Alaska Women's Hall of Fame
Sixth Annual Induction Ceremony
Honoring 20[illegible]s

Friday, F[illegible]

Wilda Marston T[illegible]

Doors open 5:30 [illegible]

ALASKA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME
Nominations now open
NOMINATE A WOMAN
to the
ALASKA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME
for the class of 2015
NOMINATIONS CLOSE
NOV 1, 2014 11:59 p.m.
For more information go to
www.alaskawomenshalloffame.org

Sinrock Mary, reindeer herder

Sisters of Providence, nurses

Ruth Jefford, aviator

Kay Fanning, newspaper publisher

Leonie von Zesch, dentist

THELMA BUCHHOLDT • ELIZABETH PERATROVICH • MAHALA ASHLEY DICKERSON • ROSITA WORL • JO RYMAN SCOTT • LAEL MORGAN • WILDA MARSTON • SUSAN BUTCHER • CAROL COMEAU • RUTH MOULTON • TAY THOMAS • PEG TILESTON • BETSY ANN TOWER • KIT CRITTENDEN • LANIE FLEISCHER • BETTI CUDDY • NORA MARKS DAUENHAUER • BETTYE DAVIS • CAROLINE WOHLFORTH • NEVA EGAN • DIDDY HITCHINS • LUCY FREY • LORENE HARRISON • EVANGELINE ATWOOD • CELIA HUNTER • JEWEL JONES • FRAN ULMER • and more on page 7

www.alaskawomenshalloffame.org

The Alaska Women's Hall of Fame is supported by donations. We encourage you to assist us with the cost of the production and maintenance of the web site, outreach efforts to solicit nominations and the induction ceremony. We are grateful for the contributions of the following individuals, businesses and organizations.

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THE MISSION of the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame is to honor, in perpetuity, women whose contributions have influenced the direction of Alaska in their community or the state in any field, including, but not limited to the arts, athletics, business, community service, conservation, education, government, health, the humanities, Native affairs, philanthropy, politics, theology and science, among others.

The Alaska Women's Hall of Fame is a collaborative project of the Zonta Club of Anchorage, the Alaska Women's Network, YWCA Anchorage, the Alaska Women for Political Action, the Anchorage Women's Commission, the University of Alaska Anchorage and a large number of interested Alaska women. Together, they have created a place to remember and embrace the strong Alaska women who came before us and walk beside us today.

2015 REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS

People from across the state and the country are invited to nominate a woman to be considered for the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame by going the website at:

www.alaskawomenshalloffame.org

Please click on the "Nominate a Woman" tab, read the criteria and instructions, then go to "Click here for the 2015 Nomination Form", answer the questions about your candidate and submit the nomination electronically. Nominations for 2015 must be submitted by Nov. 1, 2014. Nominees may be living or deceased and must have lived in Alaska at some point in her life. If a nominee is living, she must be at least 65 years of age as of Nov. 1, 2014.

www.alaskawomenshalloffame.org

Eleanor Andrews

1944 -
Achievement in:
Civic Entrepreneurship

Eleanor Andrews has been building the human capacity of Alaska for nearly five decades. She has flourished in careers in both the private and public sectors, but is most widely known as a "civic entrepreneur" – a person who inspires institutions, businesses and individuals to invest in their community while they excel in their work.

Andrews led others to understand that quality schools, affordable housing, accessible economic opportunities and safe neighborhoods are good business and lead to a just and fair city and state. She has given of her own time, money and talents for decades, but has also inspired and cajoled an army of others to participate in advancing our communities.

Professionally, Andrews owned a successful management company for 20 years and employed thousands of people. She guided human resource public policy for the state as the Commissioner of Administration and for Anchorage as the Director of Human Resources for the Municipality.

Andrews has lived in Alaska since 1965, arriving in Fairbanks as a young college student from Los Angeles. She worked as a counselor at McLaughlin Youth Center and as an employee representative for the Alaska Public Employees Association and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. These experiences assisted her when she was appointed the Director of Human Resources for the Municipality of Anchorage.

In 1982 Andrews accepted an appointment to work for the State of Alaska as the Deputy and then Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Administration. Advocacy for fairness in access to employment, a living wage and safe working conditions have been principles that have guided Andrews throughout her career.

When Andrews completed her public service, she developed the Andrews Group, a successful Alaska management services company, which was engaged in U.S. government service contracting across the United States.

Andrews never forgot the stories about the pain of discrimination her parents experienced growing up in the south in the 1930s. When she was a girl her father told her she could accomplish whatever she could imagine.

