Winter 2020/2021
Volume 51

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc.
With Spirit and Strength

AANG ANĜAGIN
AANG ANĜAGINAS

SHARING FOOD AND ENHANCING PARTNERSHIPS

The Akutan Corporation and the St. George Tanaq Corporation both have something that most other Tribal entities do not have and find difficult to get: fresh meat! Akutan Corp owns a herd of cattle on Akun Island and Tanaq Corp owns a herd of Reindeer.

Under the planning of VPSO Sgt. Monte Chitty of Akutan and VPSO Joseph Chitty of St. George, there has been a planned meat exchange between the two tribal entities. The plan originated from VPSO Sgt. Monte Chitty planning to visit his son in St. George to go hunting for a reindeer. Monte had shared with a few people in Akutan his plan to visit his son and hunt and some expressed how they would enjoy some reindeer meat themselves. That sparked the idea of an exchange.

Monte began by making the contact with the two Corporations. He suggested that it be a 500lb exchange of beef for reindeer. Both villages seemed to be really excited about the idea. Then came the matter of the logistics. Monte planned to harvest two bulls from Akun fully process package and freeze the meat prior to going to St.George. Planning and proper timing is very important for the meat. There is hanging to age the beef, while temperature must be carefully observed, processing, and packaging. Most people don't realize how many vacuum seal bags it takes to package 1000lbs of meat!

Then there's the problem of storing the meat until shipping, how do you ship it, etc.? Trident Seafood's agreed to store the beef until time of travel in their huge factory freezer.

Monte worked with Grant to assist with the cost of transporting the 500lbs of meat each direction.

Getting the first bull harvested was the easy part. Monte and Richard Stepetin went to Akun in the Akutan Corp Skiff and in 3 hours they were able to complete the round trip, harvest the bull and transport it back to Akutan. Then the meat was hung in a protected shed where the temperature was monitored. God blessed them and everything worked out just right. After four days of hanging and another four days of processing, this proved to be a lot of hard work. The first bull of the exchange is now in the freezer cut and packaged in 1.5lb packages.

One more bull to go, then the trip to St. George and it all starts over!

~INSIDE~

President's Message 2
Youth Services 7
Artist Highlight: Teresa Smith 8
Unangax̂ Paint Night 9
Aleut Assurance 9
Behavioral Health Services 10
Head Start Program 11
Iqyax̂ & Banya Build in Unalaska 11
Recommended Reading 12
Clinic Projects 12
ANTHC Regional Liason 13
COVID Vaccine Update 14
Honoring Unangax̂ Soldiers 16
Different ways to support APIA 17
Unangax̂ Village of Cold Bay 17
NAAF Program Scholarships Available 18
APIA Board of Directors 20

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dimitri Philemonof, President/CEO

This has been a unique year to say the least. The APIA staff and management have worked very hard to continue providing services to the region and our people while navigating the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope you all have come through the year healthy and safe.

COVID-19 Response Update

The virus became a world pandemic on March 11th and the president mandated a 15-day national shutdown on March 16th. Since that time, we have been following local mandates with several office closures and our staff working with some time on site and tele-work status. Our clinics have remained open for health care services during this time. We offer services via video and telephone platforms. All our clinics have rapid testing available. Our staff are making check-in calls to Elders and other patients. Our VPSOs are serving a front-line role in the health screening of those traveling to their communities. Feel free to reach out to Jessica Mata Rukovishnikoff for further detail on our clinics. You may check the top of our website for the webpage link named "APIA Cares: Stay Safe" for general information about our operations, see some engaging graphics on handwashing, wearing masks, and social separation. We will keep the page current as we continue to move through this time.

Anchorage Office COVID Case Protocols

We continue to monitor the spread of the virus and make necessary adjustments to our operations. Following the CDC guidelines, we put protocols in place to ensure the safety of our staff and clients. These include testing, monitoring symptoms, re-testing, contact tracing and in some cases, brief office closures.

Since September 1st, we have had 12 employees noted as close contacts to positive cases. So far, all but two have successfully completed their 14 -day quarantine period and are now back to work. We have had seven employees test positive. Five have completed the self-isolation period, tested negative and returned to work. The other two staff are currently in self-isolation period and must retest negative before coming to work. Our office hours continue as normal 8a – 4:30p Monday through Friday.

In addition to on site and/or tele-work schedules; staff are staggering shifts to assist with social distancing. Contacts with clients, vendors and meetings continue to be done telephonically.

Funding Update The president signed a continuing resolution effective through December 11th. We have closed out our FY 2020 grants. Our rates for FY 2021 are lower than the FY 2020 rates, which is in line with the pattern over the past several years. This is primarily a function of keeping our administrative costs stable while growing the number of grants and programs we manage. We have been able to use COVID funds to purchase vehicles including new trucks for the health clinics in Atka and Unalaska. Since the start of the pandemic, we have been able to secure many new grants. We have 26 different COVID funding for a total of $6,465,523. We also were awarded 8 other non-COVID grants for a total of $5,322,357. The total new funding awarded this year is $11,787,880. Our draft financials

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

for FY20 are showing total expenditures of just over $21M. Our estimated program expenditures for FY21 is expected to be about $25-$26M. With the additional funding, the FY20 amount is nearly the highest in 10 years and FY21 is expected to be even higher.

