The Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc., Family Programs Division has been actively engaged in promoting and supporting the growth and development of Alaska Native Foster Homes and Parents. In partnership with the State of Alaska OCS and other state-wide tribal partners, we have helped develop foster parent trainings to include:

1. Consistent, sustainable advanced training for foster/adoptive parents on the subject of the developmental stages of adoption. This includes Trauma training. Goal: increase knowledge and skill sets of families who have adopted from foster care in order to increase the resilience of the adoption and decrease the chance of disruption of the adoptive placement.

2. While continuing to integrate flexible family training into pre-service training ongoing and development of advanced training on the subject. Goal: To assist foster parents who wish to serve children and families in this way so they will be effective and not sabotage case plans of reunification.

3. Trainings specific to being relative foster caregivers.

4. Continue to increase the awareness and information regarding becoming a successful foster parent and understanding the state process. Trainings and events have been held in the APIA 1st Floor Conference Room.

5. Focusing on training families transitioning children home, to another placement such as a tribal member relative.

For more questions about becoming a licensed foster parent, please contact Veronica Driskill at 222-4259 or veronicad@apiai.org

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Aang! I hope this finds you and your families doing well. As this year comes to a close, I wanted to share a few APIA highlights.

**Community Services Director Retires & Restructuring**

Ken Selby, Community Services Director, retired after 27 years of service. We took the opportunity to look at our organizational structure and decided to re-organize. With the structure change, we didn’t actually ‘replace’ Ken, but rather made Ozzy Escarate the manager of the newly formed Department of Family and Community Development (DFCD). This department administers the Public Safety/VPSOs, Self-Governance/Tribal Operations, Indian Child Welfare, Foster Care and Tribal Child Support Programs. The DFCD is located on the 1st floor of the Unangam Ulaa.

Tara Bourdukofsky is the manager of the Department of Education and Workforce Development (DEWD) with Employment, Training, & Related Services and the Head Start programs. The DEWD is still on the 2nd floor.

The Environmental Health programs administered by Bruce Wright and Karen Pletnikoff are now under Charles Fagerstrom in the Health Department on the 2nd floor. The Health Department also has expanded, so they are on the 2nd floor, and also have some offices on the 3rd floor.

Next time you are in Anchorage, please come by Unangam Ulaa and tour the building to see where everyone is.

**Elder Services Summit**

We are planning an Elders Services Summit, structure similar to the Substance Abuse Summit. There are many details to work out, including venue, speakers, attendees, travel and such. I want to thank Charles, Ashley and the Health Department for working on this important summit. Please save the date this summit is scheduled for February 17 - 19. For more information, please contact Ashley Withrow at ashleyw@apiai.org.

**ANTHC Board Honors Mike Zacharof**

At the ANTHC Board meeting last week, they unanimously voted to have the new Patient Housing facility named after Mike Zacharof. We wrote a letter in support of this to go to the ANTHC Board with a letter from Julie and the Zacharof family. As you know, Mike was a major champion of this patient housing project. I know Mike Z. would be pleased to be honored in this way. As he would say, God is Great!

I wish you all a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. God Bless.

**Christ is Born!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Xristuusaä Åğakux!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christ is Born!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amchuuxtxichin!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glorify Him!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slum Tagadagan Qağataa!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Happy New Year!</td>
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This was a year of transition for us in our Health Department and we have done well to come through it. We will continue to work to further develop our programs in an effort to fill gaps in services for the people. Please feel free to contact us if you have any thoughts on what we can do better. Exciting things are ahead and we look forward to the New Year. God bless you and yours.
APIA’s ETR Division is excited to announce the advancement of Jeremiah Szepanski! He is now officially transitioning into our ETR Lead Case Worker. Jeremiah’s unwavering dedication to AANG, BIA and 477 clients and program services has not gone unnoticed; so when a position opportunity for growth and further professional development became available – he was well-suited and quite qualified for the job! He has consistently gone above and beyond, doing tremendous work for the ETR department and, as his fellow ETR colleagues, we are all very excited to see how his skills will benefit and blossom in this new position.

Good news keeps coming, as we announce that we have served over 70 households with our energy assistance funds. Funds are available through APIA’s ETR program to assist qualifying households with home energy costs (fuel and electricity). This is an invaluable program and helps so many homes in our region stay safe and warm during the winter months.

