Spring/Summer 2020
Volume 50

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc.
With Spirit and Strength

AANG ANĜAGIN
AANG ANĜAGINAS

APIA COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

The first case of COVID-19 was recorded on January 20, 2020. On January 30 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global health emergency. The first COVID-19 death was recorded February 29. On March 11 the WHO declared COVID-19 a world pandemic. On March 16 President Trump mandated a 15 day voluntary national shutdown of non-essential services to flatten the curve, allowing health care facilities to prepare for the expected surge. On March 29 the President extended the national shutdown to April 30. Coinciding with these mandates, both Governor Dunleavy and Mayor Berkowitz issued similar mandates for the State of Alaska and the Municipality of Anchorage. On April 5 the State and CDC began recommending the use of some type of mask when in public. These governmental mandates have since been extended through May 10.

News of the new virus triggered our Medical Director to begin ramping up clinic protocols, keeping in close contact with updates from ANMC, DHS, the CDC and WHO. Instructional COVID-19 updates were periodically issued to staff and communities beginning in February. Increased supplies (including PPE and testing equipment) for the upcoming event were provided, and clinics received specific COVID-19 training on testing and patient care.

Operating Under Shutdown Mandates

In response to the shutdown of non-essential services, the President/CEO closed APIA offices on March 17. Managers categorized department positions as to essential vs non-essential, and which positions could tele-work and the number of hours per day.

- Staff who's positions allowed for tele-work were authorized to do so for the designated number of hours per day and take administrative leave for the balance.
- Staff unable to tele-work were instructed to take administrative leave.
- Essential personnel were instructed to report to the facility only to accomplish essential functions unable to accomplish through tele-work, and to practice social distancing and wear face masks while at work.
- The mail at the main office will be accepted on Tuesday and Thursday between 1:30 -3:30 pm. A designated staff member will be at the office during that time to receive mail and packages.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dimitri Philemonof, President/CEO

Although we are not sure what our full new normal is going to look like, we hope that you are enjoying your summer and are staying healthy during this very unique time. Please see some highlights of the work we have accomplished during this time:

COVID-19 Overview APIA was the first Tribal Health Organization to send someone to fight the pandemic outside of Alaska. Dr. Seth Green was deployed to Texas in response to the coronavirus outbreak. Upon returning to Alaska, Dr. Green self-quarantined at home before returning to work.

Additionally, we were the first rural Tribal Health Clinic to receive, train, and implement the Abbot ID now rapid COVID-19 testing instrument. We have implemented rapid testing in Atka, Nikolski, and Unalaska. As of Friday May 22, all of our Primary Care Sites are equipped and operational with the Abbot Id Now Rapid Test machines. We have at least two local employees trained at Nikolski and Unalaska; and one local employee trained, our VPSO, in Atka. We have established regional Clinic inventory and re-order process for Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and other emergency response weekly order process. Recently, we signed an agreement with an Independent Medical Staffing agency to deploy providers when needed. Our clinics have been transformed into COVID preparedness and response. We are committed to help support bringing an end to this pandemic!

I have been sharing updates related to COVID-19 response as we navigate this unique time. We are now in Phase III and are hopeful Phase IV will come in the next couple of weeks, and then we are looking forward to Phase V – the new normal. Please see the full write up on the matter in a separate article of this newsletter. During this time, we have continued to operate and still made our services available through telework platforms. We have shared how to access services via radio, Facebook, our website as well as shared with the A-Team.

Although our staff have been working various shifts in the office and via telework, I have been quite impressed by the amount of work being accomplished during this time. Our staff are always hard workers and their ability to continue the high level of service delivery, while managing all the added teleconference, protocols and duties related to working through this pandemic is nothing short of impressive. I thank our Board, the Tribes, our people and the APIA staff for doing our part to work through this time together – Ataqan Akun – We Are One!