St. George Tribal Representative
Chris Merculief called to let me know that he would not be running for the St. George Tribal Council this year. Later, I spoke with Chris and Sally when she stated she was also resigning as the Administrator for the Tribe. They want to live in Anchorage to be close to their children and grandchildren. Chris served as our Vice Chair and our Board Health Committee Chair. We thank Chris for his 16 years of service on the Board. The St. George Tribe appointed Mark Merculief Jr. as the St. George Representative for the APIA Board. We welcome Mark to the Board!

Qawalangin Tribal Representative
Chris Price, with the Qawalangin Tribe, notified us that Blaine Shaishnikoff is their new representative on the APIA Board. We thank Harriet Berikoff for her eight years of service and we welcome Blaine to the Board.

GCI – Alaska United - Aleutian Fiber Project On October 15, GCI hosted a teleconference announcing its award of a $25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's ReConnect program. This is in support of GCI's Alaska United -Aleutians Fiber Project, which will provide terrestrial broadband service for the first time to Unalaska/Dutch Harbor and the communities of: King Cove, Sand Point, Akutan, Chignik Bay and Larsen Bay. The project plans to be substantially complete and in service by the end of 2022. The total cost of the project is approximately $58 million. GCI will invest $33 million of its own capital to pay for project costs not covered by the USDA ReConnect grant. The AU-Aleutians Fiber Project will dramatically improve the delivery of a wide range of services of critical importance to business, government, education, and healthcare. Speakers on the call were GCI CEO Ron Duncan, GCI President and COO Greg Chapados, and special guests including City of Unalaska Mayor Vincent Tutiakof, U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan, State Representative Edgmon, as well as recognition of State Senator Hoffman's supportive efforts. We have been working alongside others, including the A-Team, on this project. We have shared the critical need of increased broadband capacity and speed to our U.S. Delegation and State Legislature. It is so nice to see this project coming to fruition.

USDA Regional Food Systems Partnership Grant We have received two years of funding for $250,000 from the USDA Regional Food Systems Partnerships Program to address food security in the region. The overarching goals of this project are to get a clear understanding of the local food systems throughout the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Region; then to begin planning and designing a regional food system through local and regional partnerships. Year one will focus on developing and/or adapting food system assessment tools in a collaborative effort between Tribal partners and the Project Team. Year two will focus on completing community visits, analyzing results from the local food system assessment, as well as producing and disseminating assessment reports. In addition, APIA will convene Tribal partners and key stakeholders for a regional gathering to disseminate

Continued on page 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

assessment findings, identify partnership opportunities, and identify priorities and avenues of sustainability for a regional food system. The project team had their first meeting on October 22. If you have any questions about this program, please feel free to reach out to Sue Unger.

Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Grant We received an award for a $3,000,000 5-year grant. This project is a collaborative effort between our Department of Family and Community Development (DFCD), Cultural Heritage Department (CHD) and integrated Health Departments (HD). This grant will expand victim services through the integration of cultural activities. This includes travel funds for those in the region to attend regional culture camps, culture camp instructor salaries, instructor travel costs to teach at camps in the region, culture camp supplies, the implementation of a new culture camp in Cold Bay, the development of culturally responsive media (videos, brochures, etc.), USAFV (Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault and Family Violence) victim shelter (salary, training, and a new security system), VPSO training and seven sub-awards of $10,000 per year to 12 tribes to support tribal community efforts for victim related services. Tribes may use funds to conduct cultural activities, including culture camp, purchase supplies for cultural activities, fees and travel costs for facilitators, traditional healers, or leaders to conduct talking circles or presentations in your community or travel to attend an Office of Victim Services approved training. If you want to learn more about this grant, please feel free to reach out to Millie McKeown directly.

Violence Against Women Grant We received an award through the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office on Violence Against Women for $880,702.00 over three years. Communities served will be Anchorage, Unalaska, St. George, Nikolski, Atka and the Belkofski tribal members of King Cove. This funding will be used to provide advocacy services for women experiencing/have experienced domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual assault, human and sex trafficking, and families of missing/ murdered indigenous women; become regional contact for NamUS entries for missing and unidentified tribal persons; provide outreach and awareness to communities on the topics and resources for violent crimes against women; provide counseling services to survivors of violent crime; incorporate cultural and traditional healing practices; increase tribal capacity to respond to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and stalking crimes against American Indian/ Alaska Native women. If you want to learn more about this program, please feel free to reach out to Jessie Kitamura.

Elder Exercise Program *Go4Life* in Unalaska In partnership with the City of Unalaska, Parks, Culture and Recreation department we developed home exercise kits for participants of the Elder exercise program, *Go4life*, that was previously held at the Senior Center. In an effort to adapt to the current COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing recommendations, the home exercise kits allow Elders to continue to exercise while the group sessions are on hold.

New Elder Meal Program Vehicle Sent to St. George We were awarded funding through Meals on Wheels to purchase a new vehicle for the Elder Meal Program in St. George. A 2020 Ford Edge was shipped on the barge from

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Anchorage to Dutch Harbor on October 13th in an effort to make it onto another barge headed to St. George on October 15th. This new vehicle is vital in helping deliver meals to homebound Elders, providing Elder transportation to and from the meal program and other necessary transports around town as well as support the Elder meal program cook with transporting shipments of supplies as they come in.

