



Alaska Women's Hall of Fame

8TH ANNUAL INDUCTION CEREMONY

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2016 • ANCHORAGE MUSEUM
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 • CEREMONY AT 7:00PM
7TH AVE ENTRANCE

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.

For information on the ceremony
call 907-279-4836.

Alaska Women's Hall of Fame
can be found on-line at
www.AlaskaWomensHallofFame.org



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.

The idea to create the Alaska Women’s Hall of Fame arose in 2008 when the Alaska Women’s Network’s Board of Directors (AWN) discussed how to use its web site to honor Alaska’s women as part of Alaska’s fifty years of statehood celebration. Two ideas were suggested: update the 1983 Profiles of Change, a publication by the Alaska Commission

on the Status of Women, and establish a way to profile the women who had shaped Alaska. AWN solicited ideas and support from women’s organizations. The Anchorage YWCA volunteered meeting space. At a meeting on August 15, 2008, attended by women from throughout the community, it was decided to work with the UAA Consortium Library to digitize the Profiles of Change. And, 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.

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 a number of

interested women formed an informal steering committee. It 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.

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

The Alaska Women’s Hall of Fame is now formed as a non-profit corporation holding 501(c)(3) status. The Zonta Club of Anchorage has assumed responsibility for the creation and maintenance of the web site.

PAST INDUCTEES

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Audrey Aanes• Elaine Abraham• Alberta Daisy Schenck Adams• Eleanor Andrews• Changunak Antisarlook Andrewuk (Sinrock Mary)• Jane Ruth Angvik• Evangeline Atwood• Arne (Bulkeley) Beltz• Laura Mae Bergt• Gretchen Bersch• Daisy Lee (Anderson) Bitter• Lydia Black• Rita (Pitka) Blumenstein• Connie Boochever• Judith "Judy" (King) Brady• Alice Brown• Tikasuk "Emily" Brown (Ivanoff)• Thelma Buchholdt• Edith Bullock• Susan Butcher• Ellen "Nellie" Cashman• Orah Dee Clark• L. Arlene "Buddy" Clay• Carol Comeau• Carolyn (Huntsman) Covington• Marvel Crosson• Katharine "Kit" Crittenden• Betti Cuddy• Lucy Evely Cuddy• Marie (Hanna) Darlin• Nora Marks Dauenhauer• Bettye J. Davis• Mahala Ashley Dickerson | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beverly D. Dunham• Neva Egan• Dana Fabe• Kay Fanning• Dolly Farnsworth• Mary Jane (Evans) Fate• Helen Fischer• Nan Elaine "Lanie" Fleischer• Carolyn Floyd• Lucy Frey• Nora Venes Guinn• Dorothy Awes Haaland• Lorene Harrison• Cornelia Hatcher• Hazel Heath• Mildred Robinson Hermann• Diddy R. M. (Seyd) Hitchins, Ph.D. MBE• Shirley Holloway, Ph.D.• Joerene Savikko Hout• Frances Howard• Wilda Hudson• Karen L. Hunt• Celia Hunter• Katie Hurley• Sarah Agnes James• Ruth Jefford• Katie John• Marlene Johnson• Alice Johnstone• Carolyn Jones• Dorothy M. (Knee) Jones, Ph.D• Jewell Jones• Mary Joyce• Della Keats | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Louise Kellogg• Alice Dove (Montgomery)Kull• V. Kay Lahdenpera• Thelma (Perse) Langdon• Janie Leask• Lena Morrow Lewis• Georgianna Lincoln• Kay Muriel (Townsend) Linton• Ethel Lund• Wilda Marston• Blanche McSmith• Marie (Nick) Meade• Emily Morgan• Lael Morgan• Ruth E. Moulton• Marge Mullen• Rie Munoz• Lisa Murkowski• Marie Matsuno Nash• Sadie Neakok• S Anne Newell• Jane Vallett Sutherland Niebergall• Helen Nienhueser• Katherine Nordale• Ruth Elin Hall Ost• Sarah Palin• Ellen Paneok• Elizabeth Peratrovich• Leah Webster Peterson• Ramona Gail (McIver) Phillips• Verna E. Pratt• Sisters of Providence• Mary Louise Rasmuson• Sharon Richards | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Martha M. Roderick• Irene Rowan• Lisa Rudd• Susan Ruddy• Irene Ryan• Grace Berg Schaible• Ruth Anne Marie Schmidt, Ph.D• Jo Ryman Scott• Nell Scott• Lidia Selkregg• Natalya Shelikof• Barbara Sweetland Smith• Hannah Solomon• Ann Mary (Cherrington) Stevens• Arliss Sturgulewski• Clare Swan• Dora Sweeney• Francine Conat Lastufka Taylor• Mary Taylor “Tay” Pryor Thomas• Peg Tileston• Elizabeth "Betsy" Ann Tower, M.D.• Fran Ulmer• Pauline Utter• Leonie von Zesch• Elvira Voth• Helen Stoddard Whaley, M.D.• Rosita Worl• Ada Wien• Caroline Wohlforth• Patricia B. Wolf• Gertrude M. Wolfe• Virginia "Ginny" Hill Wood• Esther Wunnicke |
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2015 ALASKA WOMEN’S HALL OF FAME CONTRIBUTORS