I want to give a special thank you to my management staff and our Accounting Department for being able to stay on top of keeping our bills paid, our grant funding reporting and obligations, as well as processing payroll with all the new employer's obligations related to COVID-19 new types of leave for employees. – we haven't missed a beat thanks to their dedication.

COVID-19 Relief Funding $2.8Million The government passed four separate COVID stimulus packages aimed at helping the Nation

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through the current pandemic. The bills passed by Congress included Billions in grant funds for companies and entities. APIA has received numerous grant awards and stimulus payments in the past six weeks. We applied for some of these funds, however many were distributed based on APIA's history with other grants. All of these grants have specific compliance requirements and will need to be spent in the next 12-18 months. I have my staff working quickly to identify and address the COVID related needs so that we can put these funds to work. Margaret Galovin is working with the tribes who received their BIA stimulus funds through APIA to ensure that those funds are sent out to the tribes quickly to be put to work for prevention and mitigation activities.

2019 Audit Report On April 1st, our FY2019 audit report was issued by BDO. The report has an unqualified or "clean" audit report for the organization with no reported findings. The issuance of this report is the culmination of much work and effort from our accounting staff. It is gratifying to have our efforts throughout the year to be validated with a clean audit report with no findings.

2021 Indirect Rate Cost Proposal On April 8th we submitted our 2021 indirect rate cost proposal to the Department of Health and Human Services for review and approval. They provided us a notification that due to COVID-19 they are working reduced schedules and it may be August until we receive our official rates for the next fiscal year.

Our proposed rates for 2021 are a reduction over the current rates. The reason for the continued reduction in rates is due to the gradual increase of grant program expenditures over the past few years while keeping our administrative costs stable. By mandate, the Contract Support Costs for BIA/IHS must be paid 100% in addition to direct program dollars.

Health Director Replacement As you may recall, Charles Fagerstrom resigned as our Health Director February 14. Before COVID-19 hit, we were actively recruiting for a new Health Director. This process has been put on hold until we hit Phase V. In the interim, Tara Ford is acting lead for all Community Health Service Division, Jessica Mata Rukovishnikoff is acting lead for all Primary Care Division, Karen Pletnikoff is acting lead for the Environmental Health Division and Ashley Withrow is acting lead for all Elder Care Division. Tarrissa Christensen is the Executive Assistant and she is working with the three division leads to ensure everything is processed correctly. This structure has worked well during the COVID-19 period.

Elder Care Services

Our Elder Care Team compiled 45 Elder kits and distributed to the Anchorage Elders and 200 Elder kits to distribute to Elders in the 10 communities within the region. In partnership with ANTHC, EAT and TAC, Elders received kits with masks, hand sanitizers, tissue and items to lift their spirits during this time of social distancing and isolation. We also plan to send boxes with necessary food items following this first shipment.

We were awarded COVID-19 related funding through Meals on Wheels to ensure

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communities will have proper infrastructure to deliver foods to Elders. Once the funds arrive, we will begin working on building the infrastructure needed to deliver meals in our communities. We also received other COVID -19 related funding for caregiver support during this pandemic. It is important that all aspects of caring for our Elders is taken into consideration and caregivers for Elders in the region are desperately needed.

We called and continue to monitor our Elder's wellbeing and identify any challenges they may be faced with during this time. During these calls, we were also receiving calls about COVID-19 fears while supporting Elders in finding their doctors and case managers contact information to ensure the worry about appointments decreases.

Our staff has supported several sets of family members during their time of grieving from the loss of a loved one and continues to make referrals to our behavioral health services for those needing to process and work through mental health challenges.

Our Elder Engagement Coordinator has continued to work on writing and submitting new grants to expand and grow our Elder services. New grants include, the AARP 2020 Community Challenge, a National Aging and Disability Transportation Center Transportation grant and an Administration on Aging Innovations in Nutrition Programs and Services grant.

We have had constant communication with our Elder congregate meal program in St. George and our Elder Meal Program vendors in the region to ensure Elders are still receiving food. While congregate meals are currently shut down, they have converted to home delivered meals only.