St. George Clinic Renovation Project We are moving along with the St. George Clinic renovation project. During this time, the City of St. George has allowed us to set up a temporary Clinic Site at the school building. Through the Aleutian Housing Authority, we were able to lease two housing units for the construction crew. The initial HRSA funding for this project was $1,000,000, however we added sewer and other items beyond the scope of what our grant provided. We applied for additional funds and were awarded $288,424 from Denali Commission and HRSA is allowing us to allocate about $138,000 under the HRSA COVID funds. The move from the existing clinic to the St. George School was completed in October. Fred Bauer, Chief Information Officer was on island to ensure internet and phone access at the temporary school site.

Atka Pandemic Readiness Quarantine Shelter We received a $2.89 Million COVID response award from the CDC and have received approval to use $1.88 Million of that award towards the construction of a Pandemic Readiness Quarantine Shelter in Atka. We are working closely with the Atka Tribal Council and the City of Atka on this project. We are working with the clinic contractor to construct both the clinic and the shelter in the same area at the same time – money saved! This is great news for both projects moving forward in 2021.

Unalaska Head Start Duration Grant Update The design was completed and we released an invitation to bid for construction companies on October 23rd. A pre-bid meeting was held November 13th. There were 15 construction companies on the call. The Office of Head Start verbally approved to extend our grant to December 31, 2021 so we will have plenty of time to complete the project. I thank Charles, Mark and Trina for working with me on the site selection portion of this project. Paula has done very well as we moved into planning, design and construction phases of this project. Thank you also to Ken Selby who continues to work with us on this project as a consultant.

Cultural Heritage – Virtual Art Classes Our Cultural Heritage Director Millie McKeown, and her staff have designed and implemented APIA's first virtual cultural art classes. We hosted five Model Iqyax̂ classes taught by Teresa Smith and seven Virtual Unangax̂ Paint Nights taught by Danielle Larsen. The feedback has been very positive. Millie and her staff continue planning more of these virtual classes. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook for upcoming classes!

Christmas and Elder Donations to Tribes *Tribal Christmas Donations* – In late October, we sent $3,000 to Tribes for our annual Christmas donation. We hope that it was received by them in time to plan for the holidays. *Tribal Elder Services Donations* – Also included was $2,000 as an Elder Services donation. We hope this helped Tribes offer something more for their elders during this time.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Board Tenure Recognition Thank you to all of our Board Members for their years of dedicated service!

Zenia Borenin	31 years
Mark Snigaroff	30 years
Leona Nelson	21 years
David Osterback	20 years
Arnold Dushkin	17 years
Delores Kochuten	17 years
Etta Kuzakin	8 years
Hillary Smith	6 years
William Shellikoff Jr.	6 years
Amos Philemonoff	6 years
Amy Foster	3 years

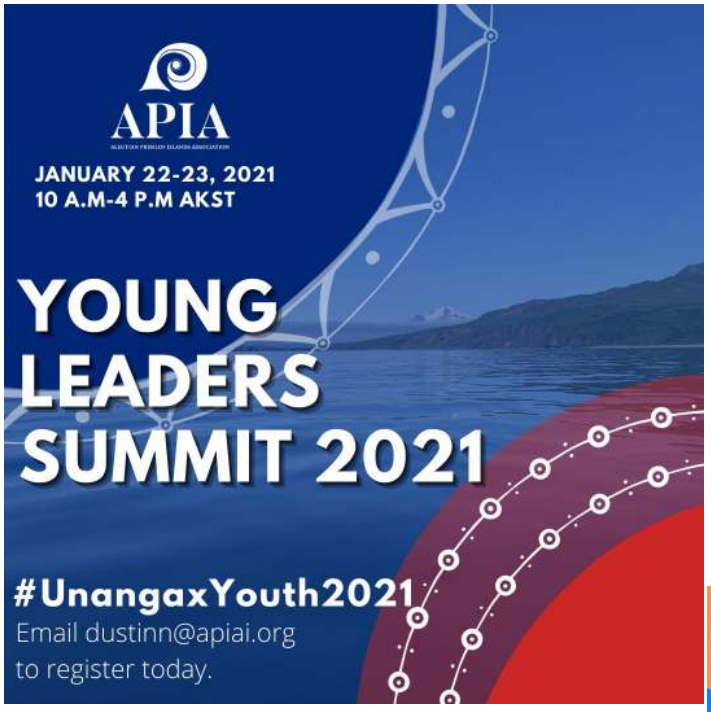
This has been a challenging year for us all. I thank the Board for all their support during this prolonged unique time. I thank my managers and staff for their resilience and commitment to continue service to the region and our people. We appreciate those we serve being flexible as we had to shift to tele-service. We are hopeful we will be able to ***see*** you all again in the coming year. May God be with you all. We wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Xristuusax̂ Aĝakux̂!
Christ is Born!

Amchuux̂txichin!
Glorify Him!

Slum Tagadagan Qaĝataa!
Happy New Year!