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.

- ANCHORAGE FLORAL ~ JANE ANGVIK ~ JO ANTONSON ~ GRETCHEN BERSCH ~ JANICE BLANCHARD ~ BOVEY TROPHIES
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GARY HUME ~ BONNIE JACK ~ ALICE JOHNSTONE ~ PAMELA KENDRICK ~ GEORGIANNA LINCOLN ~ MIGHT BE A MONKEY
HILARY MORGAN ~ MARGARET MULLEN ~ HELEN NIENHUESER ~ BARBARA NORRELL ~ SUSAN OLSEN ~ JUDY OWENS-MANLEY
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GAIL WEST ~ MARY WHITMORE ~ YWCA ALASKA ~ ZONTA CLUB OF ANCHORAGE ~ ANONYMOUS



**Achievement in:
Health and Justice
Advocacy for
Native People**

1924 - 1999

ANNIE AGHNAQA (AKEYA) ALOWA

During her lifetime, Alowa served as a midwife, community health aide and advocate for health and justice. During 1955-1956 Alowa became a midwife, tending women in childbirth. Shortly thereafter, she became a community health aide, receiving training at the Kotzebue Hospital. Communication was very limited between mainland Alaska and Savoonga, on Saint Lawrence Island. The only radio available was at the Bureau of Indian Affairs' school and communications could only occur at scheduled times. Therefore, life and death health issues were handled locally by innovative community health aides.

Alowa moved to Northeast Cape and lived there from 1963 to 1970

working as a community health aide, for which she received no compensation, and maintaining a paying job at the U.S. Air Force base. During that time, she began to notice serious health problems among island residents - including members of her own family. She began to see cancer, low birth weights and miscarriages among her people.

When the military vacated Northeast Cape in 1972, Alowa saw they had left a huge amount of hazardous material in landfills, including massive amounts of oil and fuel products, paint, batteries and metal garbage. Buildings were left intact. Later, she learned of hazardous materials buried at

the site, including asbestos, PCBs, pesticides, solvents, lead-based paint, fuel tanks, and barrels full of lubricants and fuel. She became concerned these hazardous materials posed a long-term health risk for island residents and began to address these concerns with the Alaska delegation in Washington, D.C., with state and federal agencies and with the military to ensure responsible cleanup. As a result, there was a massive cleanup of Northeast Cape and all material was removed. Alowa served on the board of the Norton Sound Health Corporation. She later developed cancer and continued her tireless work for the health and justice of her people until her death in 1999.



**Achievement in:
Public Advocacy and
Community Service**

1925 -

KATHLEEN "MIKE" MICHAEL (FITZPATRICK) DALTON

Kathleen "Mike" Dalton is an activist whose efforts have made waves since she arrived in Alaska from Arizona in 1949. Her six-year tenure in Barrow and later Aleutian residency gave her an understanding of remote regions. As for Fairbanks, her home base for half a century, Dalton has played a major part in shaping its social, political and economic future, as well as that of Alaska.