In junior high, she organized a student boycott of poor cafeteria food until the quality measured up to other public schools in the district. The principal threatened to suspend her for being a "militant." The injustice of being reprimanded by an authority figure for standing up for her rights has remained a life lesson. She has consistently raised her voice in opposition to injustice her entire life.

Read more about Eleanor Andrews' accomplishments and honors at the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame website.

Jane Ruth Angvik

1948 -
Achievement in:
Community Development & Collaboration

Jane Angvik has lived in Alaska for 40 years, bringing people together to create better, more open and inclusive communities.

She learned that when peoples' values are solicited and heard, government decision-making is enhanced and trust is possible. She believes when people are empowered to participate, they take personal responsibility to create community. When communities become "we" instead of "them and us," society is strengthened.

Angvik was raised with four siblings by a conservative Norwegian, Republican father and a liberal Irish, Democratic mother. Political discourse was learned at the family dinner table. She grew up hearing an issue respectfully debated from at least two points of view each night.

Her parents told her that, with hard work and education, she and her siblings could accomplish whatever they dreamed of. Giving back to the community was a practice she observed regularly in her mother. Her father advised her to be verbally persuasive and not emotional when expressing a point of view, a lesson she took to heart.

Angvik came to Alaska in the early 1970s and at age 26, was elected to serve on the Anchorage Charter Commission, unifying the city and borough into the Municipality of Anchorage.

Angvik has worked for state and local government, Native organizations, nonprofit organizations and consulting firms. She has assisted communities across Alaska in planning their infrastructure and long-range economic strategies. She is a skilled communicator and strategist who brings people together to solve problems. Angvik was elected to the Anchorage Municipal Assembly in 1979 and served six years, the first woman elected Chair of the Assembly. In 1986, Angvik was a candidate for Lieutenant Governor in Alaska's Democratic primary. Although an Anchorage resident, she was well known politically in rural Alaska.

Angvik was recruited as the Deputy and then the Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Economic Development. Under the Knowles administration, she was appointed the Director of the Division of Land for the Department of Natural Resources.

Active in the Alaska Women's Political Caucus, she has trained hundreds of women candidates in fundraising and managing political campaigns. She also served on the boards of the Girl Scouts of Alaska, STAR and AWAIC.

Angvik is joyfully married to Vic Fischer, who shares her enthusiasm for social and economic justice, public affairs and entertaining friends and family. Together they raised their daughter, Ruth, and share laughter with their grandchildren.

Jane knows what Alaska is made of and how everything got to be the way it is. She can break it down and tie it together in a way that anyone can understand public policy and diverse cultures.

Read more about Jane Angvik's accomplishments and honors at the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame website.

Beverly D. Dunham

1932 -
Achievement in:
Journalism, Community Activist

Beverly Dunham is a pioneer in journalism, described as being ahead of her time and a strong role model to many women and young girls growing up in Alaska.

In 1966 Dunham founded the "Seward Phoenix Log" and became a small town newspaper editor and publisher. Unusual for the times, she wrote about all the news and also dealt with the financial side that goes into being the publisher of a small-town newspaper. At the time, women in newspapers wrote about "women's" topics, such as community events, school boards, cooking, fashion trends, gardening and other local functions. Dunham set a path for more women to report on the news and be involved with the business side of publishing.

Her newspaper gave high school students an opportunity to do school and sports reporting for publication. The Seward Phoenix Log has won state and national writing awards, including the School Bell Award for school reporting. The newspaper played an important role in keeping the community involved in local, regional and statewide affairs under Dunham's leadership during her editor/publisher tenure.

Dunham is known as a woman of strong spirit and vitality. She is a "doer" who is not "too rigid and stuck in the past." There are many examples of this, but probably one of the more notable can be found in Ken Burns' internationally acclaimed "America's Best Secret – America's National Parks" interview in Episode 6 on the Kenai Fjords and the contentious years of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. Although she first opposed the park, her views and that of the local City Council changed when tourism in the national park boosted the town's economy.

Her impressive public service record spans more than six decades. She's held elected office on the Seward School Board and Seward City Council, even acting as mayor for a time. She's been appointed and served with distinction on many committees, commissions and volunteer efforts, from planning to tourism to corrections to historical preservation. Her community advocacy has had significant influence in Seward for a very long time.

Dunham was named the 2005 Person of the Year by the Seward Chamber of Commerce and was named one of First Lady Nancy Murkowski's Persons of the Year.

Today Dunham continues to do a little writing; works on historic preservation projects; is involved in women's and children's issues; does some traveling; and enjoys being with her family, grandkids and her 19 great-grandkids.