Head Start The Office of Head Start released the construction funds for the new Unalaska Head Start Facility. They also approved prior years' carryover funds to be used for health and safety at our other Head Start sites. We are pleased to report that the State of Alaska early education new funding formula amounts were released. On July 1, 2020, we expect to receive the significant award increase with the new formula. We have been advocating for a funding formula adjustment for several years. We will focus on providing staff with technical training and working with children who have experienced adverse childhood experiences with our Quality Improvement funds. During COVID-19, our field staff have maintained contact with families and provided them with suggestions and materials to work with their children at home. Staff has also been working on professional development activities. Head Start has worked with local schools to provide meal service to families wishing to take part. Field staff and central office staff have been maintaining regular contact through weekly staff meetings.

Tribal Child Support Program Even with a mostly telework schedule, payments are continuing to be received and $44,483.89 being distributed to our families from March 1, 2020 to May 22, 2020. We recently upgraded our accounting system and will soon be able to take credit card payments.

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Services continue via telework including phone, emails, text and video chats. Many court hearings have been put on hold for ICWA cases, and investigating reports of harm are still being worked out with the State. Plans for Child Abuse and Prevention Awareness events for the month of April were canceled due COVID -19 as well.

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Employment, Training & Related (ETR) Services Again, with telework formats like Zoom, the team has been able to facilitate meetings, trainings and other activities to continue services to fully support our clients. Due to COVID-19 and the flexibilities offered, we are in the process of amending our 477 Workforce Development Plan to add the communities of Cold Bay and Adak into our service area and further ensure eligible Tribal members can access services. Our amendment will also eliminate the income guidelines so all Tribal residents in our region qualify for certain childcare services. To better meet the training and educational needs of our region and to increase the number of potential attendees, ETR has been working with the community of Cold Bay, AVTEC, Google and others to develop a vocational training center.

Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) On February 14, Officer Anderson (Sand Point P.D.) and Officer Pherson (King Cove P.D.) Graduated D.A.R.E. Officer training in New Mexico. Due to COVID-19, D.A.R.E. training in the community schools will be delayed in most communities until the next school year. We now have D.A.R.E. certified officers in seven communities in the region. As requested by Tribal/Community Leadership, VPSOs have served a front line role in the health screening of individuals traveling into their communities. VPSO's continue to patrol the communities and ensure public safety needs are met, while adhering to the Alaska State Trooper response guidelines.

Self-Governance Program In addition to continuing to provide technical support to our Tribal Administrators and leaders, Margaret Galovin has been attending COVID-19 teleconferences, meetings and webinars with DOI-BIA, A-Team and its members, AFN, and legislators to keep us and the Tribes updated on matters and assisting Tribes as needed to complete documents necessary for the new funding opportunities currently available with the CARES Act.

Awakuxtxin Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) So far this year, we have seven participants, two from Sand Point and five from Anchorage, three of which are APIA beneficiaries. Unalaska has one client who successfully completed residential care and is now enrolled and participating in the Awakuxtxin Program for 12 weeks of aftercare services. In addition, clients who have recently graduated have requested to continue on with aftercare services for an additional 12 weeks, for support through their recovery journey. We were awarded funds from Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to provide an iPad or phone to enrolled IOP clients to ensure they can maintain attendance during social distancing/telehealth service delivery phases.

Wellness Program In March, APIA hosted a Health Fair in Unalaska. We had a total of 122 participants, setting another year of growth for the fair. A total of 25 booths were set up. Since this event was held just before the social distancing rules were set into place, we had taken it upon ourselves to provide multiple locations for hand sanitizing. Despite the concerns with the public health emergency, this event was well attended and provided a great opportunity to promote

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health and wellness initiatives to our community members. The Wellness Team completed public service announcements in effort to stay connected while families are hunkering down in their homes.