Dalton arrived in Alaska with a degree in English from Northern Arizona University, took a job with Arctic Contractors. Shortly thereafter, she wed Jack Dalton, a brilliant engineer who played

an integral part in developing the United States' petroleum reserve on the North Slope and served as a contractor to the U.S. Navy in oil and gas exploration.

In 1957 the couple settled just outside of Fairbanks and Mike found herself raising two toddlers while her husband commuted to the high arctic. Although her family always came first, Dalton joined the Republican Women's Club and later worked for the Fairbanks Daily News Miner. She was top vote getter for a seat on the Fairbanks North Star Borough on its foundation in 1964, serving for five years.

Dalton went on to manage the Alaska Office for U.S. Senator Ted Stevens from 1971-1978. Her job as interior Alaska field office manager for U. S. Senator Ted Stevens ran from 1971 to 1978. A member of the Alaska Pioneers, she has served in every office in Women's Igloo #8. She was one of the first non-Natives to be honored by the Fairbanks Native Association. She is an award-winning member of the Alaska Outdoor Council and has been named Republican Woman of the Year. Yet it is Dalton's community service at grass-roots level; quiet generosity and often self-sacrificing contributions to the lives of others that will be remembered best.



**Achievement in:
Cultural Entrepreneurship
and Collaboration**

1940 -

SANDRA "SANDY" (GROSS) HARPER

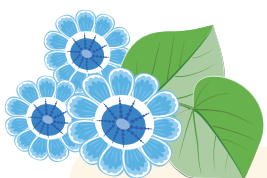
Prior to founding Cyrano's Theatre Company, Sandy and her husband Jerry Harper created Cyrano's Bookstore and Cafe featuring everything from music to cinema to special events. In 1992 they built Cyrano's Off-Center Playhouse and co-founded its resident theater company. Its mission was not only to produce cutting edge, classic, contemporary and original plays, but to provide the opportunity for Alaska theater artists to participate in professional theater and practice their craft, whether actor, playwright, director or technician. As producing artistic director, Harper chose the plays, selected and nurtured the artists and commissioned new work. Under her spirited leadership and vision, CTC established itself as a vibrant presence in the life

of downtown Anchorage and an important incubator of Alaska's theatrical talent with a strong focus on women and Native cultures.

Harper believes that awareness of the arts must be part of public life and actively joined, served and collaborated with various business, civic and non-profit organizations from the Anchorage Downtown Association to the national board for the Last Frontier Theatre Conference. Where possible, she coordinated theater activities with municipal events such as commissioning new plays to complement Anchorage's centennial celebration. As a cultural entrepreneur, she initiated and organized cultural activities such as the founding of the Alaska Center for the Book.

Her numerous honors and awards recognize her contributions to and her effectiveness as an advocate of the arts. Examples include: Governor's Award for the Arts; the 2016 Governor's Award for Distinguished Service to the Humanities; UAA's Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts; YWCA Woman of Achievement; Anchorage Cultural Council; Alaska State Legislative Citation, and Mayor's Arts Award.

Harper earned a bachelor's degree from Immaculate Heart College in L.A. and a master's degree in Human Development from Pacific Oaks in Pasadena, California. Harper is a risk-taker who demonstrates what determination and a clear vision can build and accomplish.



The Alaska Women's Hall of Fame invites you to nominate outstanding women to be considered for induction into the Hall of Fame. 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, 2016. A nominee's contributions should be of community, state-wide or of national importance and of enduring value.

Nominations can be made on-line at www.AlaskaWomensHallofFame.org.



JUANITA LOU (LAUESEN) HELMS

Juanita Lauesen Helms arrived in Alaska with her family in 1951. They lived briefly in Anchorage, then moved to McKinley National Park in 1952 where the family lived for three years before moving to Fairbanks.

Helms graduated from Lathrop High School and then attended several professional and career training courses as she moved through her career. She married Orville R. Helms in 1962 and they remained together until her demise. They raised their four children in Fairbanks.

