A LEGACY TO KENAI’S FIRST LADY OF READING, EMILY DEFOREST

Emily DeForest’s memory is captured in bronze at the Kenai Library.

As construction gets underway for the expansion of the Kenai Library, there is someone who is missing. Yet a sense of her prescence is there, watching over every shovelful of dirt and construction worker who is making her dream of an expanded Kenai Library come true. Kenai’s First Lady of Reading, Emily DeForest, passed away just about a year ago knowing that after many years of planning, lobbying and fund raising, her dream of a new library would become a reality this summer.

Emily was the popular librarian for the Kenai Community Library from 1972 until she retired in 1999. And although she retired, Emily pressed on for the expansion. She was active towards recruiting community leaders, planning fund-raising events and selling a multitude of raffle tickets.

For complete article, see Peninsula Clarion, June 2, 2010, pg. 1.
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

David Ongley

THE GREATER WORLD OF LIBRARIES:

The AkLA annual conference has a reputation for being one of the finest state conferences in the country. Almost every outside speaker with whom I’ve had a chance to talk casually has been amazed with the dynamic quality of our conferences. Most comment on the great speakers, the diversity of programming, how well organized the event is or even how good the meals are. However, almost every one exclaims over the range of librarians we draw from nearly every library in the state. I can only agree, but then I’ve never attended a state library conference in any other state although I’ve lived in several before finding my home in Alaska. I usually respond to these comments that there are so few of us we have to work together to get anything done.

I also belong to several other organizations which I find professionally rewarding. This summer a convergence of dates placed three different organization conferences back to back to back. I couldn’t resist. The travel alone required some careful planning. During the second week in June I attended the Tribal College Library Institute in Bozeman, Montana. Although not truly a conference, this gathering is sponsored by the library at Montana State University and two exceptional librarians there, Mary Anne Hansen and James Thull. Librarians from the 36 recognized tribal colleges send representatives. Additional guests are also invited.

This year from Alaska, June Degnan from UAS, Catherine Powers from UAF in Bethel, Susan Wolf, UAF Nome, along with Gabe Tegoseak from Tuzzy Library in Barrow attended. (Our parent organization, Ilisagvik College, is the only tribal college in Alaska.) This week-long training brings together a unique group of people from all over the country who share common problems and perspectives. Most of the colleges are on reservations and many struggle with funding. Presentations tend to be specific and practical. It snowed on our last day there, June 11.

(Cont. on pg. 14)
When I asked my husband Jon if he would read the play about Alaska history I’d just finished writing, his reply was: “I’ll read it when it comes out as a comic book.” Instead of snarling at him for being so dismissive, I started thinking about his suggestion. Graphic novels—as the slightly longer and more serious comic books are usually called—are all the rage these days. I immediately stole Jon’s idea and started working on a grant application to turn my play into a graphic novel.

I had become immersed in Alaska history when I was hired in 2007 by Anchorage-based TV producer Larry Goldin to help him work on a two-hour documentary about Alaska statehood. That job involved frequent visits to the Alaska Collection at the Loussac Library and also enabled me to sit in on Larry’s lengthy interviews with Alaska icons like Ted Stevens, Wally Hickel, Mike Stepovich, Vic Fischer, Emil Notti and many others. I then had to spend hours transcribing the interviews from audio files, so I got to hear all their stories twice.

When I heard that the Alaska Humanities Forum was giving out $1 million in grants for creative projects associated with the 50th anniversary of statehood, I decided to apply for one, to write the play, which was mainly intended for schools. I was awarded the grant in 2008. The play is narrated by Benny Benson, who magically meets a modern-day high school student called Abigail and shows her scenes from Alaska history.

I originally intended to call the play “Eight Stars of Gold,” but then I found out that the Alaska Humanities Forum had funded another person to write a play with the same title, so I changed it to “A Native Lad,” taking the title from the first line of the unadopted second verse of the Alaska Flag Song.