Read more about Beverly Dunham's accomplishments and honors at the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame website.

www.alaskawomenshalloffame.org

Mary Jane (Evans) Fate

1933 -

Achievement in:
Leadership

Mary Jane (Evans) Fate, a Koyukon Athabascan born in Rampart, labored tirelessly to improve all aspects of Alaska Native people's lives. As an Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lobbyist, she worked to convince the White House and Congress of the fairness and justice in conveying 40 million acres and $1 billion to Alaska Native peoples through the passage of the Native claims act in 1971.

Fate was recognized for her leadership abilities by becoming the first woman co-chair of the Alaska Federation of Natives in 1988-89. She served on her Alaska Native village corporation board, the Rampart Village Corporation (Baan O Yeel Kon), since its inception in 1972 until recently and was its president for many years. She is also a founding member and past president of the Fairbanks Native Association.

The Alaska Natives Commission was created by Congress in 1990 at the urging of many Alaska Native groups. The first meeting was held in 1992 and within months Fate and Perry Eaton were named co-chairs.

Appointed at the end of 2001 by President George H.W. Bush, Fate served as the only indigenous member on the U.S. Arctic Research Commission.

In 2003, President Bush appointed her to the U.S. Census Advisory Committee on American Indian and Alaska Native Populations to expand the committee's awareness of Alaska issues.

Fate helped found the "Tundra Times" and the Institute of Alaska Native Arts. In 2012 Fate was honored by her Native regional corporation, Doyon, with their most prestigious award, Citizen of the Year: "for her leadership, strong commitment, competence and sensitivity in the educational and cultural survival of Alaska Natives." At the award ceremony Georgianna Lincoln said: "Fate was one of the early Alaska Native women leaders, and her obvious outer beauty never affected the woman's inner beauty."

Her achievements do not stop at serving only her people. Fate was among four prominent Americans chosen to receive Cancer Awareness awards in 1998. She served as director on the Alaska Airlines board for 25 years, the first 23 years as the only woman to do so, and in 1981 she was the first woman and Alaska Native appointed to the Alaska Judicial Council. She was a Regent for the University of Alaska from 1993 through 2001.

Mary Jane Fate married Dr. Hugh "Bud" Fate and together they have raised three daughters and her cousin and the couple now has a dozen grandchildren.

Read more about Mary Jane (Evans) Fate's accomplishments and honors at the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame website

Katie John

1915 – 2013

Achievement in:
Indigenous Rights

Katie John started life in 1915 in a traditional fish camp, and was raised in the traditional way. Describing how she learned to live off the land from her mother and grandmother, she said: "We had no pencil, no paper. We don't know how to read. We used our head. Everything my mother told me, my grandmother told me, it's in my head."

She first learned to speak English at age 14 when she worked in the Nabesna Mine. She married Mentasta traditional chief Fred John, Sr. at age 16 and together they raised 14 children and six foster children, living a subsistence lifestyle.

Katie John is best known for demanding, and winning subsistence rights for Alaska's Native peoples. Her long life, spanning 97 years, carried her from a traditional Native village life to the modern western lifestyle, from travel by foot to travel by plane, from using dogs to carry loads to riding in cars and from being educated only in traditional ways and in traditional knowledge, to being awarded an honorary doctorate of laws from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2011.

Throughout these amazing changes during her lifetime, subsistence remained her core value. In 1984, John and Doris Charles requested the Alaska State Board of Fisheries, which 20 years earlier had closed subsistence fishing, to again permit the former residents of the now-abandoned Native village of Baltzulneta to subsistence fish. The Board's rejection of that request set the stage for the long-running, complex and convoluted "Katie John case." Her willingness to speak "truth to power" forced the federal government to live up to its responsibilities, imposed by Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, to preserve and protect the subsistence rights of Alaska Natives on federal lands and waters.

One pivotal event in this long-running legal battle occurred when Gov. Tony Knowles traveled to meet John in person at her fish camp at Baltzulneta before making a decision as to whether the State should appeal a decision considered adverse. The governor commented subsequently on why, based on that visit, he decided the state should not appeal: "I learned more that day than is written in all the boxes of legal briefs in this long-lasting court battle. I understand the strength, core and values that subsistence gives to Katie John's family, and to the thousands of similar families…I know—we all know—that what Katie John does is not wrong. It is right—right for her, right for the village."

Read more about Katie John's accomplishments and honors at the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame website.

V. Kay Lahdepera

1936 -

Achievement in:
Public Health Nursing

Kay Lahdenpera is a legend in nursing in Alaska and has touched thousands of women's lives throughout her 45-year career in public health. Born in Juneau, Alaska in 1936 she is a third generation Alaskan.

Lahdenpera earned her nursing degree from the University of Washington in 1961. After graduating she worked in New York at Bellevue Hospital and was the nurse for 100 neglected children at St. Barnabas House.

