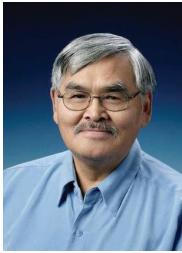


# ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY *and* MUSEUMS ALASKA

Oct. 8-10 and Oct. 15-17, 2020 | (By Zoom during Covid-19 pandemic)

## Jacob Anagi Adams, Sr.

1946-2020, Utqiagvik

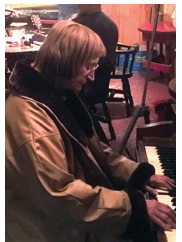


Born and raised in a community of subsistence hunters and captain of his family whaling crew, Jake was acknowledged for his leadership in Utqiagvik. He attended the Wrangell Institute boarding school and graduated from Mt. Edgecumbe High School, all in Southeast Alaska. Elected to the Barrow City council at 21, his leadership skills and responsibilities grew.

Jake was involved during the subsequent decades for the creation and public service in the North Slope Borough, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1972, the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, and the Alaska Native sobriety movement.

## Mary J. Barry

1928-2020, Fairbanks



Born and educated in Seward, Mary J. Barry became its documenter along with numerous books on Alaskan history topics. After obtaining her UCLA degree she married and raised a family in Anchorage's Govt. Hill neighborhood while working at the Alaska Native Hospital and UAA's Center for International Business.

Mary received the AHS 1966 "Atwood Award" for "...significant long-term contributions to Alaska state or local history" among them Seward, Alaska: A History of the Gateway City and A History of Mining on the Kenai Peninsula.

A musician, Mary played a great ragtime!

## Beverly Beeton

1939-2020, Seattle



Born and raised in rural Utah Beverly earned her PhD in social and intellectual history from the University of Utah.

Not a practicing Mormon she married and divorced twice—no children.

In Alaska Beverly initially worked in University of Alaska Southeast administration from 1982, moving to University of Alaska Anchorage in 1988 as historian and administrator until retirement. In Anchorage she continued historical research on women's suffrage, the 1918 Alaska flu pandemic, was active with the Anchorage Museum, and served on the boards of the Cook Inlet Historical Society and the Alaska Historical Commission.

In Seattle retirement, Beverly continued research on her family history, Alaskan events, and returned to present papers at the annual Alaska Historical Society conferences. She will be missed for stimulating history papers and interacting with everyone at the conferences.

## James "Richard" Beneville

1945-2020, Nome



"Hello Central!" was the distinctive greeting from Nome mayor Richard Beneville. Whether welcoming visitors or locals, the former Broadway dancer and actor was outgoing, flamboyant, and Nome's enthusiastic advocate. The 1901 Tin Pan Alley song lyrics were... "Hello Central, give me heaven;" Richard proclaimed Nome as his "heaven."

An actor with an acknowledged drinking problem, Richard moved to Utqiagvik in 1982, then Nome in 1988 where he achieved sobriety and wholeheartedly dedicated his energies to the community. Whether teaching in the schools, serving as Nome's Mayor since 1915, President of the Alaska conference of Mayors, directing community musicals like *My Fair Lady*, and on the Nome Arts Council for 20 years, Richard Beneville had an impact on all who met him including those attending the 2018 Alaska Historical Society/Museums Alaska joint Nome Conference.

## Alan S. Boraas

1947-2019, Soldotna

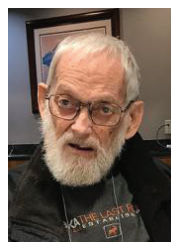


Born and educated in Minnesota, Alan became interested in archaeology and came to the University of Alaska Fairbanks and joined the archaeological team scouting the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. He subsequently completed his MA at the University of Toronto and Ph.D. from Oregon State.

Returning to Alaska, Alan settled in Soldotna and began teaching Adult Basic Education and anthropology at the Kenai Peninsula Community College and began a long-term relationship with the Kenai Native Association. He documented Kenaitze elder Peter Kalifornsky and with linguist James Kari documented the Dena'ina language. To better understand the Kenai Peninsula, Alan researched the Russian American period; his weekly columns were featured in the Anchorage Daily News. An avid skier, he coached and helped create the Talteshi Tail system.