Traditional Food Practices Media
Two video shorts highlighting traditional food practices have been completed and will be posted on Facebook and the APIA website. Viewing of the first film on Sein Fishing can be seen at: https://youtu.be/edv9r28R2ws. The Chocolate Lily will be forthcoming—keep an eye on out! We are also working on another video detailing the reindeer butchering process.

Tobacco Prevention Program We are strengthening APIA's tobacco-free campus policy by installing the tobacco-free welcome banners on the parking lots, pending state approval. The banners will match the tobacco-free campus bookmarks that are available at the front desk for staff and visitors.

Unangan Themed Coloring Pages Lydia Dirks', BHA/CWA, drawings are being used in various applications associated with the COVID Response. She has been getting requests from regional schools to use the drawing in their homeschool curriculum. She also received a request from the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge to use her drawings. We are very proud of her! https://tinyurl.com/ycoa7f4o

Food Security We are looking into funding opportunities and partnerships for APIA to take a role in facilitating discussions on food security communities in the region and the region as a whole. Two grants were submitted to the BIA Tribal Resilience Program Funds for Regional Adaptation Planning grant with travel support. These funds are related to food security concerns for the region.

SAMHSA We recently received feedback from SAMHSA, APIA was the best of three grants nationally in terms of deliverables – this was a great team effort! This grant focuses on providing quality behavioral health services to our communities specifically for transitional aged youth and their families. We are requesting to reallocate funds, which we cannot use for travel right now to create wellness kits to send out to the youth/families in Atka, Nikolski, Saint George, and Unalaska.

Tribal COVID-19 Hardship Donation
With so much going on with the COVID-19 Pandemic, we wanted to assist the regional Tribes and our people. In early April, we sent each Tribe a $3,000 *COVID-19 Hardship Donation*. Tribes can utilize these funds any way there is a need to help their tribal members during this uncertain and unprecedented time. Several weeks earlier, we had sent the Cultural camp/activity donation for $4,000 to each regional Tribe. As it may not be possible to have camps and/or other cultural activities this summer, we let the Tribes know they were welcome to utilize these funds in any way they feel appropriate.

As you can see, we have been quite busy during this unique time of COVID-19.

May God be with you all - stay healthy and take care.

URBAN UNANGAX CULTURE CAMP 2020—CANCELLED

APIA
ALEUTIAN PRIBILOF ISLANDS ASSOCIATION

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, APIA will be cancelling the 2020 Urban Unangax Culture Camp. Although we are sad about the cancellation, the health and safety of our people is very important to us. During the week of camp, over 200 participants, including children, youth, Elders, and the instructors, gather at Unangam Ulaa for the annual event. We believe the inevitable close contact would put many at risk; a risk we do not want to take.

We will miss seeing everyone this year! We wish you all good health and hope you have a safe summer. We look forward to seeing you all in 2021!

If you have any questions, please contact
Darling Anderson at culturecamp@apiai.org or at 907-276-2700.

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- Clinic staff were instructed to follow the COVID-19 clinical protocols and utilize PPE.
- Most accounting functions were done through tele-work. Payroll clerk and supervisor came to the office to process payroll the Monday before payroll is issued. Careful social distancing was practiced.
- ETR/Social Service staff practiced distance program delivery.
- Behavioral Health Staff will practiced tele-health.
- VPSOs practiced social distancing and used PPE as needed while continuing coverage in their areas.
- Elder workers continued to make regular phone contact with elders to assure their needs were being met.
- TCSP continued to process child care payments.
- Management team met telephonically on Mondays (prior to expected opening) at 10 am to reassess the situation.
- Updates on working conditions were communicated as needed to the Board, staff and village councils by email from the President/CEO.
- Health related COVID-19 updates were issued via email to staff and village councils by the Medical Director.

Reintegration into the Workplace

As governmental shutdown mandates began to scale back, the President/CEO issued instructions for allowing staff to return to the workplace. This included some continued tele-work, practicing social distancing and utilization of face masks while on the premises, pre-screening individuals prior to admittance to facilities, and utilization of additional COVID leave categories.