In 1965 Lahdenpera returned to Anchorage and was hired by the Greater Anchorage Area Borough Health Department as a public health nurse. In 1967 she became manager for the Region X, Title X Family Planning Clinic. Lahdenpera completed her Master's in Public Health in 1985.

During her 35 years at the Health Department, Lahdenpera helped implement the Region X, Title X Women's Health program and establishing the clinic as a training program for the first women's health nurse practitioners (NPs) in Alaska. As a result, NPs were, for the first time, able to perform colposcopies and prescribe medication within their scope of practice. The clinic is a training ground for health care professionals, including medical students. Local physicians saw the value of NPs and began to hire them.

Lahdenpera has presented at numerous local, national and international conferences ultimately elevating NPs to become a vital and a core part of the U.S. and international health care systems. In the 1980s, Lahdenpera's team presented a poster presentation at both the Circumpolar Health Summit and the Alaska Public Health Summit. This presentation received special interest from Canadian medical doctors to use NPs in rural communities throughout Canada. Lahdenpera's success continued on the international level in 1993 when she joined the Eisenhower Ambassador Program that traveled to China. In 1997 Lahdenpera and her team made a Poster Presentation at the XV FIGO World Congress of Gynecology & Obstetrics, Copenhagen, Denmark. This presentation was the only presentation done by a nurse practitioner and a public health nurse manager at the World Congress for Medical Doctors.

Lahdenpera has volunteered on numerous professional boards throughout Alaska and has received many awards for her accomplishments including: a first recipient of the Alaska March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Award for "Legends of Nursing" (2009), first American Nurses Association Excellence in Nursing Award (1993); National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association, Inc. (Outstanding Local Service Award (1997); BP and YWCA Women of Achievement Award (1997); and Alaska Nurses Association "Hall of Fame" Award (2009).

Read more about V. Kay Lahdenpera's accomplishments and honors at the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame website.

Janie Leask

1948 -

Achievement in:
Community Building

Janie Leask is a bridge between communities. Her achievements include leading complex organizations, creating opportunities for diverse communities to engage in meaningful conversation and mentoring young people.

Raised by a Haida/Tsimshian father and Irish/German mother in Metlakatla and Anchorage, Leask initiated her 15-year career with the Alaska Federation of Natives in 1974. She was selected and served as the President/CEO of AFN from 1982-1989.

These were tumultuous years for the Alaska Native community as they built organizations to implement the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act, participated in drafting the federal land management policies of Alaska in ANILCA, and fought for state laws governing access to subsistence resources for rural residents.

Under Leask's leadership, and in a largely male-dominated environment, AFN began to formally listen to young people and engage in dialogue with many diverse communities of interest, while continuing legislative efforts in Juneau and Washington, DC.

After the passing of Wally Leask, her father, Janie Leask and her son were formally adopted into the Eagle Clan of the Tsimshian Tribe, where she was given her Tsimshian name of "Gyetm Wilgoosk" meaning "person of wisdom."

After AFN Leask turned her professional attention to the private sector for 15 years and served as the Vice President of Community Development at the National Bank of Alaska as well as the Manager of Community Relations for Alyeska Pipeline Service Company.

Janie's work on urban-rural issues earned her the Alaska Governor's Award, the Alaska Village Initiative's Chief's Knife Award, and Shareholder of the Year from Cook Inlet Region, Inc. In 2000 she was named a YWCA Woman of Achievement. In 2006 she was ATHENA Recipient and in 2001 she was identified as one of the Top 25 Most Powerful Alaskans.

In 2006 Janie returned to work within the Native community as the President/CEO of First Alaskans Institute, where for four years she focused on intergenerational leadership development and public policy issues.

Universally, Leask believes every person has a gift to contribute. Her advice to young people is: "find your gift; nurture it and use it. Network as much as possible and recognize and act upon your obligation to give back to the community."

Janie is proud to be the mother of David Moore. She is married to Don Reed and together they are making their new home in Homer.

Read more about Janie Leask's accomplishments and honors at the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame website.

Kay Linton

1933 - 2003

Achievement in: Organizing, Leadership and Volunteering

Mrs. Jack (Kay) Linton, as she preferred to be identified, was a dynamo, a volunteer extraordinaire, consummate organizer and inveterate volunteer and, to quote former Mayor Tom Fink, "a real take-charge person."

Anchorage Daily News columnist Mike Doogan wrote, "She was an organizer, and if you were in the vicinity, you got organized." Gov. Tony Knowles is quoted as saying: "To know Kay was to work for Kay."