Another highlight of our work in ETR is the AANG Program. Did you know? AANG is available to any member of a federal or state recognized tribe living in our region OR to an APIA consortium member living in Anchorage who may experience challenges looking for, applying and keeping a job due to a physical or mental health condition. If you think this may be you or someone you know, give us a call to discuss how to apply for the program, and to get connected with a case worker. There is a variety of resources that may be available to you once we are able to review your application! If you think you might need this type of assistance, please let us know. We are always happy and available to answer your questions and we look forward to getting to know you!

A quick note to our current college students who have been awarded APIA’s Higher Education scholarships. We are so proud of all of your hard work this semester! We know you must have final exams coming up, but since it is the end of the semester, we will be contacting you very shortly to make sure that your documents and information are all up-to-date so that we can assist you easily for the Spring semester.

If you are a new applicant for college scholarship, or are interested in applying, please complete an ETR general application available on our APIA website under “Services” for Employment, Training & Related Services OR feel free to contact the ETR office at 1800-478-2742.

Thank you for allowing our department to share a few of our recent milestones with you. We hope that you and your family have a blessed and joyful holiday season.

The Cultural Heritage Department hosted their second Unanagam Tunuu Speakers Gathering on October 7. The event served as a precursor to events that happened all month long in October such as the Aleut Villages Conference; TAC annual meeting; the Elders and Youth Conference; and largely AFN. Everyone enjoyed a Traditional Foods potluck of salmon, moose, and halibut dishes.

The gathering prompted two different dialects to converse and a committee was formed to add new words to Unangam Tunuu that we do not currently have words for.

Keep an eye out for more information when we’ll meet again for tea!
The 2015-2016 Head Start school year started with our annual pre-service training during the week of August 24th. Nine field staff members and all of the Anchorage staff participated in the pre-service training week. The pre-service was highlighted by Thread Alaska which provided an overview on the Child Development Associate (CDA) training process. We also learned about professionalism in Early Childhood Education. We said goodbye to long time Lead Teacher/Bus Driver Rayette McGlashan and her husband, Dennis (who served as the on-call bus driver and maintenance). Both will be missed by not only the families in Sand Point but the entire APIA family as well. Most of the classroom positions have been successfully filled since the start of the Head Start school year. We want to thank both Rayette and Karen Walls, new Lead Teacher for doing an excellent job during the transitional period in Sand Point. Also in Sand Point, we hired Beverly Rosete as the Janitor. Beverly is a former Head Start parent and Head Start Policy Council chair. In St. Paul, we have hired a Lead Teacher, Ashley Hanner, who, we are proud to report, is doing an exceptional job!

In April of 2014, the Head Start program was reviewed by the Office of Head Start. A number of non-compliances were noted. Over the course of the 20 months since the review, the Head Start program worked to put structure in place to correct those non-compliances. In November of 2015, Office of Head Start Program Specialist Trevondia Boykin conducted a site visit and closed all of the non-compliances. The final step in the review process is to receive a final report from the Office of Head Start accepting Ms. Boykin’s findings.

Our Head Start program, like all others across the country, has classroom-teacher interactions rated using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS). In order to be prepared when CLASS observers visit, it is necessary for staff to be trained in the system. We currently have three reliable observers who passed the intensive test for CLASS: Bonnie Mierzejek, Julia Sargent, and Nancy Gearhart. We are proud of you!

We have great news! The Office of Head Start has taken the unprecedented action of providing the APIA Head Start program with an exception to the income guideline requirement! In the communities of King Cove, Sand Point and St. Paul, income guidelines have been waived. We must continue to prioritize families to ensure that those most in need of our services receive those services. Unalaska was not eligible to receive Poverty of Access designation because it exceeds the maximum population (1,000) to receive the designation.

We hope that you and your families enjoy the holiday season and have a very Happy New Year!
We are proud to announce that our very own Delores Gregory received The Statewide “Rookie of the Year” award on November 4th, 2015 from the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) for her outstanding work this past year as a Behavioral Health Aide (BHA). This award acknowledges her effort in behavioral health outreach and education to the community of Unalaska. She has taken the lead on hosting community cooking circles, elder teas, and youth events. In true Delores style, she accepted the award with grace and humility, acknowledging all the hard work BHAs do regionally and statewide. Governor Walker has taken note of the tremendous positive impact BHAs have in the state. In fact, he has proclaimed November Behavioral Health Aide Celebration Month!