YOUTH SERVICES



APIA will be hosting a Young Leaders Summit! The Summit will be held virtually January 22-23, 2021 from 10am — 4pm.

If you have any questions or if you would like to register, please email Dustin Newman, Youth Services Coordinator at dustinn@apiai.org.

TERESA MODELING APIA'S LOGO MASK

"Thank you APIA. Qaĝaasakuq!"

"Huzux itx̂alangis kaanguu ngaan wan sagima chugayuu chux̂takus asal qangim qinganaa nanaa ngaan ilax̂tii iĝamnakux̂."

"We all wear this face cover for each others wellness, also for cold, winter, snow & hail." Teresa Prokopeuff of Atka, Alaska

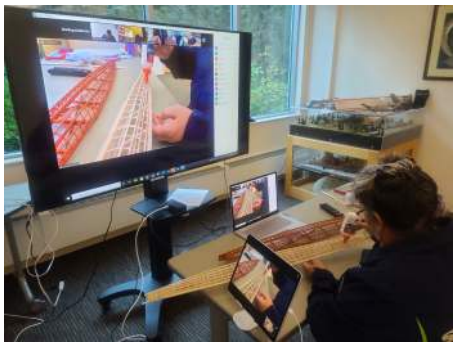
Artist Highlight—Teresa Smith

Teresa Smith was born to Kenneth Smith Sr. and Mary (Darling) Shellikoff. She was raised in False Pass, Alaska and currently resides in Anchorage, Alaska. She began making artwork around the age of 12, learning to bead from her mentor, Bee Redwoman in False Pass. Teresa crafts unique hand-made jewelry and art made from baleen, ivory, bone, stone, antler, driftwood and shells. She collects many of the items used in her jewelry and art while beachcombing in the Aleutians. Most of the work she does today has been self-taught. Teresa grew up subsistence hunting and gathering and never used a cookbook. Recipes from her family and Elders are memorized and prepared regularly.

Teresa attended Northern Arizona University and received a BA in Fine Art. Following her graduation, Teresa returned to False Pass and focused on commercial fishing. Upon the birth of her first child she began to focus on artwork as a career. As she raised six daughters, Teresa has used her artwork to support her and her family. Her artwork continues to change and adapt over the years.

Teresa is well-known in the Unangax̂ (Aleut) community. You may have seen her selling her art and jewelry at The Aleut Corporation annual shareholders meetings or the Aleut Villages Conferences over the past 20 years. She can also be found at AFN, WEIO, Alaska Native Heritage Center Holiday Bazar, Charlotte Jensen Native Arts Market and many other Alaska Native art venues.

Teresa has also been an instructor at APIA's Urban Unangax̂ Culture Camp since its inception in 2008. She has taught antler carving, model kayaks, and traditional foods. Teresa has also taught at the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Culture Camp, the King Cove Culture Camp and has also taught model iqyax construction at the Cook Inlet Native Head Start, Alaska Native Charter School, and Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program.



Most recently, Teresa is teaching APIA's first ever virtual class! Teresa created model iqyax kits that were mailed out to participants living in Anchorage, the Aleutian region, and lower 48. All participants were able to complete their projects and learn more about the Unangax̂ model kayak. We hope to host more virtual classes with Teresa in the future! Keep an eye out on our website and Facebook for future classes.

If you are interested in purchasing any of her jewelry, artwork or if you have questions, you can contact her at smithteresamae@gmail.com.

UNANGAX PAINT NIGHT WITH DANIELLE LARSEN

In addition to the virtual model iqyax classes, the Cultural Heritage Department has also developed a virtual Unangax̂ Paint Night class with Danielle Larsen! Danielle has taught Youth and Child Art classes at APIA's Urban Unangax Culrture Camp. Several of our employees attended Danielle's first painting class and worked out the technology bugs. Since then, Danielle has instructed several Unangax̂ Paint Nights. We provide the canvas, paint and brushes and the instruction occurs over Zoom. Students have thoroughly enjoyed Danielle's instruction and artistic talents. Some who have never painted, or have not painted for years, have had amazing art completed in less than three hours! Some participants have even had their children join the classes and their paintings have been awesome! Some participants have found Danielle's instruction style very comforting and therapeutic. Subjects have included Alaska brown bear, the tufted puffin and the raven. Outside agencies such as the US Fish and Wildlife's Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge have been very impressed with Danielle's classes and have made a donation to support the classes! Thank you Marianne Alpin & USFWS! We are fortunate to have Danielle as a part of our team!

ALEUT ASSURANCE: ALZHEIMER'S & DEMENTIA SUPPORT FOR UNANGAN FAMILIES

Elder Care Services Begins Work on Alzheimer and Related Dementia Network Program The Elder Care Team has been awarded a 3-year grant through the Administration on Community Living/ Administration on Aging (ACL/AOA) to begin work on Alzheimer and related dementia programming. The purpose of the program, Aleut Assurance: Alzheimer's and Dementia Support for Unangan Families, is to support the implementation of a dementia-capable home and community-based network of services by providing one Elder Community Health Aide (ECHA) in the communities of Atka, Nikolski, St. George, Anchorage and Belkofski (King Cove). This project will increase the availability of dementia care services, increase awareness of these services, and improve dementia-care services infrastructure in coordination with our 8 new partners on the project.