Born in Newcastle, Wyo., Feb. 26, 1933, Linton was the oldest of five children, the granddaughter and great-granddaughter of Wyoming homesteaders.

Linton has said her obsession to do for others stems from pre-birth. After her mother gave birth to her early, she was wrapped in a towel and set on the oven door while the doctors worked to save her mother's life. She has tried to pay it forward ever since.

She received her early education in a one-room schoolhouse, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Black Hill State University in 1955 and took classes toward her master's degree at the University of Wyoming.

Linton married Jack M. Linton on Aug. 26, 1958, in Wyoming. Two years later she drove a red and white '58 Thunderbird up the Alaska Highway with her infant daughter and her 15-year-old brother to join her husband. Jack Linton, who was working in the real estate loan department of First National Bank.

She was far away from her family and "felt stifled and unhappy, but her marriage was strong," she told Linda Billington in an interview in 1991. She decided to "find a need and fill it" which became her motto. Thus her professional career as a volunteer organizing, chairing and championing causes and projects began.

Especially proud of two of her biggest projects, Linton knew how to celebrate the anniversaries of Alaska's 25 years of statehood in 1984, and Anchorage's 75 years in 1990.

As president of the Anchorage Women's Club she negotiated a lease with the Municipality of Anchorage to move, preserve and maintain Anchorage's first schoolhouse, which was built in 1915.

Linton was also known for her organization of time capsules. Some of the more memorable ones are buried near the Anchorage Log Cabin, the Pioneer Schoolhouse, the Eisenhower Memorial as well as the General Federation of Women's Clubs home base in Washington, D.C.

In 1997 Gov. Tony Knowles designated April 30 of that year as Kay Linton Day for her indefatigable efforts. Linton and her husband raised two children, Dawn Linton-Warren and Richard Linton.

Read more about Kay Linton's accomplishments and honors at the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame website.

Jane Vallett Sutherland Niebergall

1931 -

Achievement in:
Advocacy for Rural Education

Jane Vallett Sutherland was born and raised in California and after graduating from college in 1953, married. She and her husband had two children before his death in 1960.

By 1965 she earned her Master's in Educational Supervision at the University of California and accepted a summer job in Alaska to lead one of two teams of Head Start educators.

Her team traveled from Ketchikan and Yakutat in Southeast to the Yukon-Kuskokwim delta region. Their goal was to prepare for hiring trained early childhood teachers to carry on the program for young children during the winter. The national Office of Economic Opportunity sponsored and paid for the program, and contracted with the State for its operation.

While in Alaska that summer, Niebergall was interviewed and, after returning home to California, was invited to accept a position with the State of Alaska. The family returned on the new Alaska ferry from Canada to Alaska, arriving in December of 1965.

Niebergall went to work the first week of January 1966. Her task was to negotiate with the Department of Education to place new para-professional Native people, the early childhood teachers-to-be, into the Department of Education and to internalize the program.

In Alaska there were very few services for children in the Bush before they went to school. Children had to learn to speak and read English before they were passed out of the first grade.

Much Bush education was prejudicial. When Head Start began, the average educational level of achievement in the Yukon-Kuskokwim area was low, brought down because not all villages had schools. This all changed when the election took place and Walter Hickel became governor in December 1966.

As a state worker, Niebergall was transferred to the Department of Education and then to the Department of Labor where she wrote grants and attended meetings. Then Niebergall was transferred to Fairbanks and worked with the Institute of Social and Economic Research.

After two years with ISER, the family returned to Oregon and Niebergall continued her doctorate in education. Ready to write her dissertation, she returned to Alaska. She spent time working at Alaska Methodist University, Anchorage Community College and the Kuskokwim Community College. She also lent her prodigious talents to assisting the Jesuit high school in St. Mary's.

During one stay at the mission school, Niebergall met and married Hal Niebergall.

Read more about Jane Niebergall's accomplishments and honors at the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame website.

Verna E. Pratt

1915 -

Achievement in: Educating Alaskans About Native Plants & Flowers

Verna Pratt was raised in a big family on a small farm in Massachusetts. The flowers in her mother's large garden fascinated her, as did the wildflowers she found while wandering through the surrounding fields. Part of her fascination was that the plants "stayed still" and could be closely observed. This early interest led Pratt to become a self-educated, amateur botanist who not only has shared her extensive knowledge with generalists in Alaska, but is a recognized, internationally known expert in Alaska's native plants, wildflowers and berries.

Shy as a child, Pratt became outgoing as a teacher, and is eager to share what she knows. Her expertise has been achieved through self study and a lifetime of dedication to Alaska's native plants, flowers and berries.