Helms started her career as a clerk for Superior Court Judge Jay Rabinowitz, then moved to administrative work at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. As

Helm's family increased, she shifted her focus to the management of family rental properties and volunteer projects with PTAs and neighborhood land-use issues such as transportation and parks. She volunteered on political campaigns where education, public safety and parks impacted families. Helms began her political career as a member of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly, then as assembly chair and then as borough mayor.

Helms was the first woman to be elected to the mayor's position, a glass ceiling she was proud to have shattered. Her terms as mayor coincided with the advent of "glasnost" and the thawing of relations between the U.S. and

Russia. She was a driving force in building relations between Interior Alaska and Russia.

On Sept. 10, 2015, the Fairbanks borough assembly honored her for 11 years of service and her trusted leadership by naming the borough administrative center, in downtown Fairbanks on the Chena River, the Juanita Helms Administration Center. In the 1990s Helms received recognition for her work building the Carlson Center and supporting the Sister City Commission from the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Rotary Club. She also was awarded the Queen Bess Award from the Democratic Party for her open-door leadership in Fairbanks.

**Achievement in:
Leadership and Politics**

1941 - 2009



CRYSTAL BRILLIANT (SNOW) JENNE

A persistent pioneer, Crystal Snow was an extraordinary Alaskan.

In 1934 Crystal Brilliant Snow Jenne was the first woman to run for the Alaska Territorial House of Representatives in the Alaska Territory. Her campaign was unsuccessful; but in 1940 Jenne ran for the house again and became the second woman elected to the Alaska Territorial House of Representatives, serving from 1941 to 1944. Jenne was chairman of the Engrossment and Enrollment Committee and also served on the Education and Public Health committees. Two years later, she was the first woman candidate to file for Alaska Territorial Senate. Although unsuccessful in that campaign, her political career continued until 1956.

Jenne served as Juneau's postmaster from 1944 through 1955; instituting home mail delivery in Juneau during her tenure.

Jenne was born into a family of adventurous performers. She was a talented child actress, dancer and soprano. The Snow family moved to Juneau in the spring of 1887 to entertain miners. When her father joined the Klondike Gold Rush, the family moved to Circle City where her father built an opera house. After graduating from high school in 1905, Jenne went on to earn a degree in music from the University of California Berkeley. After teaching in California and in Douglas, Alaska, Jenne spent the summer of 1908 singing for miners in Skagway, Haines, Dawson,

Fairbanks and Nome.

She was married in 1916 and had three children. In 1939 she published a volume of historical poetry. Meanwhile, she worked in church choirs, taught, and ran a flower shop.

Her ease with the public and her polished stage presence were valuable assets as she became prominent in Juneau history. In civic affairs, she was a member of numerous national and Alaska women's clubs.

Quoting Jenne: "When you cease to grow, you become like a potato...I will never be a potato." And she certainly was not. She was an inspiration to many.

**Achievement in:
Politics, Arts and
Government**

1884 - 1968



MARGY K. JOHNSON

Margy Johnson's contribution to Alaska can be summed up in this manner: she is a driving force in Alaska's growth and economic progress and her public service and community involvement have enriched the lives of many Alaskans.

Born and raised in Montana, Johnson always felt an affinity for Alaska since her father had served in the military on Shemya and told stories of his time in Alaska. After graduating from high school, she left Montana for Alaska and explains her feelings about Alaska in this way: "Coming to Alaska was like coming home. It's a big, beautiful place and I love being part of it. People either live where they

are born or choose where to live, but in my case, Alaska chose me.

It embraced me when I came as a young woman and it still embraces me."

After working in Anchorage, Johnson and her husband moved to Cordova where they owned and operated the Reluctant Fisherman Hotel and Restaurant. It was during her time in Cordova that she started a long list of firsts in her life: first woman elected as mayor of Cordova, first woman elected president of the Cordova Chamber of Commerce and first woman elected as president of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce.

Her professional and public career is comprehensive and varied. She has served on numerous boards and commissions at the local and state levels, served Alaska on the international level as the State director of International Trade, and she continues her mentorship role in a wide variety of organizations.

Johnson was the 2013 recipient of the William A. Egan Outstanding Alaskan of the Year Award by the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce. No biography of her is complete without reference to her role as "the hat lady" and her special "high teas."