Farewell Annette Siemens
Annette Siemens, our long time Clinical Director/Nurse Practitioner has retired. Annette has provided outstanding health care services to the Unangan of the Aleutian and Pribilof Region for 10 years. During those years she’s supervised and trained Community Health Aides, was a major contributor in Joint Commission Accreditation, successfully implemented Improving Patient Care III and Quality and Innovation Learning Network, completed the Indian Health Services Executive Leadership Development Program, Government Performance Results Act (4 years in a row), obtained her Ph.D. in Public Health, and so many other successful developments, implementations, and initiatives to mention.

Annette’s retirement is much deserved as she tirelessly provided health care at our Oonalaska Wellness Center, and at a length of a period, as our sole Nurse Practitioner and as our Acting Administrator. She continued to operate the clinics including Atka and Nikolski to their full extent clinically and administratively. Annette moved back to Colorado to spend time with her parents and watch her great nieces and nephews grow up. She will be able to spend her time on what she enjoys most, and that is quilting. As Annette’s passion was caring for patients and many years of experience providing quality health care, she will continue to provide administrative health care services as a consultant. We wish her many years of wonderful ‘vacation’ with her family in Colorado.

Welcome Back June Morgan
Join us in welcoming our new Medical Director/Nurse Practitioner, June Morgan. June has provided health care services for over 36 years of which 13 years have been in Rural Alaska (Tanana, Bristol Bay, Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Chugachmiut, Southcentral Foundation, and APIA), and of those, she dedicated 3 years to the Oonalaska Wellness Center. June’s primary nursing career has been on EMS, flight nursing, ER, Diabetes, Public Health, Community Health Aide Program and clinics. June believes in patient centered philosophy and working as a team to provide the best quality health care services to the Unangan of the Aleutian and Pribilof Region. We are very excited June joined us again, and look forward to continued progress with services as our leading Medical Director.
We are pleased to announce that APIA’s Cultural Heritage Department was awarded a $900,000 grant by the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) Language Preservation and Maintenance program for their project titled: Unangam Tunuu, Unangam Tanangin: Our Lands, Our Language!

ANA Language Preservation and Maintenance program grants are highly competitive. APIA was one of 12 organizations nationwide whose application was selected for funding in 2015! Each year ANA receives over 100 language proposals; only 12-15 are funded.

The following paragraphs are excerpted from the Project Abstract, a one-page summary of the project, that was included in the 150 page grant application:

**Problem:** Extremely small number of fluent language speakers that are geographically dispersed across the region severely diminishes opportunities to learn. Our problem becomes even more critical as Unangam Tunuu does not have a regionally-adopted systematic curriculum that supports a Learner in rapidly reaching Intermediate Fluency.

**Project Goal:** To create a vibrant, integrated Unangam Tunuu Regional Learning Community that will support the growth of language learning in our communities, provide learning opportunities for learners at all levels, expand the number of fluent speakers and be the foundation for the survival of our language into the future. We will do this through our two project objectives.

**Objective One:** Develop at least 2 new advanced-low speakers, 7 new intermediate-low to mid speakers, and at least 12 new novice-low to mid speakers (using oral proficiency assessment standards established by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), and of those speakers, develop 5 new effective teachers trained in the Where Are Your Keys? methodologies in 36 months. Objective one focuses on building individual language fluency necessary to grow and expand a regional team of speakers capable of being teachers who also serve as language cluster leaders in their home communities.

**Objective Two:** Create a written Unangam Tunuu curriculum in support of rapid attainment of an intermediate level of language fluency utilizing oral proficiency standards established by the ACTFL that is made available electronically via web site portals for our tribal members of all ages. The curriculum will be developed in both the Eastern and Western Dialects and will be available via web portal so that our tribal communities have access to a standardized curriculum that is used region wide.

The ANA funding will allow us to expand the current region-wide language preservation efforts that have been funded by the Aleut Corporation and the APIA since August 2013.

For the next three years beginning August 2015, the ANA grant will support the costs to hold fall and spring workshops in Atka, St. Paul Island, and Anchorage and a summer language intensive workshop in each of these communities in 2016, 2017, and 2018, respectively.
The grant will also support the costs for “Where Are Your Keys?” (WAYK) consultants, Evan Gardner and Susanna Ciotti, to facilitate the workshops, travel costs for speakers and core team members to attend the workshops, stipends for speakers, and personnel to assist with administering the project.