She arrived in Alaska in 1966 and immediately began to teach herself about the local flora. Anxious to learn about and identify Alaska's native plants, Pratt found it exceedingly difficult to learn from the reference materials available. The only materials available were big, heavy scientific books with inadequate black-and-white drawings difficult to use in the field. Pratt and her husband, Frank, decided to write and publish a guidebook for the Alaska generalist interested in learning about native plants. Pratt made a creative and key decision: to organize the plants by color; not scientific classification. This decision provided a new, easy way for a novice to learn about plants, their similarities, differences and, above all, to appreciate their beauty.

Pratt's job was to write the text and choose the photographs. Frank's job was to research, learn and use an appropriate software program to make the book "camera ready" for overseas printing. After much hard work, the "Field Guide to Alaskan Wildflowers Commonly Seen Along Highways and Byways" was published in 1989. This was followed in 1991 by "Wildflowers Along the Alaska Highway, Wildflowers of Denali National Park" in 1993, "Alaska's Wild Berries and Berry-Like Fruit" in 1995, and in 2003, "Travel Notes for the Wildflower Enthusiast," for drawing and field notes. Upon discovering that there were no suitable books on the market which introduced children to the plants of the forest and meadow, Pratt and her husband wrote and published "Linnaea's World," a children's book, in 1996.

Of her many achievements, including the authorship of six publications and multiple honors, Pratt is proudest of the fact that through her efforts she has helped people to learn about Alaska's native plants, wildflowers and berries.

Read more about Verna Pratt's accomplishments and honors at the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame website.

Barbara Sweetland Smith

1936 - 2013

Achievement in: Preserving Alaska's Russian History & Culture

A dedicated Russian scholar, Barbara Sweetland Smith earned international respect and awards for her research and publications on the Russian Orthodox Church and Russian America.

A graduate of California's Mills College, she did graduate work at Columbia University's Russian Institute. Here she developed her expertise in the history of the Russian Orthodox Church and its far-reaching influence in shaping the history of Alaska. She moved to Anchorage in 1970. At the University of Alaska Anchorage, Smith taught Russian history and brought to light many early documents published by the Russian Orthodox Church, explorers, and adventurers.

Smith shared her extensive knowledge of Russian historical resources through publishing many books on the influence of the Russian Orthodox Church in the development of Russian America. Several of her books became widely acclaimed earning her international distinction as a scholar of Russian history in Alaska.

Her expertise and dedication helped make possible the restoration and preservation of rare icons and historic Russian Orthodox churches in the Aleutian and Pribilof islands damaged during World War II. Among other things, Smith was instrumental in securing major funding to conserve, catalog and restore icons of the Holy Ascension Church in Unalaska, perhaps the largest single collection of pre-20th century art in Alaska.

Smith also curated four major exhibitions for the Anchorage Museum of History and Art: "Russian America: the Forgotten Frontier," "Heaven on Earth: Orthodox Treasures of Siberia and North America," and "Science Under Sail: Russia's Great Voyages to America 1728-1867." These popular, world-class exhibits, some of which traveled the country, portrayed how the Russian presence has shaped Alaska's history and cultures.

Smith has been honored for her many contributions. She has twice received the President's Award from the Alaska Historical Society in 1988 and in 1996. The Alaska Historical Society renamed its Pathfinder Award for the preparation of guides and other resource materials to assist researchers. It is now called the Barbara Sweetland Smith Award.

Also finding time for community work, Smith served as president of the Anchorage Fellowship in Serving Humanity (FISH) for 28 years – working with the Food Bank of Alaska to provide food pantries for those in need. She also served as a board member and President of Soroptimists International of Anchorage, a group dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls locally and around the world, and as a board member of the national archives of the Episcopal Church.

Read more about Barbara Sweetland Smith's accomplishments and honors at the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame website.

Francine Conat Lastufka Taylor

1937 -

Achievement in: Advocacy and Preservation of Alaska Arts, Culture and Politics

With the culturally diverse blood of Mexican, Spanish and French aristocrats, Blackfoot, Sioux, and French Canadians running in her veins, Francine Lastufka Taylor was a natural to lead Alaskans through their infancy in recognizing and celebrating their unique cultures through scores of documentary films and videos.

For her efforts over the years, Francine was a finalist for the YWCA/BP Women of Achievement Award in 1996. In 1998 she was a finalist for the National Federation of Press Women's Communicator of Achievement Award and earned the Alaska Press Women's Lifetime Achievement Award the same year.

One of her many successes was creating the Alaska Native Arts Festival 1966-1972, which she served as a founding director. Perhaps her greatest feat, however, is the founding of Alaska Moving Image Preservation Association, AMIPA, in 1991.