**Achievement in:
Public Service
and Community
Involvement**

1948 -

Gifts can be made on-line at AlaskaWomensHallofFame.org

Alaska Womens Hall of Fame • 907-279-4836 • alaskawhof@gmail.com • 1063 West 20th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99503

Alaska Womens Hall of Fame is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit



ELIZA (PETER) JONES

**Achievement in:
Advocacy and
Preservation of the
Koyukon Athabascan
Language**

1938 -

Eliza Jones, born in a camp near Cutoff and raised in Huslia, devotes her life to teaching the Koyukon Athabascan language (Denaakk'e) and writing about its culture and traditions. She taught for many years at the University of Alaska Fairbanks - where she co-authored the Koyukon-Athabascan Dictionary - as a Koyukon Athabascan linguist, and, upon her retirement in 1990, she was awarded an honorary doctorate of letters.

Alaska's Native languages have tied generations of Native people together, giving each generation a sense of identity. Western education, assimilation and the passing of traditional Native language speakers have threatened many language dialects with extinction. Jones has

taught in villages, schools and urban community gatherings. She has written and translated stories, developed and taught curriculum and conducted research on the language of the middle Yukon and Koyukuk rivers. Recently she has translated documents for the Tanana Chiefs Conference for their "tobacco free" campaign; phrases for Doyon, Ltd; election ballots for the State of Alaska; Arctic Council announcements; closer to home she helped other people write traditional memorial songs for potlatches. Her willingness to share the Koyukon language has reenergized language revitalization efforts in Interior communities.

In addition to her formal work with the language, Jones served on

the for-profit Gana-a' Yoo board of directors (serving several Yukon River villages), the Ella B. Vernetti School Community Committee in Koyukuk and Yukon River Fisheries Advisory Board.

Jones and her husband of 58 years, Benedict Jones Sr., make their home in Koyukuk. There and in Fairbanks, they raised nine children. In her 77 years Eliza has humbly dedicated herself to others. Her life's work of teaching the Koyukon language continues to inspire new generations of language learners and culture bearers. Jones quietly speaks her language and teaches the old ways demonstrating that one person can make a difference.



ANNE P. (PELIZZONI) LANIER, M.D.

**Achievement in:
Cancer Research,
Health Advocacy**

1940 -

As a family practice physician, medical epidemiologist, researcher and administrator, Anne Lanier has worked to improve health among Alaska's Native people since 1967. Starting as a physician at the Alaska Native Hospital, she saw too many young Alaska Native people dying of cancer. She asked why and, finding no answers, she determined to seek them.

In 1974 Lanier created the Alaska Native Tumor Registry, one of 18 National Cancer Institute's Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results registries, to determine cancer rates and patterns throughout the U.S. Her data-driven research has led to dramatic declines in incidence and mortality rates in pediatric liver and cervical cancer among Alaska's Native people. She

always published her data so others could review her conclusions.

Lanier was the first director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Arctic Investigations Program. She initiated the Alaska Native Epidemiology Center and later created the Alaska Native Health Consortium's Office of Alaska Native Health Research. Lanier currently is a consultant for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium in Anchorage.

In 1982 Lanier became a Fellow of the American Board of Preventative Medicine. In 2011 she received the inaugural Carol Frieden Award for Extraordinary Leadership in Comprehensive Cancer Control from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

After graduating from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wis., in 1962 Lanier earned her M.D. degree from Washington University School of Medicine in 1966 and completed a Masters of Public Health degree at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health in 1975. She did an internship at Presbyterian Hospital in Denver, Colorado, before taking her first job in Alaska. Lanier has three children and five grandchildren. She is a reader, skier, kayaker, and traveler. She has mentored several generations of health researchers and personally funds a scholarship at the University of Alaska Anchorage for those pursuing master's degrees in public health.



JANET (WALKER) MCCABE

**Achievement in:
Justice System
Reform and Historic
Preservation**

1935 -

Janet McCabe is gifted at bringing people together to accomplish public service goals. She has been a catalyst to improve the justice system through creation of Alaska's therapeutic courts for addicted offenders and the development of Partners Reentry Center. In another arena, she championed congressional designation of Alaska's first National Heritage Area. The designation has resulted in federal funding for over 70 locally initiated projects that preserve and celebrate the history and culture of the Chugach Mountains Turnagain Arm region.

