

# Fairbanks Native Association Highlights

*A Voice for the People of Fairbanks*

*Summer 2019*



*Dr. Rev. Anna Frank waves to a cheering crowd after being conferred with an honorary doctorate of laws from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. From left to right: University of Alaska President Jim Johnson, Frank, UAF Provost Anupma Prakesh, UAF Chancellor Dan White, and UA Regent Karen Perdue.*

## Board of Directors



Dr. Anna Frank, *Elder Advisor*

Jessica Black, *President*

Beverly Kokrine, *Vice President*

Andrea Nield, *Secretary*

Sharon Hildebrand, *Treasurer*

Glenn "Manny" Carlo, *Member*

Travis Cole, *Member*

Tonya Garnett, *Member*

Gerald "Jerry" Sam, *Member*

Charlene Stern, *Member*

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Steve Ginnis

*Executive Director*

## Rev. Anna Frank receives honorary Ph.D.

As she looked out over the hundreds of people standing and cheering for her, the newly minted Dr. Rev. Anna Frank felt a surge of thankfulness, joyful tears and love.

"They helped to lift a person up," she said. "They all lifted me up. I hope people could be like that forever, helping someone," she said.

Frank, 79, was an honorary recipient of a doctorate degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks this May. She was recognized for her "leadership and advocacy for Alaskans for more than half a century as a community health aide, counselor and priest," the UAF citation read. She is the Elder Advisor on Fairbanks Native Association's board.

Before UAF's commencement, FNA, Denakanaaga, Doyon, Ltd., Tanana Chiefs Conference, and Interior Regional Housing Authority hosted a celebration potlatch for Frank.

"She's bringing with her knowledge about culture, about language," said Steve Ginnis, FNA executive director. "She's being recognized for all her years of service to our region, a region the size of Texas."

She was the only recipient of UAF's honorary doctorate in 2019, said Evon Peter, UAF's Vice Chancellor for Rural, Community and Native Education.

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## FNA voters appoint three to board, approve Native descent for membership



*Black*

Fairbanks Native Association members re-elected Jessica Black and Andrea Nield to the board of directors, and returned Glen “Manny” Carlo to the board after a nine-year absence during the 2019 FNA 56th Annual Membership Meeting in March.

In a board meeting immediately following the membership meeting, the board elected Black to be board president. Beverly Kokrine was elected vice president. Nield is the secretary and Sharon Hildebrand is the board treasurer. “I’m learning and growing,” Black said. “I want to continue to serve.



*Nield*

I feel a commitment. It’s a way for me to serve in a cultural relevant way.”

Nield said the FNA board has achieved much for the betterment of FNA stakeholders.

“I’m grateful to be able to serve further,” she said.

Carlo, who is the son of the late FNA founders Bill and Poldine Carlo, said he and his siblings grew up with FNA. FNA started at his mother’s kitchen table as a way for Fairbanks Alaska Natives to have a safe place to socialize.

“I was taught well by my parents,” he said. “I want to see FNA keep going.”

The board thanked Sarah Obed for her service. Obed didn’t run for another term. Darcy Peter was elected as a board alternative.

Black’s, Nield’s, and Carlo’s terms end in 2022.

In other meeting news, the membership approved changing FNA’s Articles of Incorporation to allow membership to those who are direct descendants of Alaska Natives or Native Americans by a vote of 141 to 35. Previously, membership was limited to those who were 1/4 or more Alaska Native or Native American.

This means that descendants may now vote in FNA elections, run for FNA board of directors and enter FNA pageants.

Out of the 400 people who attended, 211 were eligible voters this year.



*Carlo*

### Dr. Rev. Anna Frank

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She didn’t have an easy life, but she served our people, said Victor Joseph, TCC president.

“She’s been whatever God wanted her to be,” he said.

Frank was one of 13 children of Jonathan and Rosie David. Her parents raised the family in a subsistence lifestyle in Old Minto.