When I finished the play I made it available free to the public, sending a link to the script and accompanying teachers’ and students’ guide to principals and teachers at nearly every middle school and high school in the state.

A few weeks later, in November 2009, I was amazed to read a letter from Debbé Lancaster, a teacher at the school in the village of Tatitlek, between Valdez and Cordova on Prince William Sound. The village
has a population of about 50, with 16 students of all ages at the school. Debbe said that the kids in her class had been reading the play for several weeks and had insisted on performing it, even though each of them would have to play about 10 different characters.

In January I flew to Tatitlek to help with the final preparations for the world premiere of the play. The village is only accessible by air and doesn’t even have its own store. The kids had worked incredibly hard learning their lines and making costumes, including a fat suit (for Constitutional Convention delegate Mildred Hermann) and all kinds of facial hair. A few of the adults who were also playing parts were desperately learning lines, hoping not to let the kids down. The whole village watched the performance, and I shot hours of film footage during my visit, which is being made into a mini-documentary by the Alaska Teen Media Institute.

The Alaska Humanities Forum gave me the grant I’d requested to hire artists to illustrate a graphic novel version of the play. I started by calling Peter Dunlap-Shohl, the former editorial cartoonist for the Anchorage Daily News, and he immediately agreed to participate and recommended some other artists: Lee Post, Duke Russell, Lance Lekander and Dimi Macheras.

Dimi is an Alaska Native now living in Seattle, who has already produced graphic novel versions of Alaska Native stories.

I also asked an art professor at UAA if he could suggest anyone, and through him I added the talented students Sean Jones and Gideon Gerlt to the team. I asked Ray Troll if he would like to do a scene: he said he was too busy, but put me in touch with Evon Zerbetz, who lives in Ketchikan and whose style is somewhat similar to Ray’s. My husband Jon made another important contribution when he was talking to a young woman in a bar about the graphic novel and she told him that she knew an artist who could “do anything.” She wrote his name and number down on a piece of paper and Jon passed it on to me.

I was skeptical, but it turned out that the artist, Shanley McCauley, really could do anything, not only illustrating two scenes but also doing a fantastic cover with Benny Benson holding the state flag, standing next to his younger brother, looking at modern-day Anchorage and a group of Native dancers in the sky above him.

Several of the artists submitted their ideas for cover sketches and members of the public chose Shanley’s in a poll. Bosco’s Comics in Anchorage hosted the cover sketches on its website. Bosco’s has been very supportive throughout the process, with owner John Weddleton writing the foreword to the book.

Each artist was paid $500 per scene, with Peter and Dimi doing three scenes, Shanley, Sean and Gideon two, and the others one. The pay rate was really quite minimal, considering the amount of work they all put into it. Some were very experienced in this format and others not at all, and the challenge turned out to be rather daunting. A few other artists who had wanted to participate fell by the wayside. Those who survived truly were the fittest.

I approached various publishers, and found the perfect fit with Greatland Graphics, based in Anchorage. They publish beautifully illustrated books for young children, including some by Shannon Cartwright, but they hadn’t published a graphic novel for older children and adults before. I think they gradually started to become more enthusiastic about the project as they saw how good the artwork was that was being produced.

The book is due to be published in August, and I hope that it can be read for enjoyment as well as used in the classroom to bring Alaska history to life. I am also looking forward to finally hearing Jon’s opinion on it . . .

(Graphics cont. on pg. 5)
I was always an angry young man.

Ever since they sent me away from my Inupiat people to a boarding school run by whites who thought they were better than us.

When I came back home to Barrow, I didn’t know what to do with myself. I drank.

I was desperate.

I went out to the wilderness to think. Suddenly I understood my purpose in life - to fight for our land.

I set up the Arctic Slope Native Association and filed a land claim for 96 million acres.

In those days the people fighting for Alaska native rights were mostly young, like me...

...Emil Notti...

...Byron Mallott...

...and Willie Hensley.