McCabe came to Alaska in 1960 and worked professionally in community planning for state and federal entities, including the Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission,

Alaska Housing Authority and National Park Service, from which she retired in 2000. Since then she has volunteered with organizations which address reduction of criminal recidivism, cultural and historic preservation, and engagement of Alaskans in public policy issues.

McCabe joined others in forming Partners for Progress, a nonprofit organization with a goal to reduce unnecessary incarceration. In 1999 they advocated to establish the Anchorage Wellness Court, Alaska's first therapeutic court. Over the next decade, the coalition went on to change state law and secure public and private funds that expand therapeutic courts to Bethel, Juneau, Ketchikan, Palmer and Fairbanks.

Under McCabe's leadership as board chair, they also started Partners Reentry Center in 2013 to provide support, including: employment services, transitional housing services, and counseling, to individuals leaving prison. For these efforts, Janet McCabe was awarded the 2014 Jay Rabinowitz Public Service Award by the Alaska Bar Association.

In discussing her efforts, McCabe said, "I was inspired by my father, Joseph Walker, to make the justice system fairer, and have been supported in my community involvement and career by my husband, David McCabe. We have been a team in civic engagement and family life for 58 years."



**Achievements in:
Entrepreneurship,
Business, Philanthropy
and Education**

1947 -

Jo (Hayenga) Michalski

Jo Michalski is recognized as one of the most successful business women in Alaska and a highly respected philanthropist. She is also very well known for her years of community involvement and leadership roles in numerous organizations throughout the state.

Many folks, however, are not aware of Michalski's professional career in education. She and her husband came first to Juneau in 1971 where she started her Alaska career as an education curriculum consultant for the State of Alaska. Later, the family moved to Fairbanks where she continued her work in education and received a masters' degree in Secondary School Administration.

After the family moved from

Fairbanks to Anchorage, Michalski and her sister, Jana Hayenga, opened the first of many stores in the Anchorage area including Country Classics, Classic Toys, Once Upon a Time, Alaska Bookfair Company and Flypaper. She was also the sole proprietor for two women's clothing stores, Classic Woman and Portfolio, both of which she sold in 2012. As a business owner, Michalski focused on hiring and promoting women in the workplace. She is a valued contributor to women's conferences, focusing on women's issues in the workplace.

In recognition of her many talents and contributions to a wide variety of organizations, Michalski has received numerous awards and tributes both at state and national

levels from a wide variety of organizations including the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, the YWCA Alaska, the Alaska State Legislature, the Alaska Association of Fundraising Professionals, Cook Inlet Soroptimists and the University of Alaska, where she served as chair of the UA Foundation from 2012 to 2014. In 2015 Michalski was inducted into the Alaska Business Hall of Fame.

Retirement has not slowed her down at all – in fact, she continues to serve many local organizations through her personal involvement and by contributing her expertise and countless hours towards fundraising activities.



**Achievement in:
Advocacy for
the Aleut People**

1929 - 2015

Alice (Snigaroff) Petrivelli

Alice Petrivelli will be remembered as a strong advocate for Aleut people. Her fundamental goal was "protecting the land and our culture."

Born in Atka in 1929, Petrivelli lived a traditional lifestyle, learning from her father after she lost her mother when she was five years old. During WWII, her entire village was relocated to Killisnoo Island in southeastern Alaska and this Aleut relocation experience fueled her efforts to secure reparations from the United States for the relocation and internment of 881 Aleut people during the war. She attended Wrangell Institute and Mount Edgecombe boarding schools and graduated from Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kans., with an associate's

degree in Business Administration. After college, she met Frank Petrivelli, became an Army wife and raised six children.

The family returned to Alaska in 1969 and Petrivelli started working at the Aleut Corporation in 1972 as a receptionist. One of her duties was to enroll Aleuts in the newly created corporation formed as a result of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Over the next 36 years, she learned the workings of the corporation, eventually becoming the first woman president and CEO from 1990 to 1996. She was also the longest-serving board member: 1976 until 2008.