As a teen, she watched other children leave the village to attend school, while she stayed behind. She didn’t graduate from high school because she stayed home.

When others her age were finishing school, she jumped a plane to Fairbanks with Richard Frank and came back to Old Minto a married woman. The couple had four children and had been married for 57 years when Richard died.

She earned a general equivalency diploma after attending night school, with young children at home. She tried to go into nursing, but the Bureau of Indian Affairs program turned her away because she wasn’t the head of the family.

Frank worked most of her adult life, first as a health aide and postmistress in Minto. She worked for TCC as the first village traveling counselor and helped create the Old Minto Family Recovery Camp. She became the first Alaska Native woman to be ordained as a minister by the Episcopal Church.

In January FNA’s Board of Directors appointed Frank as FNA’s Elder Advisor. FNA does important work and it’s good to have an elder for advice, she said.

“It’s the way we grew up,” she

said. “It’s very important to our young people and to our culture.”

People living in a fast-paced world often don’t have time for the community life Alaska Natives once had living together in villages.

“We lose it because we’re not together all the time,” Frank said. “So we have to stop for a moment and listen. That’s what our elders always did. They always answer, ‘Ah hah,’ a word of encouragement.”

Frank said this new role will also be a valuable learning experience.

“I have to learn how to become an Elder Advisor,” she said. “I’m learning, too, but I had good teachers.”



*Frank*



# Celebration scenes

The FNA Annual Potlatch held in March was FNA's 56th potlatch. About 400 people attended and enjoyed moosehead soup, moose meat, salmon, salads and dessert.

*Left: L-R, Ben Henry, Chris Charlie, and Nathan Charlie stir three pots of moosehead soup. The other pots hold campfire tea. The moose was courtesy of Jay David, of Minto. Cooking moose soup is almost a full day affair, but a welcome staple to any potlatch.*



*Above: Congratulations to our winners. L-R: Miss FNA: Destiny Demoski-Tritt; FNA Princess Runner up-tied: Destiny Ellen Felix, MaKao Edwin-Perdue; Linda Halvorson: FNA Princess.*

*Adalyn Farmer won the hearts of FNA judges, who named her FNA Baby. She is the daughter of Justice Farmer and Khrystian G. Simon.*



*Steve Ginnis, FNA executive director, jigs with Miss FNA Destiny Demoski.*

*FNA members enjoy their meal with friends and family.*

*FNA JOM Dancers introduced themselves in Dennake and performed traditional dances.*

# An offering of love, food, advice and clean socks

The FNA Street Advocacy and Outreach Program serves Fairbanks youth who are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless, or have run away. The program provides regular meals, food packs and a safe place to go. SOAP hosts special events, including a prom, a Valentine's Day party, an Easter party and a Mother's Day celebration.

Here are some comments left in the SOAP comment box.

If my dreams would come true, I would never be hungry, have to ask for food, or walk for hours with no one to talk to.

I am so excited about Mr. Staff's curry and the rice is so good. Thank you for believing in us SOAP kids.

She loves us but yesterday she said "Oh Lordy" seven times. She might need a day to herself.

I wanted to say thank you. Us Native kids need more kind people in our lives. Oh, I got socks, too, not used ones, but all new.

Staff saved me. without SOAP I would have died. Love her so much.

Staff says even homeless girls have a purpose and our journey is important so we can heal from our pasts and not let us burden ourselves with the "what ifs." We are learning to be strong and to enjoy our life as it comes, without heartache and devastation. We will rise up one day and show everyone.

I want to say thank you Staff for helping me with my son. Bathe, feed, and give me the advice you know I need. You are never mean to me or make me feel stupid. You don't care about my past, just where me and Babe are heading. Love you.

I came to SOAP for a better tomorrow. To ease the pain of not eating enough on the weekends. I love the food. I would like to thank you because even though we mess up we still have a place, a home, to call our own even if it is not at night. Darkness is almost gone so I will do better. And work harder with my addiction. I made it through the winter. I am happy for SOAP to call home. Thank you for reading my letter.