Some of us had known each other at boarding school.
Every May, the Washington office of the American Library Association hosts National Library Legislative Day, which is a special time for librarians, library employees, library trustees and friends of libraries to visit with their elected officials to raise awareness of current library issues. Typically, about 400 people from all over the United States make the trip with more voicing their concerns through the Internet.

This year, Library Advocacy Day replaced National Library Legislative Day to take advantage of the many librarians in Washington DC for the ALA Annual Conference. On Tuesday, June 29, over 1,600 librarians and library supporters braved the 90-degree heat and gathered at Upper Senate Park on the U.S. Capitol Grounds.

Caitlin Dixon from Schoenbar Middle School in Ketchikan, Darla Grediagin of the Bering Strait School District and myself took part in the rally, posing for photos with the small Hawaii contingent and having a wonderful time listening to stump speeches from author Lauren Myracle, Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) and Representative Vernon Ehlers (R-MI-3) as well as from ALA President Camila Alire and Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels.

Immediately following the rally, Darla and I visited with the staffs of Senator Begich and Senator Murkowski and left our library advocacy cards which encouraged support for increasing Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding to $300 million for FY2011 and including support for school librarians in the upcoming reauthorization of the Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

After being in the hot sun for two hours and spending another hour searching for Senators, Darla and I decided to eat lunch rather than try to find the Reed Building and Representative Young in the vast DC landscape. A burger at Five Guys hit the spot after the lively morning.

A few days later I was able to visit personally with Senator Murkowski while she was in Ketchikan for the July 4 holiday and she voiced her support for LSTA and sent me a nice letter afterward. Alaska may have the most accessible elected officials in the country given our small population, and I encourage all of you to take the time to contact them.

Charlotte L. Glover
Youth Services Librarian
Ketchikan Public Library

(Photos cont. on pg. 8)
“Photos by Charlotte Glover and various passersby!”
In 2009 the AkLA Cataloging Roundtable received an Interlibrary Cooperation Grant from the Alaska State Library for two serials cataloging workshops. The grant paid to bring instructor Steve Shadle, Serials Access Librarian at the University of Washington, to Anchorage to teach Beginning and Advanced Serials Cataloging.

Twenty-four Alaskans from Southcentral Alaska and Fairbanks attended the workshops, which were held at the UAA/APU Consortium Library from June 15-18, 2010. The workshops, part of the SCCTP (Serials Cataloging Cooperative Training Program) at the Library of Congress, were offered in response to requests from Cataloging Roundtable members for more serials cataloging training.

The Basic Serials Cataloging workshop covered an introduction to serials—identifying the differences between serials and monographs (which isn’t always so easy!), identifying the descriptive elements of a serial (what exactly is the title of this serial?), and modifying existing serial records (serials are notorious for changing!).

A fairly recent development in serials cataloging is the CONSER Standard Record (CSR). The CSR defines a set of mandatory elements that should be present in a serial record. These elements “were identified as having the highest value in supporting users’ efforts to find, identify, select, and obtain the resources they need, as well as navigate the relationships among titles.” (CONSER Standard Record Documentation). This mandatory element set was developed to reduce redundancy and to offer guidance on complex decision making, resulting in more uniform data. Some libraries are choosing to adopt the CONSER Standard Record as an alternative to standard AACR2 cataloging.

The Advanced Serials Cataloging workshop built on the fundamental skills learned in the basic class, but went into further detail. This workshop covered uniform titles, complex notes, translations, editions, versions, cumulations, supplements, and other related works. Attendees reviewed the issues and challenges in serials cataloging and discussed the decision-making process in resolving serials cataloging problems.

Steve Shadle has previously taught several workshops in Alaska and has been highly recommended as an instructor. His expert knowledge of serials and cataloging and his participation in national committees and organizations have made him an invaluable resource to the serials community. Steve is always willing to answer questions and share his expertise. In addition to teaching cataloging skills, his involvement in national standards development enables him to explain to attendees the reasons behind cataloging decisions, which enriches the workshop experience.