Phase I reintegration includes essential staff returning to the work place as needed to perform essential functions. Masks must be worn at all times on the premises. No clients/visitors on premises.

Phase II reintegration includes:

- Those who can continue to tele-work will continue to do so;
- Assigned staff returned to work in the office on pre-authorized schedules. Some staggering of shifts were approved to assist with social distancing.
- Clients continued via tele-contact. (i.e. telemedicine; phone check-ins with Elders; phone check-ins with other clients; tele-contact with vendors)
- Meetings continue to be conducted telephonically.
- Initial paperwork continues to be shared electronically until final hard copy is ready to be routed.
- Social distancing practiced at all times.
- Continue to wash hands frequently.
- No admittance to office without face masks.
- Everyone entering the building is screened with a combination of questions and temperature. Log is maintained for at least 30 days of last entry.
- Followed CDC guidelines for those who do not pass screening. (Not allowed in; must be symptom free at least 72 hours without medication before returning.)
- Provided masks for people entering building without.

Phase III includes:

- Increased staff time on-site.
- Increased client appointments on-site.

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- Beginning small group meetings and gatherings on campus.
- Continuing tele-work and staggered hours.
- Continuing preauthorized on-campus work schedules.
- Continuing social distancing.
- Continuing to wash hands frequently.
- Continuing no admittance to office without face masks.
- Continuing pre-screening and follow CDC guidelines for those who do not pass screening.

Phase IV will include:

- Decrease tele-work and staggered work hours.
- Increased staff time on-site.
- Update preauthorized on-campus work schedules.
- Increased client appointments on-site.
- Increased group meetings and gatherings on campus.
- Continued social distancing.
- Masks recommended but not required on -campus.
- Continue to wash hands frequently.
- Continue pre-screening.

Phase V new normal.

****Plan is subject to change based on State and Local mandates. ****

COVID-19 SAFETY REMINDERS IN UNANGAM TUNUU

Wan asx̂aaĝilĝux̂ malganaa
ilan anĝaĝinas sigax̂
aakax̂ hital ilagaan
aygagil agumis
kaanguumis aĝikux̂txichix
ama asx̂aaĝix̂ atxazaduukalakax̂txichix.

"With this ongoing pandemic if you walk about six feet from people you will be safe and you will not get the sickness." *translated by Moses Dirks.*

"Wash your hands"

<— Western Dialect

Eastern Dialect—>

Project Unangam Ulaa Update

Progress continues with Project Unangam Ulaa, APIA's first-ever research award from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to learn if the ancient design of traditional Unangax sod houses can be utilized to design modern, energy efficient dwellings. Much of the original proposal focused on visiting elders and potential build sites in our villages. These plans have been hampered by air transportation challenges and by having to hunker down to avoid the pandemic. The saving grace is that almost all of the NSF Navigating the New Arctic (NNA) projects had similar travel plans, and NSF has encouraged all of the investigators to quickly adapt to changes and find innovative techniques to continue research. For example, a planned trip to DC with all of the research investigators was replaced with a two-day Zoom conference. Additional progress included hiring research assistant Vincent Tomalonis. Mr. Tomalonis is from White Mountain near Nome, and his Inupiat name Iglagiaq means to "smile or burst out laughing." Vincent has a long-term interest in traditional sod houses and a sharp penchant for Alaska Native research. Mr. Tomalonis holds a bachelors degree in sociology and is working towards an MBA. The project includes 20 highly-talented collaborators from several fields including Unangax Elders, archaeology, engineering, architecture, sociology, construction, education, Unangam Tunuu, outdoor activities, and Unangax research.

Fire Safety Reminders

Fire at Unalaska; Photo Courtesy of Patty Lekanoff-Gregory

Fire season started early this year in our region. On April 18, two sea kayakers reported a grass fire about five miles north east of the town of Unalaska.