As president/CEO Petrivelli directed the corporation toward

stable investments and increased earnings; she helped to establish the shareholder permanent fund. Under her leadership, the Aleut Corporation was recognized by the Alaska Business Monthly in 1995 as one of Alaska's Top 49 businesses. Petrivelli also was one of the founders of the Aleut Foundation, an organization at the heart of her mission to assist Aleuts with educational and cultural goals.

Petrivelli received numerous awards from the many organizations in which she served and shared her time and talent. She emphasized family, culture and education and inspired her two daughters, four sons and four grandchildren.



**Achievement in:
Human and
Civil Rights through
Arts and Culture**

1946 -

Shirley Mae (Springer) Staten

A performer, educator and "cultural activist," Staten brings change through dialogue and the arts. She has been a keynote speaker, inspirational workshop facilitator and is a well known performing artist with a bachelor's degree in Human Resource Development and a master's degree in Spiritual Psychology.

Staten stimulates dialogue across race and gender with cultural activities. She has served as coordinator for cultural events at the 1996 United Nations Women's Conference in Beijing, China. She functions as a cultural ambassador, bringing her music and message of community to many countries.

Music has been a large part of

Staten's life, beginning in the Georgia cotton fields with her grandmother when she was a child. She has performed across the world, including China, Cuba, South Africa, Uganda, Djibouti, Ethiopia, India, Russia, France, Uruguay, Argentina and across the United States.

Staten has contributed to many programs such as New Initiatives: The Anchorage Cultural Summit, in September 2016, a Hiland Mountain Correctional Center Lullaby Project to change the lives of imprisoned mothers and their children, and Camp Kaleidoscope, a creative cross-cultural experience for eight to 14 year-olds. With The Alaska Humanities Forum's Educators Cross-Cultural Immersion Program,

she prepared 400 professors and teachers to go to rural Alaska to gain an understanding of the cultures of Alaska Native students. She created "Home Base" in Fairview to teach science, math and technology in a safe after-school environment and to expose children to things "outside their usual world."

Julia O'Malley described Staten in 2011: "She's one of those people who seem to look exactly the same when you're grown up as when you were in third grade . . . part no-nonsense mother figure, part inspirational speaker, with close-cropped hair, a penchant for dangling, jewel-tone earrings and a vibrato singing voice I can still hear in my head."

We are considering developing a hardcover Alaska Womens Hall of Fame book!



NANCY (ELLIOTT) SYDNAM, M.D.

"Nancy Sydnam is a true Renaissance woman – an outstanding medical doctor for more than 50 years, private pilot, hunter, fisher, dog trainer, writer, poet, musician and mentor to many, especially young women," Gretchen T. Bersch, former patient and longtime friend said.

Growing up on a family farm, Sydnam knew of few women heroes. From an early age, she wanted to fly like Amelia Earhart and she was heartbroken at eight when Earhart died. Sydnam confirmed her love of flying at 15 when she received a free flying lesson by buying war bonds. She received her license in 1958 after she married, then went on to become a doctor and move to

Alaska.

Sydnam began practicing medicine in Anchorage in 1955. Her love affair with the Alaska Bush began in 1961 when she joined Dr. Milo Fritz in providing medical services to Yukon River villages.

After 22 years, Sydnam and her husband divorced and she and her children volunteered for three months in a Kenya Quaker hospital. She learned to play the cello in her 50s, taking it with her to the Aleutians and playing it for the people there. She also performed with the Anchorage Civic Orchestra. She trained Labrador dogs, winning field-trial competitions. In her later years she has taken up

woodworking, creating many high quality pieces of furniture. All along the way she has written poetry.

At a 1988 reading of her book, "Sideways Rain," Sydnam stated she had become disenchanted with the role of insurance companies in dictating medical conditions, what drugs would be covered and how long a patient could stay in the hospital. At that point, she became an itinerant doctor in the Aleutians until 2010, spending weeks at a time in the Aleutian communities.

Sydnam's philosophy, "Life is what you make it. Be a participant, not an observer!"