The Cataloging Roundtable would like to thank the Alaska State Library and the Institute of Library and Museum Services (IMLS) for the funding that made the workshops possible, as well as Steve Shadle and all the volunteers and attendees that made them a success. Special thanks to Julie Niederhauser of the Kenai Community Library for writing the grant application and to Ed Kazzimir of ARLIS for organizing the workshops.

For more information:
CONSER: [http://www.loc.gov/acq/conser/](http://www.loc.gov/acq/conser/)
CONSER Standard Record Documentation: [http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/conser.html](http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/conser.html)

Christie Ericson
UAA/APU Consortium Library

(Cont. on pg. 10)
Beginning Serials Cataloging: Ed Kazzimir, Connie Thomas, Angela Insaurralde, Vera Serebryakova, Wendy Zimmerman, Betsy Korzeniewski, Celia Rozen, Donna Kimberly, Chris Turner, Teressa Williams, Kay Barboza, Aldean Kilbourn, Amy Gordon, Susan Padgett, Tember Eliasen, Jude Baldwin, Kathy George, Steve Shadle, Nancy Tileston, Beth Odsen, Rommel Laigo (Not pictured: Billijo Link, Christie Ericson)

Advanced Serials Cataloging: Ed Kazzimir, Billijo Link, Mary Spengler, Christie Ericson, Connie Thomas, Kay Barboza, Nancy Tileston, Aldean Kilbourn, Teressa Williams, Beth Odsen, Steve Shadle, Tember Eliasen, Chisato Jimura (Not pictured: Celia Rozen, Chris Turner)
ANCHORAGE

MT. VIEW

Anchorage Public Library showed off its newest branch at a sneak preview of the Mountain View Branch on June 26 as part of the Mountain View Street Fair. Over 700 visitors stopped by to check out the building and take in Mad Science workshops. The community embraced the new library with pleas to open as soon as possible and offers to volunteer. One child exclaimed upon seeing the new kids’ area, “I’m going to come here every day when it opens!” The library is scheduled to open by August 2010.

Clare E. Stockert
Anchorage Public Library

(Cont. on pg. 12)
(Chapter News - Cont. from pg. 11)

**HAINES**

The Haines Borough Public Library has made it a priority to strengthen our community by sharing the story of the Tlingit people, the first inhabitants of the Chilkat Valley in the upper Lynn Canal of Southeast Alaska. We have held numerous programs, made several films, and produced a Tlingit Culture Exhibit which won second place under the HISTORY™ “Story of Us” nationwide contest. We are working with our community constituents such as the Chilkoot and the Chilkat Tribes, Friends of the Library, the Haines Borough School, the Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center, Alaska Indian Arts, and SEARHC to strengthen ties with the Tlingit culture and build a stronger community.

Cultural programs ranged from a panel discussion on the Traditional Trade Routes to Gene Tagaban, a guest storyteller/dancer. These programs led to an exchange of ideas and resource sharing in the creation of the Tlingit Culture Exhibit. This inspired a program where children were invited to learn traditional games and play with traditional toys loaned to the library by the museum. A school class also made a special visit to hear the Story of the Totem Pole, which stands beside the library. Traditional ways of knowing and doing were shared at a series of workshops on Northwest Coast Design and Red Ribbon Seaweed harvesting and preservation.

Work has begun on two films that will explore in depth the historical trade routes as well as the Tribe’s recovery work on a nearby village and graveyard.

The Tlingit Culture Exhibit highlighted the Tlingits’ close relationship with the natural environment using cultural programs mentioned above, displays of artifacts and traditional foods, and a multimedia station. The artifact display included traditional regalia, carvings, clothes and paintings donated from the community. The multimedia station was set up adjacent to the artifact display and played movies ranging from the trade routes panel discussion to hooligan fishing documentaries. Regular library patrons and visitors from around the world stopped to view the carvings, prints, displays of programs and locally made films.