Behavioral Health Services

We have expanded our Behavioral Health Services! We are taking precautionary measures to slow the spread of COVID and we have telehealth services available. We provide a wide range of therapy services from brief counseling to case management for mild, moderate or severe mental health illnesses. Our clinicians specialize in trauma-informed and trauma-focused practices, early childhood intervention, intervention with older children and adolescents and family intervention. This winter, we have groups running to support individuals with chronic pain, seasonal affect struggles and those feeling the burdens related to COVID-19. We continue to offer an expressive arts therapy group and evidence-based recovery groups. This is a very difficult time physically and mentally for all but please remember, we are in this together. If you or anybody you know needs supports during this time, please reach out to us. Visit our website for a full list of services at www.apiai.org.

HEAD START PROGRAM

We are one of a handful of organizations across the nation who opened Head Start for in-class instruction this year. Through strict adherence to our COVID Protocols, reduced in-class hours and the distribution of tablets for at-home learning, we have been doing our part to prevent the spread of the virus.

We have been working to operate Head Start programming as close to normal as possible. Cultural education is part of our Head Start Curriculum.

In the Qaqamiigux berries unit, children learn about the different kinds of traditional foods in Alaska and one of them is berries. In connection with this, the children had their first trip to Pyramid to pick some blueberries! We are grateful to the Qawalangin Tribe team, led by Wellness Coordinator Kate Arduser, for accompanying Head Start on that day! Ms. Arduser shared knowledge about the different kinds of berries and their nutritional content. The children and staff had so much fun!

In the Qaqamiigux fish unit, we used silver salmon caught by Tim and Marie Schliebe. Another fun part of the Qaqamiigux fish unit is painting the fish and making imprints of them on paper!

Construction Activities We have a new playground at our Sand Point Head Start!

We are planning for a new King Cove playground and the new Unalaska facility project will be starting up soon!

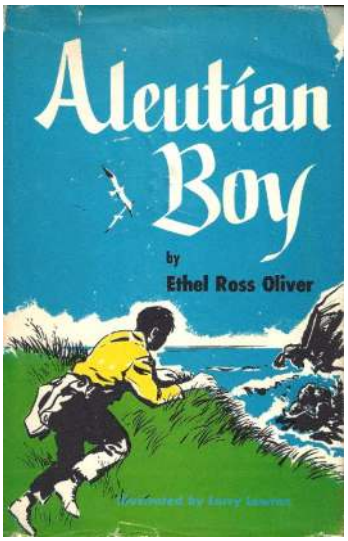
Thank you for your continued support of our program!

IQYAX AND BANYA BUILD IN UNALASKA

APIA's Youth Services Program partnered with the Qawalangin Tribe and KUCB this Fall to build and document the construction of an iqyax and banya in Unalaska. Here is the link to the story by KUCB: https://tinyurl.com/y6w2vk4p

If you have any questions about this current project or if you are interested in our Youth Services programming in general, please contact Amy Carlough, Youth Program Services Administrator at (907)222-4242 or email: amyc@ apiai.org.

Recommended Reading: Aleutian Boy



Aleutian Boy by Ethel Ross Oliver

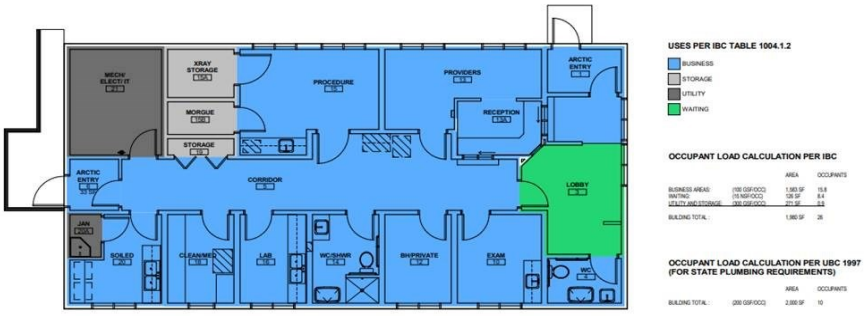
Highly recommended reading is "Aleutian Boy" by Ethel Ross Oliver (1959). This great book is a classic of Unangax̂ literature, a must-read for those who want to be inspired by ancient ways. The star of the book is Alexei, a 15-year old Aleut boy and the grandson of the Chief of Atka. Robert, the 15-year old son of the school teacher, flies to Atka for the summer. On a nice summer day, Alexei and Robert grab their fishing gear and jump into a skiff in search of adventure. The weather changes, they lose the skiff, and the boys end up marooned on Amlia Island close to an ancient site. Do the boys survive? How do they build shelter to get out of the wind and rain? Where do they find food? If the boys are to make it back to civilization, how will they cross the ocean passes without a boat? To find out how this exciting adventure ends, you will have to find a copy of one of the best Unangax̂ books written! Ethel Ross Oliver was married to Simeon "Nutchek" Oliver who was raised in the Jesse Lee Home in Unalaska with Peter Gordon Gould (founder of Alaska Pacific University) and Benny Benson (designer of the handsome Alaska State Flag). After Atka, they moved to Anchorage where Ethel gave presentations to children on KTVA Channel 11. Simeon served in the US Army during World War II and authored "Son of the Smoky Seas" and "Return to the Smoky Seas."