**Achievement in:
Medicine, Flying,
Dog Training, Writing,
Poetry, Music
and Woodworking**

1929 -

Nominations can be made on-line at AlaskaWomensHallofFame.org



CLASS OF 2015

Pictured L-R: Marie (Hanna) Darlin, Alice Johnstone, Ramona Gail (McIver) Phillips, Daisy Lee (Andersen) Bitter, Marie (Nick) Meade
Seated: L. Arlene "Buddy" Clay

Not pictured: Laura Mae Bergt, Lucy Evelyn (Huie Hon) Cuddy, Dolly Farnsworth, Alice Dove (Montgomery) Kull, Ruth Anne Marie Schmidt Ph.D., Ann Mary (Cherrington) Stevens, Elvera Voth.



CLASS OF 2014

Pictured L-R: V. Kay Lahdenpera, Janie Leask, Eleanor Andrews, Verna E. Pratt, Jane Angvik, Francine Conat Lastufka Taylor, Jane Vallett Sutherland Niebergall, Beverly D. Dunham, Mary Jane Fate

Not pictured: Katie John, Kay Muriel (Townsend) Linton, Barbara Sweetland Smith, Gertrude M. Wolfe



CLASS OF 2013

Pictured: Judy Brady, Diddy Hitchins, Karen Hunt, Marie Nash, Anne Newell, Carolyn Covington, Jewell Jones

Not pictured: Arne Beltz, Daphne Elizabeth Brown, Joan Hurst, Dorothy M. Jones, DSW, Mary Joyce, Thelma Langdon, Emily Morgan, Ruth E. Moulton



CLASS OF 2012

Pictured: (Back L-R) Irene Sparks Rowan, Carolyn Floyd, Audrey Aanes, Carolyn Jones, Sharon Richards (Front L-R) Wilda Hudson, Gretchen Bersch, Rosita Worl

Not pictured: Connie Boochever, Louise Kellogg, Ellen Evak Paneok, Lisa Howell Starr Rudd, Hannah Paul Solomon, Pauline Utter, Dr. Leonie von Meusebach Zesch, Susan L. Ruddy



CLASS OF 2011

Pictured: (Back L-R) Patricia B. Wolf, Caroline Wohlforth, Lael Morgan, Joerene Hout (Front L-R) Lanie Fleischer, Clare Swan, Elaine Abraham

Not pictured: Katharine "Kit" Crittenden, Betti Cuddy, Ruth Elin Hall Ost, Leah Webster Peterson, Martha M. Roderick, Helen Stoddard Whaley



CLASS OF 2010

Pictured (Back L-R) Jo Scott, Peg Tileston, Helen Nienhueser, Shirley Holloway, Marlene Johnson (Front L-R) Ethel Lund, Marge Mullen, Georgianna Lincoln, Bettye J. Davis, Betsy Tower, Nora Dauenhauer

Not pictured: Alberta Daisy Schenck Adams, Alice Brown, Hazel Heath, Virginia "Ginny" Hill Wood



CLASS OF 2009

Pictured: (Back L-R) Frances Howard Elmore, Carol Comeau, Fran Ulmer, Arliss Sturgulewski, Katie Hurley (Front L-R) Sarah Angles James, Wilda Marston, Dana Fabe, Esther Wunnickle

Not pictured: Lucy Frey, Rie Munoz, Emily Ivanoff Brown, Thelma Buchholdt, Susan Butcher, Nellie Cashman, Orah Clark, Marvel Crosson, Mahala Ashley Dickerson, Neva Egan, Kay Fanning, Helen Fischer, Nora Guinn, Dorothy Awe Haaland, Lorene Harrison, Cornelia Templeton Jewett, Mildred Hermann, Celia Hunter, Ruth Jefford, Della Keats, Lena Morrow Lewis, Blanche McSmith, Lisa Murkowski, Sadie Neakok, Katherine Nordale, Sarah Palin, Elizabeth Peratrovich, Sisters of Providence, Mary Louise Milligan Rasmuson, Irene Ryan, Grace Berg Schaible, Nell Scott, Lidia Selkregg, Natalya Shelikof, Dora Sweeney, Ada B. Wien