We plan to continue these programs through the summer and fall. A few of the upcoming events include a forum and discussion on community strengths and resources; a food preservation expert from Fairbanks demonstrating canning and preserving local and traditional foods; and area experts sharing the benefits and recipes of traditional and local raw foods. Through all of these programs we hope to strengthen the community and preserve a vital part of our community’s story – the Tlingit story.

Jolanta Ryan
Education Coordinator
Haines Borough Public Library
Application information is now available for Circle of Learning scholarships, designed for American Indians and Alaska Natives who are interested in earning a Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree. The program is a partnership between the San Jose School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) and the American Indian Library Association (AILA), and is made possible by a generous grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

Circle of Learning students can live anywhere while earning a fully online ALA-accredited MLIS degree from the San Jose School of Library and Information Science. They will receive financial assistance towards their tuition costs and other expenses. They will also receive other types of support, including career advisement, field experiences, involvement in professional conferences and workshops, and interaction with Native leaders in the profession. Circle of Learning’s unique blended approach of online curriculum delivery and face-to-face and mediated social and professional interactions will help scholarship recipients receive personalized support and develop a professional network that can benefit them in the years ahead.

Details regarding eligibility for scholarships, application materials, and deadlines are now available on the project website at http://slisweb.sjsu.edu/circleoflearning/. Beginning on August 1, Circle of Learning applications will be accepted for students who plan to take MLIS courses during the Spring 2011 semester.

Circle of Learning students will need to be admitted to the School’s MLIS program in order to receive scholarship funding. For more information about how to apply to the School’s fully online MLIS program, visit http://slisweb.sjsu.edu/admissions/mlis_application.htm. Please note that space in the MLIS program is limited and qualified applicants are admitted on a space-available basis. If you are interested in being considered for Circle of Learning, we encourage you to apply to the MLIS program as soon as the application process opens.

To learn more about the American Indian Library Association and its initiatives to improve library and information services for American Indians, visit http://www.ailanet.org/.

For information regarding this announcement, please contact Heather Devine, Circle of Learning Project Manager, at hhdevine@gmail.com.
Using Anchorage as my home base for the summer, I flew back from Bozeman, threw my laundry in the washer and shifted one set of papers for the next. The following afternoon I took the Condor Air flight over the pole directly to Frankfurt. A short flight from there got me to Bremen and a short commuter train ride from there got me to Bremerhaven for the 23rd Polar Libraries’ Colloquy. This international group meets for five days every two years alternately between Europe and North America. Most of the members are librarians at polar (both north and south) research centers and universities with polar collections.

This year, although a somewhat smaller gathering, members came from the U.S., Canada, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Germany, Italy, England, Russia and Japan. **Daria Carle** and **Nancy Lesh** from UAA were in attendance representing Alaska, as was UAF’s **Bridget Burke**. The Alfred Wegener Institute’s Marcel Brannemann hosted and organized this Colloquy. The proceedings are always in English and tend to be scholarly. Our venue was in the brand new boat-shaped Klimahaus, an exceptional location positioned beside an equally new hotel on the riverfront. A truly modern setting with lots of old-world charm.

The old city center was a few short blocks away. Meeting with an international organization fulfills that urge in me to see the world and learn about people from other countries. I took lots of notes. However, due to flight schedules, I was only able to spend one extra day in Germany. I took the train back to Bremen and spent a warm, pleasant and touristy day visiting that city.

Then it was back to Anchorage. One interesting thing about flying over the pole is that you are able to get to Alaska before you leave Germany. I left Sunday morning at 11 a.m. and got to Anchorage Sunday morning at 10 a.m. By Wednesday I was back in the air headed for Washington DC and the American Library Association annual conference. This conference has something for everyone. It is the largest gathering of librarians in the world. If you haven’t been, you might give it a try.

My first ALA was 1984 in Los Angeles. I found my professional home there with the American Indian Library Association which meets in conjunction with ALA and is considered an ethnic affiliate. There are meetings and presentations on any aspect of librarianship you can imagine. All of your favorite authors make an appearance sooner rather than later. The exhibits are simply amazing. You’ve got to see them at least once.