The workshops will provide support to the core team as they work with speakers to increase their fluency, as they hold language circles in their communities, and as the curriculum is developed. Core team members are apprentices who have a demonstrated commitment to learn Unangam Tunuu.

Since August 2013, they have facilitated workshops at Atka (3), Unalaska (3), King Cove (2), Anchorage (3), and St. Paul Island (3). Evan and Susanna also facilitated the first 85 day summer language intensive in our region which was held at St. Paul Island during the summer of 2015.

Thank you to The Aleut Corporation, The Aleut Foundation, and the APIA, for making the intensive workshop possible! The summer workshops that will occur under the ANA funded project will model the 2015 summer language intensive.

We would also like to recognize and thank our speakers and community members for dedicating their time to teaching and learning Unangam Tunuu:

**ATAK**
- Sally Swetzof
- Teresa Prokopeuff
- Millie Prokopeuff
- Mark Snigaroff
- Pauline Golodoff
- Ruth Kudrin
- Alex Kudrin
- Michael Dirks

**ST. PAUL ISLAND**
- Gregory Fratis
- Edna Floyd
- Zinaida Melovidov
- Mary Lou Merculief
- Haretina Krukoff
- Jason Bourdukofof
- Iliidor Philemonof
- Crystal Dushkin
- Arnold Golodoff, Jr.
- Mario Zaochney
- Timothy Zaochney
- Nathaniel Williams
- Jaydon Nika
- Trinity Dirks-Nevzoroff
- Maria Maly

**ANCHORAGE**
- Moses Dirks
- Agnes Thompson
- Sally Swetzof
- Iliidor Philemonof
- Simeon Kuzakin
- Aquilina Lestenkof
- Anna Melovidov
- Teresa Baker
- Linnae Kozloff
- Sonia Merculief
- Kiana Melovidov
- Mac Mandregan

**AKUTAN/UNALASKA**
- Larry Dirks
- Nicholai Lekanoff
- Iliidor Philemonof
- Josephine Borenin-Shangin
- Laresa Syverson
- Pauline Tutiakoff

**KING COVE/FALSE PASS**
- Lucy Kenezuroff
- Irene Christiansen
- Fr. Andrei Tepper
- Rhonda Gould

Waa awaŋ manaan iḵamanakux, hamang manat madaa! This work that you are doing is good, keep doing what you are doing!

~Translation, in Atka dialect, by Sally Swetzof
**Elder Care Summit – February 17-19, 2016**

APIA and Eastern Aleutian Tribes are working together to host an Unangan Eldercare Services Summit. The event will be held February 17-19, 2016 at the Lake Front Millennium Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska. We want to hear about elder services that matter to you and your family. We hope to leave the summit better informed with action items to best serve the region. In preparation for the Summit, an Eldercare representative from each Tribe was appointed to serve on an Elder Discussion Committee. The committee was recently formed to strategize, better understand Elder service gaps, and start the dialogue around creating solutions.

**Can the Fishing and Health Industries Partner to Offer a Viable Treatment Model in the Region?**

APIA and Eastern Aleutian Tribes have secured a grant from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to conduct a feasibility study to answer this exact question. The vision is that the health industry (APIA & EAT) and the fishing industry will work together to offer an Employment Based Intensive Outpatient Treatment Facility in the region. The health sector will provide the specialized treatment needed for the program, while the fishing industry will provide a place of employment, room, and board. Participants of the program will be required to work a set number of hours, stay sober, and attend treatment activities including individual and group therapy. APIA and EATs have hired a contractor to talk with key stakeholders to make sure this model is a good fit for the region.

**Atka Health Fair!**

On November 17, 2015 APIA hosted a Health Fair at the local school. Topics covered included: behavioral health services, substance abuse, tobacco prevention, Eldercare services, injury prevention, nutrition, diabetes, traditional foods, community safety and vaccinations were given out by the local community health aide. Almost half of the residents attended and participated in the health fair. Many community members went home with door prizes for completing the health fair passport and visiting with every specialist at the health fair. Fuel gift certificates ranging from $50 to $100 generously donated by APIICDA were awarded to three community members at random. The health fair was a result of great coordination between APIA, Atka IRA, public safety, the Atka School and many Atka residents. We look forward to the next opportunity to partner and work together with Atka on a 2016 health fair.
APIA’s Department of Family & Community Development was instrumental in planning, organizing, scheduling and implementing the Anchorage Region Healing Summit that included state-wide tribal partners and supervisory staff from the Office of Children’s Services.