Today I learned about my anger and how it affects my depression and can make it worse. No one took the time to talk to me or let me know until I came to SOAP and found someone who cares. Thank you, Staff.

Today I wanted to talk to Staff but I had to wait because she is so busy. She never leaves us without helping, but I think another person should be helping because so many of us want to talk to her. After you talk sometimes she gives you a candy bar. It is the best. Thank you for listening.

I am safe because of SOAP and not afraid because I know I am beautiful, good and smart. Staff told me that and I trust and love her.

I love everything about Staff, the food, kindness, help and her smiles. Today Staff Spouse called her his sweetie pie.





*Stern*

## Stern elected as TCC vice president

Congratulations to Charlene Stern, who was elected Tanana Chiefs Conference Vice President in March.

Stern is the past president of FNA's board of directors.

She told TCC conventioners that she will work on behalf of TCC tribes in the way she was traditionally taught.

Stern replaces Julie Roberts-Hyslop, who did not seek re-election. Stern said she sought Roberts-Hyslop's blessing before running.

She remains on FNA's board as a member. During Stern's term as FNA board president, the board moved to focus on five significant objectives to strengthen FNA. They are to effectively communicate with the Native community, consumers, partners, staff, and founders; maintain key partnerships to support successful Native advocacy and services; maintain satisfied, well-trained FNA staff provide great customer service; sustain revenue streams to for key essential services; and maintain excellent facilities support essential services

## Free health career training for youth

Do you want a job in a health field right after school?

The Fairbanks Native Association Johnson-O'Malley Program announces a new—and free—opportunity for Alaska Native/American Indian high school juniors and seniors in Fairbanks North Star Borough School District schools.

The Allied Health Pathways Program, a partnership between FNA and FNSBSD, offers eligible Alaska Native/American Indian students an opportunity to earn certification in any of eight different healthcare pathways, while still in high school. They can also earn up to one year of credits with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Career and Technical Education Program.

Plan on a rewarding career in

- Nursing
- Nurse's Aide
- Paramedicine
- Phlebotomy
- Radiologic Technology
- Medical Assistant
- Health Care Reimbursement
- Dental Assistant (coming soon)

Earning a technical certificate in a health care vocation may open up an exciting career path for your future! Credit fees (up to 30 hours) materials, transportation, support needs are provided by Allied Health Pathways.

Apply now as a junior or senior, or as a 2019 High School graduate.

Contact: Erin Edenshaw  
 Johnson-O'Malley Allied Health Project Coordinator  
 Fairbanks Native Association  
 3830 South Cushman Street  
 Fairbanks, AK 99701  
 Phone:(907) 452-1648 ext. 6426, Cell: (907) 347-1497  
 Email: erin.edenshaw@fairbanksnative.org

## FNA Captain Marvel



*A letter to a JOM family services coordinator.*



*The FNA JOM 2019 Youth Basketball Tournament was a success. It was the 20th anniversary of the popular event with over 250 Interior Alaska youth attending. Congratulations and thank you to our sponsors, volunteers and players! See you next year!*

## In honor of our children



*Travis Cole, Roger Rose, Jr. and Julian Thibedeau led the way.*

FNA Community Services held a walk to honor children and to bring attention to children who suffer from abuse.

FNA elders were joined by about 20 children in a walk in downtown Fairbanks in April. A drumming group, featuring FNA board member Travis Cole, Roger Rose, Jr. and Julian Thibedeau, led the walk.

Afterwards the children ate lunch with the elders.

For more information about FNA Community Services, call 907-452-5224.



