hearing.

The public may obtain a copy of the "First Amendment to the Moving to Work Agreement" from the AHFC web page at www.ahfc.us by clicking on 'Reference Materials,' then 'Plans.' You may also request a copy by contacting Regina O'Keefe at 330-8432; outside Anchorage at 1-800-478- 2432.

Public Hearing Date: Tuesday, December 30, 2008 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM.
Location: AHFC Board Room, 4300 Boniface Parkway, Anchorage

Persons unable to attend in person may participate by telephone. To attend by telephone, please dial 1-888-422-7124; the "access code" to the hearing is 188391.

Written public comments will be accepted up to the close of business, January 2, 2009. Please submit comments to Regina O'Keefe at AHFC, PO Box 101020, Anchorage, AK 99510-1020, or by email at rokeefe@ahfc.state.ak.us.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services

NEW REFUGEE ARRIVALS - November Update

Another busy period for refugee arrivals. The program has enrolled 149 new individuals since October 1st.

Arrivals on November 19th:

1. A family of 7 from Former Zaire. They are French-speaking and Christian. (Mother, Father and 5 children ages 2, 6, 9, 11 and 15)

Paula Pawlowski

German Welsh

Director

Denée Dubeau Zah

Finnish Irish

French-Canadian

Administrative Assistant

2. A family of 6 from Former Zaire. They are French-speaking and are Christian. (Mother, Father and 4 children ages 1, 9, 11 and 14)

3. A single man from Sudan. He is 28, speaks Arabic and is Christian.

We are anticipating a few more family units before the end of the year from Former Zaire (Democratic Republic of Congo), Sudan and Somalia.

We are preparing for GIFT which is a program that matches volunteer donors with new families for the holidays. Only refugees who did not receive this last year are on the list.

St. Anthony's Church put together the needed donations for the family of 7 mentioned above. **This is a great model and if any group would like to gather donations for 1-2 family groups in a year that would be terrific!** Let us know if you wish to help on this project.

We have a **volunteer meeting** scheduled for **January 13th from 5:30 to 7:30**. Also check us out on the CSS website (www.cssalaska.org) -- we have our brochure featured there and other links as well. Thank you in advance for your interest in welcoming refugees to Anchorage!

Sincerely,

*Karen Ferguson, Program Dir./State Refugee Coordinator
3710 E. 20th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99508
(907) 222-7376 phone, kferguson@cssalaska.org*

CONTINUING PROGRAM NEEDS:

1. Names of rental property owners who might want to work with renting to new refugee families.
2. Cash donations.
3. Donations -- Below is a list of the items we are still collecting. Please feel free to pass this list on.

DONATIONS LIST:

Laundry Baskets
Laundry Detergent
Garbage Cans - kitchen and bathroom sizes
Buckets
Mops
Brooms
Dustpans
Shower curtain rods and hooks
Cutting boards
Sets of knives for cooking
Pots and pans sets
Silver wear sets
Gloves -- mittens for kids and gloves for grownups
New Socks -- for all ages and sizes
Winter Hats -- for all sizes
New pillows

New car seats - infant and toddler
Blankets and comforters
Mixing Bowls
Tea Kettles
Irons
Vacuum cleaners
Gift cards - Walmart and Fred Meyers generally the most useful
Warm meals for new arrivals - contact us for details

Volunteer Opportunities:

Family Mentoring
English Language tutoring
Assisting in Orientation and Job Readiness Classes
Many other project-based opportunities

Chugiak Sprint Musher Chosen to be on 2009 Team USA for World Championships

Chugiak, AK - Mushing USA (MUSA), the national governing body of Sleddog sports in the USA, announced on November 15 that Jennifer Payne-Sterling, Chugiak High School graduate and local small business owner, has been selected to represent the United States in sprint races at the 2009 IFSS (International Federation of Sleddog Sports) World Championships in Daaquam, Quebec Canada, January 16-25.

In accepting the opportunity to compete in this prestigious race, Jennifer Sterling said, "Sundog Racing Kennel was chosen because of our frequent top place finishes in the highly competitive racing circuit in Alaska as well as our ability to appropriately represent the United States in this international event."

Sundog Racing Kennel has more than 30 years of combined racing and dog care experience all while working full time jobs. Over the past years they have provided mentorship and training guidance for new Junior and senior mushers in the community. The Sundog Racing Kennel team has been the "Demonstration Team" for the Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber of Commerce's Winter Wonderland Walk for the past several years where they invited community members to meet the dogs and have photos taken with them. Jennifer and husband Nathan also provided entertainment for the 2007 Ft. Rich Army Reserve Christmas party where the team offered photo opportunities and dog kisses to the soldiers and their families. They also had the privilege of providing a dog mushing lesson to a local Girl Scout Troop so they could get their "Mushing Badge".

Please visit www.sundogracingkennel.com for details of her race record, to meet the dogs and for information on fundraising efforts planned to help Sterling with the cost of traveling with the dogs across the North American continent to the race.

Jennifer & Nathan Sterling
Sundog Racing Kennel
907-688-6500 / fancydog@mtaonline.net

Mark Your Calendars Now!

Anchorage East Rotary Club Presents

**Fundraiser Dinner
and Free Poker Tournament**

Hosted by the Alaska Poker Association

March 28th, 2009

All proceeds equally divided in support of:
Bridge Builders of Anchorage, Friends of Alaska CASA,
Hospice of Anchorage, and Mary Magdalene Home Alaska.

Join us for an evening of games, food, music and festivity
at the Hotel Captain Cook Ballroom.

Doors open at 4pm

Dinner tickets \$250.00 per person

For more information, contact Sharon Anderson: 907-229-
6624 or seanderson@gci.net
or bridgebuilders@bridgebuildersak.org
or call: 277-1882

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