Fortunately, the fire dissipated without damage to property or personal injury. 11 days later, on April 29, another fire got out of control, catching Ulakta Head on the north end of Dutch Harbor on fire, placing the FAA antenna on top of Ballyhoo in jeopardy.

Out of control fires place our people, our villages, and cultural and historical items in the path of harm. Fires in South Africa and France recently destroyed vast amounts of cultural items such as the fire at the 800-year-old Notre Dame church in Paris in 2019.

As Smoky the Bear said, "Only *you* can prevent forest fires" as many fires are human-caused. Check around your house to clear brush and flammable items. Check the batteries in your smoke detector. Have at least two escape routes that you practice regularly. Know where your fire extinguishers are located. Help make the job of fire fighters easier by being careful and preventing fires.

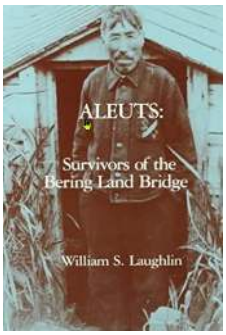
ST. GEORGE ELDER MEAL PROGRAM—MEALS DELIVERED

St. George Elder Meal Program Cook, Jessie Lekanof, made big changes to the congregate meal that typically takes place on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays for lunch. When the pandemic began and services began to suspend, Jessie worked with our Elder Care Services Administrative Team to adjust services, request needed delivery supplies and began cooking meals for Elders as home delivered meals only. The Meal program began to grow and more Elders were requesting services than had before. This was a testament to the dire need of meals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unknowingly, Jessie became part of a nationwide movement where Elder meal programs all over the nation began to ensure that Elders were still taken care of during the time of social isolation. With support from staff at the St. George Health Center, meals were delivered to Elders with all safety precautions taking place. We look forward to resuming back to congregate meals with Elders once it is safe to do so.

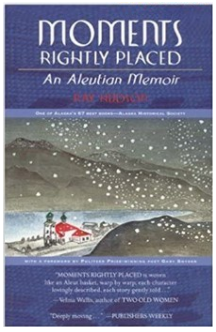
RECOMMENDED READING

Now is a great time to brush up on your reading about Unangax̂ culture and history!



An excellent book to start with is "Aleuts: Survivors of the Bering Land ridge" (Laughlin, 1980). Bill Laughlin was an anthropologist who attended archaeology digs on Anangula Island near Nikolski in the 1950s and wrote about the amazing technological skills of the Unangax̂ people who have thrived in the region for at least 10,000 years.

"Moments Rightly Placed" (Ray Hudson, 1998) is another great read. Ray was a young school teacher who flew into Unalaska in 1964 and learned traditional skills such as basket weaving from Anfesia Shapsnikoff and wood carving from Phil Tutiakoff, APIA's first president.



This is just a small sample of the thousands of books highly recommended by APIA's Unangax̂ Heritage Library and Archive (located in our Cultural Heritage Department). Although we are a non-lending library, staff are available to assist you with finding information and resources relevant to the Unangax̂ culture, history, and environment, such as literature, maps, audio/visual material, (including Unangam tunuu resources), reports, newsletters, and many other resources.

If you do not have the funding to purchase books or if you cannot go to a library in person, we know of several online resources including geographical place names, dictionaries, journal articles, and even books. We enjoy reading, researching, and helping others learn about Unangax̂ culture and heritage. It's our job, and we love it.

If you have a general or specific interest, please e-mail Dr. Michael Livingston, Cultural Heritage Specialist, at mikel@apiai.org.

ELDER CARE DURING COVID-19

As the COVID-19 pandemic struck the nation and our state, the Elder Care Services Team began compiling resources, information and safety and care items for our Elders in Anchorage and within the region. Following all recommendations from the CDC, the Elder Care Services Team reached out to partners like the Aleut Corporation, Eastern Aleutian Tribes and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium to create Elder kits to deliver and send to Elders to properly prepare them and spread a little cheer.