Our goal was to bring together those impacted by a conflict when it comes to working with tribal children, including key state-wide tribal partners and OCS supervisory staff. The Peacemaking process used during the Healing Summit allowed each participant to talk about the conflict and their feelings without limiting what they say. The purpose of the Healing Summit by using the peacemaking process was to reach a resolution and to begin to heal the relationships among the tribes and the OCS staff so that future conflicts can be avoided for the best interest of the children.

APIA recognizes that almost all Tribes operate some form of child protection services, and many have their own Tribal codes, court systems, and successful child welfare programs. With that in mind, a number of factors affect relationships between Tribes and States in the provision of child welfare services. These include, but are not limited to:

1. The Federal trust responsibility between Tribes and the Federal Government, which refers to the Federal Government’s obligation to protect Tribal self-governance, assets, resources, lands, and treaty rights;

2. Tribal-State disagreements, especially those that end up in court and result in a “winner” and a “loser;”

3. Tribal-State differences in child welfare values and practices, especially differences related to the importance of family, community, culture, and permanency;

4. Disproportionality of Indian children in the child welfare system, such that American Indian and Native Alaskan children are in foster care at a rate that is double that of non-minority children.

The Healing Summit helped all tribal and state participants recognize that many positive attributes exist among child welfare agencies. APIA is proud to be the catalyst in bringing everyone together to address and strategize for the future.
ALEUTIAN Pribilof Islands Association, Inc.  

**Publications for Sale**

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**Aleut Evacuation**  
*The Untold War Story* -  
DVD, full screen format, 59 min.  
$19.95

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**package deal:** **Aleut Evacuation**  
DVD and **The Relocation and Internment of the Aleuts During World War II**, CD.  
$59.95

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**The Relocation and Internment of the Aleuts During World War II**  
CD $49.95  
This CD includes a narrative description of the involuntary relocation and internment of the Aleut people during World War II, together with these nine volumes of supporting documentation, summary, and memorandum of law. A must have for researchers and for anyone interested in Aleut history.

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**A Sure Foundation**  
*Aleut Churches in WWII*  
By Barbara Sweetland Smith  
with Patricia J. Petrivelli  
$15.00

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**Qaqamiigungux**  
*Traditional Foods and Recipes from the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands*  
by Suanne Unger  
(Hardbound)  
$55.00
Order Online!

Visit APIA’s website at [http://www.apiai.org](http://www.apiai.org) to order these publications online! From APIA’s homepage, select “Store” from the menu on top then select a publication and proceed. If you would like to order by phone, please contact Jessica Borenin at (907) 276-2700.

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**Family After All: Alaska's Jesse Lee Home**  
*Volume II, Seward, 1925-1965*  
Compiled by Jacquelin B. Pels  
$37


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Many thanks to Jaquelin Pels for donating these wonderful books to the Cultural Heritage Programs!

**Family After All: Alaska's Jesse Lee Home**  
*Volume I, Unalaska, 1889-1925*  
By Raymond L. Hudson  
$33


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**Aleut Art**  
by Lydia T. Black  
(Hardbound)  
$49.95

Prices do not include shipping/handling. Please contact Jessica at (907) 276-2700 or jessicab@apiai.org for shipping/handling cost.
OUR MISSION

♦ To promote self-sufficiency and independence of the Unangan/Unanagas\(^1\) by advocacy, training, technical assistance, and economic enhancement;

♦ To assist in meeting health, safety, and well-being of each Unanga\(^2\) community;

♦ To promote, strengthen, and ensure the unity of the Unangan/Unangas; and

♦ To strengthen and preserve the Unanga\(^2\) cultural heritage.

\(^1\)Unangan [Eastern dialect], Unangas [Atka Dialect] - Aleuts, plural form; \(^2\)Unanga - Aleut, singular form

ALEUTIAN Pribilof Islands Association’s Board of Directors

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