Clinic Projects

St. George Clinic Renovation Project We are pleased to report that the first crew landed in St. George on the 23rd of October and the materials barge arrived on Wednesday, October 28th. We are operating the clinic temporarily at the St. George School. We are anticipating to move back into the clinic at the end of February.

Atka Clinic Replacement Project We continue to work closely with the City of Atka, Julie Dirks, and their contractor, AHTNA Inc. on the design of the new Atka Clinic.

The plan is to have the barge arrive in Atka with the building materials this coming Spring. We are excited and have already ordered a new x-ray machine, reader, and other accessories. That equipment arrived in Atka via Coastal Transportation in early November. Construction scheduled to be completed by Fall of 2021.



HELEN BROWN: ANTHC REGIONAL LIAISON

We extend a "Congratulations" to Qawalangin Tribal member Helen Brown! Helen Brown has been hired as the new ANTHC Regional Liaison and will be based in Unalaska. Helen will be traveling to Anchorage for training and orientation and learn about resources available to support Tribal members for the APIA regional health communities .

Helen was born and raised in Unalaska and continues to be an active member in the community. She has raised four boys with her husband, Scott of 30 years, in Unalaska. Her past work history includes the Oonalashka Corporation, the Qawalangin Tribe, and APIA Head Start. When she saw the ANTHC Liaison position open, she knew she wanted to advocate for the Unangax̂ in the APIA region, and "get to know the people in the region, learn more about them, and help them get the resources they need."

ANTHC recognized the need to better support our partners by providing a local point of contact within the regions it serves. ANTHC's wide range of services can make it difficult for patients and a Tribal health organization to navigate. Regional liaisons enhance the knowledge of services available and improve specialty care referrals between Alaska regions and the Alaska Native Medical Center. The Health Department met with ANTHC and decided to move forward. They had completed face to face interviews in Unalaska in February of 2020. However, COVID put everything on hold. Both teams were happy to move forward with hiring Helen.

Patients often have questions regarding their reservations for travel and housing arrangements or scheduled clinic and diagnostic appointments at ANMC. Helen will have the ability to view these schedules and work with case managers and patients should any of the arrangements need to be changed. Additionally, after the patient leaves ANMC, she can help ensure that staff members within the APIA regional health communities receive the correct information for follow-up care.

When Helen isn't advocating for people, you might find her out with family boating and fishing in the summer, hiking, doing what she loves, and that is being outdoors in the summertime. And you will also see her spending time with her grandchildren.

For those in the APIA regional health communities, Helen will be there to support patient needs between the region and ANTHC.

Congratulations Helen!

EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING &RELTED SERVICES (ETR)

ETR is accepting applications for Energy Assistance and other supports!

Contact Diane Rain at (907) 222-4225 or DianeR@apiai.org

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

December 23, 2020 First, the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association wish you all a safe and Happy Holiday season! We are happy to give this update to our Tribes and Communities on the COVID vaccine which arrived first in Unalaska on Tuesday, December 21, 2020. The OWC team is rolling out their 100 doses. St. George's vaccine was due to arrive yesterday, as well, however ACE cancelled. St. George will roll out their vaccinations as soon as ACE arrives.

Unalaska: Lottie Roll, CHP/Elder Care Specialist; giving Lori Jackson, Nurse Practitioner/Medical Director her first vaccine dose

As you are all aware, two COVID vaccines have been approved for distribution. Pfizer was approved on December 11, 2020 and Moderna was approved on December 18, 2020. After numerous meetings, it was decided that APIA, along with the majority of rural Alaska, will be going with the Moderna vaccine since the storage and handling for Moderna requires less and is more stable for shipping. Pfizer's storage and handling is extremely difficult and has to be kept at -70 to -90 degrees, which requires dry ice.

The Oonalaska Wellness Center is the allocation center for Unalaska, Atka, and Nikolski as they have the freezer and fridge to keep the vaccine stable. Phase 1a allotment includes 100 doses.

The St. George Health Center has its own allocation center as they have their own State required freezer, fridge and also because they have a direct flight from Anchorage to St. George. St. George will also receive 100 doses, enough for 50 people to receive both doses of full vaccinations in their Phase 1 allotment.

Initially, the vaccine will be available to people in these groups:

o Hospital-based front-line healthcare workers at highest risk for COVID-19 infection;

o Long-term care facility residents and staff (also includes Skilled Nursing Facilities),

o Assisted Living Homes, and Department of Corrections infirmaries providing care that is similar to assisted living;

o EMS/fire personnel providing emergency medical services;

o Community Health Aide/Practitioners (CHA/Ps); and

o Individuals who are required to perform vaccinations

We are following the allocation guidelines set out by the federal government and agreed upon through IHS and the State of Alaska.

Moderna Vaccine Information

On day one, you receive one dose and on day 28 you receive another dose (two doses total). Both doses are needed and necessary for full protection. It takes five to six weeks from the first dose and a second dose at day 28 to have a fully robust immune system against COVID-19. That is one to two weeks after the second dose.