In February AkLA will have its next conference in Juneau. Plans are well underway. This effort is being headed up by **M.J. Grande** from the Juneau Public Library; the conference committee is signing up another batch of great speakers and of course our members will present their good works and projects and research.

As in many smaller organizations which depend on volunteers, burnout happens. As this article is being written, AkLA is facing the possibility of having to do something completely different in Fairbanks in 2012. The smaller community conference for 2013 is also still up in the air. If you have never worked on a conference organizing committee, let me urge you to step forward when asked. It’s a bit of extra work, but not just worthy work, it is challenging, fun and exciting. Large roles as well as small can be had. Volunteering to work on a conference is one of the greatest things you can do for AkLA. It also gives the host community a little economic shot in the arm to the tune of several hundred thousand dollars. Although conference profits vary, other than dues, it is the single biggest money maker for the Association.

The continued success of AkLA depends on every librarian in the state taking a turn to volunteer for his or her organization. Volunteer a little or volunteer a lot, but please do volunteer. It makes us who we are. Being engaged in the greater world of libraries can be one of the most rewarding and fascinating experiences you’ll have.

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*David Ongley*

**Tuzzy Consortium Library**
WHEN DOES A LIBRARY CEASE TO BE A LIBRARY?

Certain major research universities...have begun moving their books to off-campus storage facilities due to space issues and a diminishing need for on-site hard copies. Libraries everywhere are eliminating pricey subscriptions to printed academic journals, often opting for less expensive digital versions.

Despite objections...the days of wandering through the stacks are over...the world has changed, and so have students, and so have faculty!

Richard E. Luce, director of university libraries at Emory University, countered that just because libraries are transitioning from print to online does not mean they will cease to be libraries.

“The issue is really about library as place, whether you need the bricks and mortar,” Luce said. The library still is, and will continue to be, the centerpiece of a campus. The history of libraries, he said, has been marked by evolution: they were founded as places where materials were collected and stored. Then they shifted their focus toward connecting clients with resources. Then, with the addition of creature comforts such as coffee shops, they became “experience” centered, effectively rendering student unions obsolete.

“How do you do that without bricks and mortar?”


General guidelines to publication in Newspoke, Alaska Library Association newsletter:

Not accepted: paid advertising; material intended to “sell; make a profit” rather than to “inform.” Submissions viewed as advertisements, unless item is of particular interest to Alaska, Alaskan patrons and/or libraries, or is submitted by an AkLA member.

Accepted: Alaskana—books, book reviews, or articles relating to, or of interest to, Alaskan librarians and/or their patrons. Informative material related to libraries and librarianship, especially in regard to Alaska.

Most anything submitted by AkLA members—reasonably “tasteful and well-written,” of an appropriate length (much leeway here); author is willing to submit to possible editorial changes, which may include length, spellings, downsizing of convoluted sentences. . . (Editor will make every effort to let the author know of, and pre-approve, any significant changes before the material is published in Newspoke.)

Other—determined on an individual basis by “the committee” (defined as a group of at least three people, composed of AkLA members). If the Newspoke editor or the individual submitting has questions or concerns about any submission, the matter will be sent on to the Newspoke Committee.
**ALASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

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Publications: *Alaska Library Directory*, *Newspoke*, Loretta Andress  
Executive Officer: Mary Jennings  
Website: [http://www.akla.org](http://www.akla.org)

**CALENDAR**

Alaska Library Assn.; 4:15 pm (tentative); City Hall/Mayor Sullivan  
Sept. 9, 2010  
Portland Community College, Sylvania Campus, Portland, OR  
Sept. 16-17, 2010  
Alaska State Literacy Conference. Girdwood, AK  
Oct. 15-16, 2010  
PNLA. Schweitzer Resort, Sandpoint, Idaho  
Oct. 17-22, 2010  
American Library Association Midwinter Meeting. San Diego, CA  
Jan. 7-11, 2011  
AkLA Conference. Juneau, AK  
Feb. 17-20, 2011