Jenna Van Horn, VISTA Food Security Advocate

While items such as hand sanitizers, tissue and soaps became scarce around the state, our team diligently worked to compile items to be able to deliver and send out to our most vulnerable Elders to ensure they remain safe and cheerful during the long time of social isolation. APIA staff members, Laverna Johnston, Human Resources Administrator and Jenna Van Horn, VISTA Food Security Advocate began sewing masks to include within the Anchorage Elder kits. More than 70 Elder kits were distributed to Elders residing within Anchorage, Eagle River and Wasilla and over 200 Elder kits were distributed to all 10 communities within the region to Elders. As recommendations changed and requirements were adjusted by the State, some items will be required for a period of time longer to enter back into public spaces. For this reason, the Elder Care Services Team put a call out to the Alaska Mask Makers group in Anchorage and requested 200 masks to support the Elders residing within the region. In partnership with the Alaska Mask Makers group, APIA was able to pick up the masks in a weeks' time to include within the Elder kits. These community partnerships attest to the tremendous efforts that community members are putting forth to keep our Elders safe no matter where they are living within the state.

The APIA Elder Care Services Team has continued to make daily calls to Elders to ensure they are safe and needs are not going unmet. Several Elder Care Services Team members were reassigned duties as the office closed and normal services were suspended. This allowed for check ins on Elders and development of an outstanding process to ensure Elders had what they needed during the pandemic. Our team made grocery store runs, calls on behalf of Elders for appointments, medication refills, and even book drop offs to help pass the time.

Laverna Johnston, Health Department HR Administrator

Going forward and adjusting to our new normal, means the Elder Care Services team will be getting creative to provide services. Our team plans to continue forming new partnerships to ensure that Elders are taken care of and supported during this time and beyond.

DELAYED—ANCHORAGE SLI & UTDC

In August 2019, APIA received a 3-year Administration of Native Americans Language Preservation and Maintenance grant which focuses on the development of a pilot regional Unangam Tunuu teacher certification program. The program includes a rigorous set of certification requirements that support and assess attainment of language fluency and demonstrated teaching leadership competencies, that will be matched to college credit at Alaska Pacific University or Ilisagvuk College.

2018 UTDC Team—Anchorage, Alaska

Project Outputs and Activities include an annual cycle of Fall and Spring Teacher Trainings, a Summer Cohort Intensive, training in the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview assessment, all of which are designed to support rapid fluency attainment as well as gaining confidence in leading immersion language learning. Student teaching will occur during the Summer Cohort Intensive as well as during the planned Download Camps.

So far, twelve students have applied for the program and have been accepted. In late November and early December, three, 10-day Fall workshops were held in Anchorage, Atka, and St. Paul Island.

In 2020, three 10-day Spring workshops were planned to be held in April and early May. A Summer Language Intensive (SLI), that has yet to be canceled, was planned in Anchorage and St. Paul. This, and the Teacher Trainings, are intended to prepare the Cohort to host an Unangam Tunuu Download Camp (UTDC) in Unalaska at the end of July 2020. This now may not be possible due to the delay.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, several activities were delayed. In April and May of 2020, on account of travel restrictions, the scheduled Spring Teacher Trainings were not completed. Due to this delay, all following activities, the SLI and UTDC, have been postponed because each activity builds upon each other.

Thankfully, APIA has been working diligently with ANA to make sure all activities still occur. Now the activities will be taking place in a fourth year carry-over. While the pandemic has created hardships to travel and group activities, we have found solutions that will work out in the long run.

VIRTUAL UNANGAM TUNUU RESOURCES

Due to the need to physically distance during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Cultural Heritage Department (CHD) has been using technology to help keep the language program moving forward. Please see below for information about how we are sharing Unangam tunuu and how you can access these resources. As always, you may contact us anytime at unangamtunuu@apiai.org if you have questions.