Collections of Alaska's motion picture films, video and audio recordings were held by libraries, museums, archives, producers and the general public – none of which had the technical resources to preserve and provide access to them. Taylor led the charge to preserve these materials and to make them available to the public through the creation of AMIPA. Through public and private donations the collection and technical capacities of the organization quickly grew, and in 1997 AMIPA transitioned from an all-volunteer organization to one having a paid curatorial, technical and administrative staff.

In September 2004, AMIPA entered into a preservation partnership with the UAA/APU Consortium Library and during the spring of 2005 installed its then 17,000-item collection, dating from the 1920s, into modern film and magnetic media vaults adjacent to the office space. Today, important events in Alaska's history, such as statehood, the 1964 earthquake, pipeline construction, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act are preserved and available to the public.

An accomplished pianist and singer, Taylor first used her talents to help disabled children at the Alaska Crippled Children's Association through music. The program she developed became such a success the Anchorage School District asked her to volunteer her program to include all the city's elementary schools. Taylor also performed with the Anchorage Community Chorus, the Anchorage Opera, the Alaska Festival of Music and the Alaska Chamber Singers. She served 15 years as a board member for the Visual Arts Center and is an award-winning documentary filmmaker.

A colleague and friend, Irene Rowan, a former president of Klukwan, Inc. and now a director of Northrim Bank, says Taylor "became a fearsome activist at a time when most women lacked the inclination or courage to make waves."

Read more about Francine Taylor's accomplishments and honors at the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame website.

www.alaskawomenshalloffame.org

Gertrude M. Wolfe

1933 - 2007

Achievement in:
Health Care and Education

A life-long Alaskan, Gertrude Wolfe worked tirelessly for the betterment of the people of Hoonah and for all Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian people of Southeast Alaska. She was a certified village health aide, member of the Hoonah School Board, active with her local chapter and the statewide Alaska Native Sisterhood, and a member of the boards of local and regional Native health corporations. With each activity, Wolfe held top leadership positions.

Wolfe was instrumental in starting the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium in 1975, a vital, nonprofit tribal health organization of 18 communities serving Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian people. The organization promotes healthy lifestyles, has a traditional foods program, and provides health services today.

Hoonah, 40 air miles west of Juneau, is only accessible by boat or plane. Most of the 750 residents rely heavily on subsistence hunting and fishing for their livelihoods. More than half of the community's population is Tlingit. The "village by the cliff" was founded in 1880. The first cannery opened in the town in 1912. In 1944 a fire destroyed much of the town.

Wolfe came to the rebuilt community with her husband Wilfred "Bill" Wolfe Sr. She started working as a health aide in 1954, before there was an organized program, and when a program was initiated, Wolfe was one of the first health aide to be certified in the state.

Wolfe was born in Sitka as a member of the Coho Clan. When she retired after 34 years as a Certified Health Aide Provider in Hoonah in 1988, a wing of the Hoonah medical center was dedicated as the Trudy Wolfe Clinic. She continued her many civic activities in Hoonah, Sitka and Juneau. The Alaska Legislature passed a proclamation honoring her in 2007 and that same year she was inducted into the Sheldon Jackson Hall of Fame. A wife, mother of six of her own children and foster mother to a number of others, health care provider, midwife and community activist, Wolfe is a role model for many women.

Marlene Johnson, colleague and long-time friend, describes Wolfe as a hardworking, common-sense person, concluding: "Trudy had a commitment to young people, education and health. I don't know how you can get much better than that." Johnson noted that on more than one occasion when there was a community potluck Wolfe would bring eight dishes — hers, her husband's and one for each of her six children.

Read more about Gertrude Wolfe's accomplishments and honors at the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame website.

Past Inductees

(continued from cover...)