Handling and storage are very

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

sensitive. Once a bottle of 10 doses is opened, it is to be discarded within six hours. Our goal is to not waste a single dose. This takes a lot of coordination and organization. We are asking for you, as a community member, to come in at your appointed time so not a single dose is wasted. We will give our very best and be available around the clock until all doses are used appropriately per allocation guidelines.

As with all vaccines, Moderna may come with side effects: redness and soreness at the site, as well you may see: fever, fatigue, headache, chills, myalgia (muscle pain), Arthralgia (joint Pain). A majority of this occurs in the first three days and usually dissipates in one to two days. More so noted in ages 18-55; not so much in those over the age of 55. Analgesic and antipyretics can be used to control these symptoms/effects.

You will not typically see a cough, shortness of breath, rhinorrhea (runny nose), or loss of taste or smell. That may be COVID (and you did not get that from the vaccine- you would have coincidently caught it out and around). Contact your provider if you have any concerns.

*Vsafe is an app for smart phones that CDC will utilize following vaccination for those who wish to participate. After each dose, they will ask you your symptoms for the following five to six days then they will touch base with you via text at three months, six months and 12 months.

We will continue to do our best to get each and every one who wants, vaccinated as they are made available to our communities. It may not be in the first allocation, or the next one, but be assured that we are advocating for our communities to be 100% vaccinated as soon as possible.

By continuing to follow CDC guidelines, even as they are updated, we will get through this. Masking, social distancing, hand sanitizing is still going to be very much a part of our world for the immediate future, even after vaccination.

From research, Clinical trials showed both vaccines were highly effective, about 94% or 95%. Both vaccines trigger side effects in a portion of people vaccinated.

The Emergency Use Authorization of Moderna on Friday marked the second COVID-19 vaccine cleared by the agency. This is one more step toward curbing the pandemic that has infected an estimated 17+ million people and killed more than 300,000+ in the United States.

How do they work? These vaccines use messenger RNA to instruct the body's cells to produce copies of the spike protein found on the exterior of the SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19. Those vaccine-induced proteins teach the immune system to recognize the coronavirus as an invader and attack it when an immunized person is exposed to the virus.

For more background on how decisions about who can get the vaccine are made, learn about the Alaska COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation Advisory Committee or view meeting summary. Reference: https://tinyurl.com/y85y3jum

Again, we wish you a safe and Happy Holiday season. Please contact Jessica Mata Rukovishnikoff, Primary Care Director, at jmataruko@apiai.org or 907-222-4265 with questions or concerns.

Honoring Unangax̂ Soldiers

Warrant Officer Uttecht proudly displaying his uniform

APIA's Cultural Heritage Department continues to work diligently to honor Unangax̂/Aleut soldiers. The granite US Army gravestone for Warrant Officer Michael R Uttecht Sr. (1916—1987) has been delivered to Cold Bay and will soon be placed. During WWII, Mike worked for combat intelligence and was stationed in Cold Bay, Attu Island, King Cove, Thin Point and Izembek Lagoon. He was awarded the World War II Victory Medal and the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal for his service. The large anchor on display at the City of Anchorage headquarters was retrieved from the shipwrecked Courtney Ford in Izembek Lagoon by Mike Uttecht.

We are awaiting the military records for Private George Fox (1920-1943). George Fox was born in Unga Village, raised in Unalaska, joined the US Army in 1941 and served in Italy where he was killed in action (KIA). Private Fox is likely the only Unangax̂/Aleut soldier KIA in WWII, yet his story remains largely unknown, his grave unmarked, and his name missing from WWII KIA and Purple Heart memorials.

Paperwork to honorably discharge Alaska Territorial Guard (ATG) soldiers Alexey Stepetin (St. Paul) and Peter Nielsen (Sanak) has been started. We are searching for relatives of the following ATG soldiers buried at Funter Bay: Serge Lekanof (St. George); Paul Nozekof (St. George); Afanasia Prokopiof (St. George) and Logan Mandregan (St. Paul). If you are related and willing to sign the paperwork, we can place orders for an ATG soldier patch, an ATG medal, a DD-214 and a US Army granite gravestone. Contact Dr. Mike Livingston at MikeL@apiai.org or leave your number at (907) 222-4224.

The Alaska State Defense Force (ASDF) - a subdivision of the State of Alaska and a direct descendant of the ATG—has recruited the first soldier in the APIA region, a resident of Cold Bay. Hundreds of Unangax̂/Aleut people stepped forward during World War II to defend Alaska from hostile invading forces. The Cultural Heritage Department assisted with locating names to honor over 273 Aleut Service Members of the Aleutians East at this site https://aleut.info/index-2.html many with photographs.

COVID Care Kits

APIA has been sending out COVID care kits and we plan to continue creating these kits for the region. So far, the following kits have been distributed: APIA Elder Kits, ANTHC CHAP Kits, APIA Employee Kits, APIA Patient Travel Kits, APIA Household Kits, APIA Fresh Produce, APIA Board Member Kits and APIA Provider Kits Selfcare Kits.

If you have any suggestions on what the kits should contain, please let us know!