## Raymond "Ray" Lewis Collins, Jr.

1936-2020, McGrath



From Washington state, the U.S. Army brought Ray Collins to Alaska including a stint surveying the poles and telephone lines along the Alcan Highway. After graduation from the Lutheran Bible Institute in Seattle he and wife Sally Jo joined the Wycliffe Bible Translators and in the McGrath region and together published *Dichinane' Hwt'ana: A History of the People of the Upper Kuskokwim Who Live in Nikolai and Telida, Alaska*.

He founded and served the McGrath Community Church, was a board member of the Iditarod Area School District, served as a University of Alaska coordinator and instructor, and helped build the State Bilingual Education program. He served on numerous local, regional, and state commissions including the Alaska Humanities Forum.

## Carol Ann Derfner

1944-2020, Kinderhook, NY



Carol Derfner served as Executive Director of the Anchorage Arts Council in the 1970-1980s, and became Special Assistant to Governor Bill Sheffield. She was active in the Anchorage women's movement.

In 1986 Carol moved to New York City to supervise fundraising campaigns for the Paul Taylor Dance Company and the Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture in Spokane, WA. In

New York's Hudson River Valley Carol led an active retirement life of writing and publishing short fiction, gardening, and volunteering.

## Phyllis Ann Fast

1946-2019, Anchorage

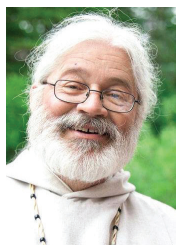


Of Koyukon Athabascan and English descent, Phyllis and her siblings were raised on a homestead between the Tudor Road and the Peanut Farm on the Old Seward Highway. With degrees from UAF (1968), UAA (1990), she completed her Harvard University Ph.D. in social anthropology (1998) at age 52; she taught at both UAF and UAA.

An artist, her paintings are displayed in Museums, corporate offices, and the covers of her books like Northern Athabascan Survival: Women, Community and the Future. In addition to academic publications, in retirement she authored 4 Native American novels and 2 children's books.

## Bruce Grossmann

1952-2020, Delta Junction



Born into a military family, Bruce received his degree in Biblical studies then served as an Army medic at Ft. Wainwright and Ft. Greely. Departing the military, he and his wife and family later returned to settle in Delta Junction where he ministered to communities along the Alaska Highway.

Bruce served on the Delta City Council, the Delta Historical Society, ran the Lutheran

Preschool, served as a local University of Alaska contact and advocate, and became the consummate host at the restored Sullivan Road House.

## Edwin S. Hall, Jr.

1939-2020, Brockport, NY



Thirty years of fieldwork tied Ed to Alaska from Yale University where he first studied to later teaching anthropology at Ohio State University and the State University of New York at Brockport where he retired.

A trip to the Brooks Range triggered his interests in archaeology and the prehistory and cultures of Arctic Alaska. An eminent storyteller and mentor, he researched,

taught and published widely. Beyond the academic world, his archaeological consulting service identified cultural resources in advance of oil and mineral exploration and extraction.

Multiple sclerosis shifted this adventurous and enthusiastic professor from mountain climbing to storytelling, mentoring, teaching and collecting NW Coast Native and Inuit art. The

Alaska Anthropological Association honored him with their 1993 Outstanding Service Award, and a student paper competition is named in his honor.

## Holger "Jorgy" Jorgensen

Fairbanks, 1927-2020



Born in Haycock and living a subsistence childhood in Western Alaska to an Inupiaq mother and Norwegian father, "Jorgy" served in the WWII Alaska Territorial Guard, piloted Governor Bill Egan and became a commercial airline pilot for Wien Air Alaska, Munz Northern Airlines, Pacific Air Alaska, Northern Air Cargo and Great Northern.

During his aviation career of more than 50 years, he also flew Hercules C-130s internationally for Alaska International Air.

He was a willing mentor to many younger aviators and was inducted into the Alaska Aviation Museum Hall of Fame in 2017.

## Byron Mallott

1943-2020, Juneau



Tlingit member of the Yakutat Raven moiety and clan leader of the Kwaashk'I Kwaan, Byron Mallott served in many public, private and Alaska Native roles. Educated in boarding schools in Skagway and the Sheldon Jackson School in Sitka, Byron met other students from around the state who would later unite around Alaska Native issues and assume roles in guiding and directing the resultant institutions.

In Yakutat he became Mayor at age 22, then worked for the Alaska Dept. of Community and Regional Affairs and began working with Emil Notti and Willie Hensley to unite Alaska Natives statewide around the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Byron served the Sealaska Corporation, the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation, as Juneau Mayor, Lt. Governor until resignation under Governor Bill Walker, and in many public service roles.