Live Unangam Tunuu Virtual Lessons

Interested in learning Unangam tunuu (the Aleut language)? Cultural Heritage Staff are available to conduct virtual lessons via Zoom! These lessons can be made available in either the Eastern or Atkan dialect and are run by Unangam tunuu student teachers. We also have Fluent speakers when available!

If you are interested, please reach out to us via e-mail at unangamtunuu@apiai.org. We can arrange a lesson in your requested dialect and your appropriate learning level. We encourage everyone, at any level, to join us and continue to learn our language!

UHLA.info Archive Did you know that the Cultural Heritage Department manages the Unangax Heritage Library and Archive (UHLA)? We have been doing some behind the scenes work so we can make more audio recordings available to the public. We have also created a new website with a platform that allows us to publish some of our cultural content online through our new library website: UHLA.info

Currently, there are two collections. One that focuses on Unangam tunuu recordings and one that focuses on the Unangax iqyax. These are both works in progress and will continue to be updated. Many recordings have been uploaded and are available to be used now!

We plan to work more in the future on collections and projects by request of communities. If you are interested in other community specific collections, please get in contact with us about your interest.

Unangam Tunuu Word of the Week Many of you probably remember the Unangam Tunuu Word of the Week (UTWOW) sponsored by APIA for many years. It was distributed via email and posted on Aleut-L weekly from 2002—2013. It's been over seven years since they have been distributed on a regular basis.

Now that the Cultural Heritage Department has grown, staff have been working to develop a new format to bring UTWOW back! Using modern software programs, UTWOW is being re-created as videos which will be posted *weekly* on APIA's Facebook page and our website at apiai.org under the "Our Culture" tab. Be advised, the UTWOW will no longer be sent by email. Please be sure to visit APIA's facebook page and our website to view the Unangam Tunuu Word of the Week!

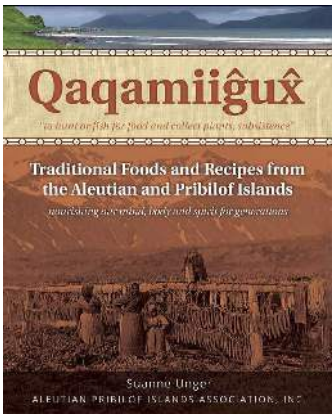
PUBLICATIONS AND APPAREL FOR SALE!

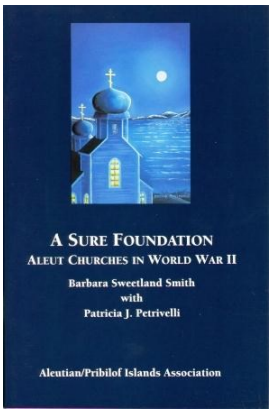
Order Online!

Visit APIA's website at **http://www.apiai.org** to order these publications, apparel (and more!) 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 us at (907) 276-2700. **Prices do not include shipping & handling**

Grey and Black APIA Hoodies
Embroidered with the new APIA logo and the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands on the right sleeve
$45.00

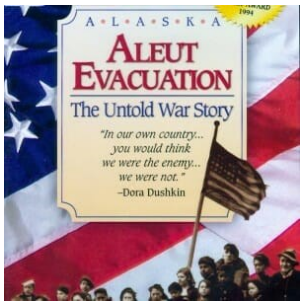
Qaqamiiguŝ
Traditional Foods and Recipes from the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands
by Suanne Unger (Hardbound)
$55.00





Aleut Evacuation
The Untold War Story
DVD

$19.95



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

APIA

ALEUTIAN PRIBILOF ISLANDS ASSOCIATION

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 Unangax̂[2] community;
- To promote, strengthen, and ensure the unity of the Unangan/Unangas; and
- To strengthen and preserve the Unangax̂ cultural heritage.

[1]Unangan [Eastern dialect], Unangas [Atka Dialect] - Aleuts, plural form; [2]Unangax̂ - Aleut, singular form

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