DIFFERENT WAYS TO SUPPORT APIA

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Do You Shop on Amazon?

The AmazonSmile Foundation donates 5% of the purchase of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Proceeds benefit culture camps, language preservation, and elder and youth programs.

Follow these steps to support APIA:

- Follow this link: https://tinyurl.com/ybmkub5l
- Sign into your account (you must be signed in to **AmazonSmile** on your web browser. Donations cannot be made through the Amazon app)
- Shop & place your order
- Amazon donates 5% of your eligible purchases!

Do You Have a Fred Meyer Reward Card?

FredMeyer community rewards
Where shopping & giving unite

Help us earn donations while you shop! You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today.

- Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to **APIA** at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards.
- You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number **GV826**.
- Every time you shop and use your Fred Meyer Rewards Card, you are helping **APIA** earn a donation!

UNANGAX̂ VILLAGE OF COLD BAY

APIA's Cultural Heritage Department has been assisting Unangax̂/Aleut people in Cold Bay. Unangax̂ people have lived in the Cold Bay region for at least 10,000 years. Promyschlenniki (brutal sailors) in the 1760s went on extermination campaigns (Veniaminov, 1834), and the population dwindled. After the US purchased Alaska in 1867, harsh treatment of the Unangax̂/Aleut people continued. By 1941, the last Unangax̂/Aleuts were pushed out of Cold Bay so the US military could build the runway. In the 1960s, five Unangax̂/Aleut people lived in Cold Bay. Whereas some villages in the APIA region have dwindled in numbers, Cold Bay has grown. Today there are eight women, six men, and eight kids (total of 22) - a significant portion of the Cold Bay population. On December 9, 2019, the Unangax̂ Village of Cold Bay incorporated with the State of Alaska as a non-profit organization. The mission includes, "To advocate for the safety, well-being, and prosperity of the Unangax̂/Aleut people residing in Cold Bay, Alaska. To celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Unangax̂/Aleut people… To promote traditional Unangax̂ subsistence lifestyle, art, language, customs, and public performances. To foster public education about the complex Unangax̂ history…." Founders are Candace Nielsen, Daily Schaack, and Dr. Michael Livingston. On May 1, 2020, the IRS granted non-profit status. In the near future, the Unangax̂ Village of Cold Bay may serve as a welcoming center and hub for other Unangax̂ villages.

Pavlof Volcano and Cold Bay

NAAF Program Scholarships Available

Native American Agriculture Foundation (NAAF) Program is Set to Provide Scholarships within the Region The Elder Care Services team was awarded a NAAF award to support the education, interest and growth of local gardeners and producers. This program will provide five scholarships to individuals who are interested in attending the Master Gardeners course through the University of Alaska Fairbanks who reside in the following communities: Unalaska, Atka, St. George and Nikolski Additionally, this project will provide one scholarship to an individual from those communities who are interested in attending the Alaska Seaweed Farm Start-ups Training Program. Contact Mikayla Clarke: MikaylaC@apiai.org

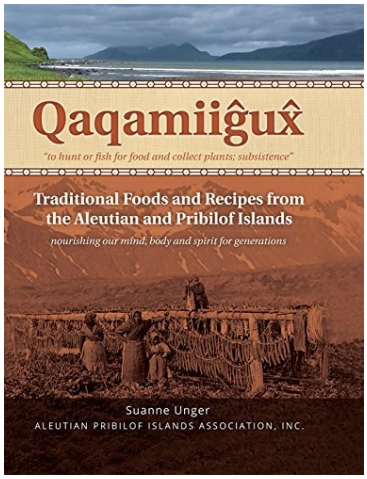
PUBLICATIONS AND APPAREL FOR SALE!

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**

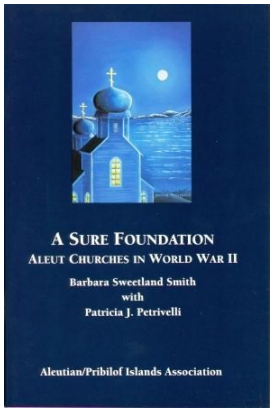
Limited Sizes and Quantity Available

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



****DIGITAL COPY ONLY****
Qaqamiigux: Traditional Foods and Recipies from the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands
By Suanne Unger
$9.99
Search on Amazon or visit:
https://tinyurl.com/yywpjq8l

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

ALEUTIAN PRIBILOF ISLANDS ASSOCIATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Snigaroff, Chair—Atka IRA Council

David Osterback, Vice Chair—Qagan Tayagungin Tribe of Sand Point

Amos Philemonoff, Sgt. At Arms—Tribal Government of St. Paul Island

Zenia Borenin, Secretary/Treasurer—Akutan Tribal Council

Etta Kuzakin, Director—Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove

Delores Kochuten, Director—Belkofski Village Council

William Shellikoff, Jr., Director—False Pass Tribal Council

Leona Nelson, Director—Nelson Lagoon Tribal Council

Arnold Dushkin, Director—Nikolski IRA Council

Hillary Smith, Director—Pauloff Harbor Tribe

Blaine Shaishnikoff, Director—Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska

Mark Merculief, Jr., Director—St. George Traditional Council

Amy Foster, Director—Unga Tribal Council