## Richard K. "Nels" Nelson

1941-2019, Sitka



From a childhood in Wisconsin looking for snakes and turtles, to adulthood learning and writing about the indigenous peoples and landscapes of Arctic and Interior Alaska, studying North American deer, then capturing the sights and sounds of Alaska and Australia for the extensive National Public Radio Encounters: Radio Experiences in the North Sitka KCAW-radio series, Nels epitomized

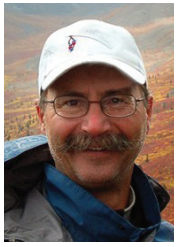
curiosity, documentation, and change. Until his passing from cancer complications he sought an increasing intimacy with the natural world.

His lasting legacies are his documentation of people within the contexts of their natural environments, and capturing the places and sounds themselves primarily in Alaska but also Australia and the lower 48. Nels' trademarks were: curiosity, humor, and awe of the natural world.



## David Neufeld

-2020, Whitehorse, Yukon



As environmental historian for Parks Canada of the Yukon and Western Arctic, David Neufeld was known for his pioneering collaborative work with Yukon First Nations and particularly the elders. His research reached across to Alaska, documenting with Frank Morris the Chilkoot Trail: Heritage Route to the Klondike, writing an administrative history of the Kenai Fjords

National Park, and documenting the Distant Early Warning Line in Canada, and participating in Yukon and Alaska Anthropology and History conferences.

## Donald J. Orth

1925-2019, Falls Church, VA



As compiler of the Dictionary of Alaska Place Names, Don Orth is known widely throughout Alaska. Born in Wisconsin, serving in the U.S. Navy on the landing on Omaha Beach on D-Day (June 7, 1944), he had a 39-year career with the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver, Colorado with topographic surveying programs in the western United States.

He was responsible for developing the Geographic Names Information System as the world's first effort to deal with national names by automated methods. He was professionally recognized for toponym contributions to cartography and an avid mountaineer, traveler, and historic preservationist. Many remember Don's Alaska visits, particularly as the deadline approached for publication of his Alaska place names dictionary.

## Robert "Bob" E. Price

1933-2020, Juneau



Attorney, legal researcher and author, Bob Price's immersion and love of books and libraries greatly assisted his role as assistant attorney general and Governor Keith Miller's legal advisor navigating Alaska Native legal issues, as a solicitor in the U.S. Dept. of Interior in Washington, D.C., then as corporate attorney for the Bristol Bay Native Corporation.

From Chicago and with 2 DePaul University degrees, Bob was a Fulbright scholar in Mexico and Brazil. In his youth he traveled the world before settling in Juneau in 1966 and marrying Nadine Metcalfe Richardson Williams and becoming an attentive stepfather.

He authored books on the Tlingit and Haida salmon fishery, a bibliography of literature on Alaska Native History from 1741-1867, and a paper for the Alaska Statehood Commission Legal Status of the Alaska Natives.

## Kathy Kolkhorst Ruddy

1949-2020, Juneau

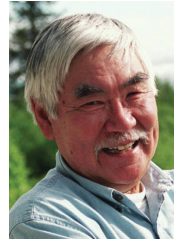


Born on Staten Island to a Coast Guard family later serving in Kodiak, Kathy attended Wellesley College, graduated from the University of Connecticut law school and clerked with Alaska Supreme Court justice Robert Boochever. She married Bill Ruddy and joined his law practice with Jim Bradley.

Beginning with a project to maintain the M/V Princeton Hall which served Sheldon Jackson School, Kathy further immersed herself in Alaska Native history and culture, as well as the Juneau Arts and Humanities community of Juneau.

## Ronald Senungetuk

1933-2020, Homer



Inupiat artist, educator and mentor Ronald Senungetuk was born in a traditional sod house in the Western Alaska village of Wales. He was first educated at the Mt. Edgecumbe boarding School in Sitka, then continued at the School of American Art at the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York. On a Fulbright scholarship in Norway, he met and married a fellow artist and jewelry artist Turid

Grotthing. They returned to Fairbanks where he joined the UAF faculty as director of the Native Arts Center and later Art Dept. until his 1986 retirement.

Ron's wood carving and silver art are simultaneously old and contemporary, and his work appears in many public and private collections. He served on the first Alaska State Council on the Arts. In addition to awards for his art and leadership, he served on numerous boards and commissions.