ADA WIEN
ALBERTA DAISY SCHENCK ADAMS
ALICE BROWN
ARLISS STURGULEWSKI
ARNE (BULKELEY) BELTZ
AUDREY AANES
BLANCHE MCSMITH
CAROLYN (HUNTSMAN) COVINGTON
CAROLYN FLOYD
CAROLYN JONES
CLARE SWAN
CONNIE BOOCHEVER
CORNELIA HATCHER
DANA FABE
DAPHNE ELIZABETH BROWN
DELLA KEATS
DORA SWEENEY
DOROTHY AWES HAALAND
DOROTHY M. (KNEE) JONES
EDITH BULLOCK
ELAINE ABRAHAM
ELLEN "NELLIE" CASHMAN
ELLEN PANEOK
EMILY MORGAN
ESTHER WUNNICKE
ETHEL LUND
FRANCES HOWARD
GEORGIANNA LINCOLN
GRACE BERG SCHAIBLE
GRETCHEN BERSCH
HANNAH SOLOMON
HAZEL HEATH
HELEN FISCHER
HELEN NIENHUESER
HELEN STODDARD WHALEY
IRENE ROWAN
IRENE RYAN
JOAN HURST
JOERENE SAVIKKO HOUT
JUDITH "JUDY" (KING) BRADY
KAREN L. HUNT
KATHERINE NORDALE
KATIE HURLEY
LEAH WEBSTER PETERSON
LENA MORROW LEWIS
LIDIA SELKREGG
LISA MURKOWSKI
LISA RUDD
LOUISE KELLOGG
LYDIA BLACK
MARGE MULLEN
MARIE (MATSUNO) NASH
MARLENE JOHNSON
MARTHA M. RODERICK
MARVEL CROSSON
MARY JOYCE
MARY LOUISE RASMUSON
MILDRED ROBINSON HERMANN
NATALYA SHELIKOF
NELL SCOTT
NORA VENES GUINN
ORAH DEE CLARK
PATRICIA B. WOLF
PAULINE UTTER
RIE MUNOZ
RITA (PITKA) BLUMENSTEIN
RUTH ELIN HALL OST
S ANNE NEWELL
SADIE NEAKOK
SARAH AGNES JAMES
SARAH PALIN
SHARON RICHARDS
SHIRLEY HOLLOWAY
SUSAN RUDDY
THELMA (PERSE) LANGDON
TIKASUK "EMILY" (IVANOFF) BROWN
VIRGINIA "GINNY" HILL WOOD
WILDA HUDSON

www.alaskawomenshalloffame.org

HISTORY OF THE ALASKA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

The idea of creating the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame was initiated in 2008 when the Alaska Women's Network's Board of Directors (AWN) discussed how it could use its web site to honor Alaska's women as part of the upcoming celebration of Alaska's fifty years of statehood. Two ideas were suggested: first, update the 1983 Profiles of Change, a publication by the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women and, second, establish a way to profile and honor the Alaskan women who had been involved in shaping Alaska.

Members of AWN solicited ideas and support from other women's organizations. The Anchorage YWCA offered its support, and a meeting space.

A brainstorming session was held there on August 15, 2008, which was attended by women from throughout the community. It was decided to work with the UAA Consortium Library to digitize the Profiles of Change so people throughout the state could access the stories of the outstanding women described in the publication. Additionally, at that meeting it was learned that the Zonta Club of Anchorage had been working on developing a web site to house a "virtual Alaska women's wall." The two groups decided to collaborate and join their efforts.

From that meeting, an informal steering committee was formed, composed of representatives of the AWN, Alaska Women's Political Caucus, Anchorage YWCA, UAA, Anchorage Commission on Women and the Zonta Club of Anchorage as well as several women who were interested in the idea, but not affiliated with a particular organization. The steering committee developed the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame, solicited nominations from across the state, selected 50 women to induct on March 6, 2009 and launched the web site that hosts the biographies of the honorees. March was chosen as the annual date of the induction to coincide with Women's History Month. The Zonta Club of Anchorage has accepted responsibility for the creation and maintenance of the web site, **www.alaskawomenshalloffame.org.**

The digitization of the Profiles of Change was completed, with the assistance of volunteers, in February 2010. It is available through the Alaska Digital Archives at http://vilda.alaska.edu/.

CLASS OF 2009 • Back L-R: Frances Howard Elmore, Carol Comeau, Fran Ulmer, Arliss Sturgulewski, Katie Hurley Front L-R: Sarah James, Wilda Marston, Dana Fabe, Esther Wunnicke

CLASS OF 2010 • Back L-R: Jo Scott, Peg Tileston, Helen Nienhueser, Shirley Holloway, Marlene Johnson Front L-R: Ethel Lund, Marge Mullen, Georgianna Lincoln,Bettye Davis, Betsy Tower, Nora Dauenhauer

CLASS OF 2011 • Back L-R: Patricia Wolf, Caroline Wohlforth, Lael Morgan, Joerene Hout Front L-R: Lanie Fleischer, Clare Swan, Elaine Abraham

Class of 2012 • Back L-R: Irene Rowan, Carolyn Floyd, Audrey Aanes, Carolyn Jones, Sharon Richards Front L-R: Wilda Hudson, Gretchen Bersch, Rosita Worl

CLASS OF 2013 • L-R: Judy Brady, Diddy Hitchins, Karen Hunt, Marie Nash, Anne Newell, Carol Covington, Jewel Jones

2015 REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS
www.alaskawomenshalloffame.org

Alaska Women's Hall of Fame

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