*Vina Bilow is ready to walk.*



*Elders who stand up for children.*



*Annie John with full hands.*

## Alaska Native reporter/science communicator joins FNA

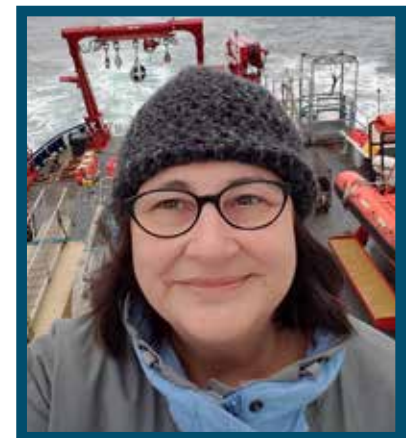
Meet Diana Campbell, FNA's new director of communication. She is the daughter of the late Virginia Fredson Dows and the eldest grandchild of the late John Fredson and Jean Ribalof Fredson Frank.

Virginia, also known as Geega, taught her the things she needed to know as an Alaska Native. Virginia, John, and Jean are inspirations to her and she tries to live an honorable life because of them.

She was a print reporter for many years, and has moved into social media and audio/visual storytelling. She earned a bachelors of arts in journalism, and masters of arts in communication from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

She spent 10 years in public science information at UAF. She spent a month aboard the R/V Sikuliaq doing social media as part of a research team gathering data about the Arctic food chain from the shelf break of the Beaufort Sea. She also told the stories about Alaska Native health at UAF's Center for Alaska Native Health Research for many years.

She is glad to be a part of carrying out FNA's mission and wholeheartedly shares its vision of being a unified, healthy, and empowered Native community that embraces all cultures.



*Campbell*



## Helping those who are hurt means understanding trauma

Linda Thai is a refugee from Vietnam with an Australian accent. It's an unusual combination in Alaska, she'll admit.

She was two years old when the Vietnam war ended and her parents had to flee the country from the communist government. The family ended up in Australia.

Thai said that it took her a while to "celebrate her Australianess and Vietnameseess." Both parents worked, leaving Thai and her sister mostly on their own. She had a kind neighbor, but she felt every inch a refugee who struggled with loss of family, clan, village and tribe, even though she, her parents and sister were together.

"We were a fragmented family in my culture," she said. "Parents who were traumatized often become parents who traumatize."

Her story of cultural loss and resiliency resonates with Alaska Natives and others. Thai built on her personal experiences for teaching trauma-informed care at Fairbanks Native Association Community Services.

Trauma-informed care is a treatment where the caregiver recognizes clients may have some sort of trauma, and responds accordingly. The principles can be used in many different situations, including parenting.

Thai gave a talk on how grandparents and parents might communicate better using TIC recently at a lunch held by FNA Community Services. Thai teaches TIC by using seven Cs: competence, confidence, connection, character, contribution, coping, and control.

"Young people live up or down to expectations

we set for them," Thai said. "They need adults who believe in them unconditionally, and hold them to the high expectations of being compassionate, generous, and creative."

Beverly Beardsley, who attended, liked what Thai had to say and plans to use what she learned with her grandchildren.

"I think what really got me to listening was that some of us tend not to focus on their good and believing they can do a good thing," Beardsley said. "I'm going to encourage myself to do it."

Margaret Wilson, a retired nurse, attended looking for ways to help her grandchildren. She was unexpectedly struck by Thai's story. Wilson left her Kaltag home when she was 11 years old to attend boarding school in Copper Center.

"All she was saying was so familiar to me," Wilson said. "Once I left home, I was gone. I lost all those years of gaining knowledge."

People who have those types of experiences often live with trauma as adults, Thai said. They can use TIC on themselves to ease the burden.

"What we do to model healthy resilience strategies for our children and grandchildren is more important than anything we say about them," she said. "We need to take these on in our own lives."



Thai

### ***The Seven Cs of Trauma-informed Care***

**Competence:** When we notice what young people are doing right and give them opportunities to develop important skills, they feel competent.

**Confidence:** See the best in them, so that they can see the best in themselves.

**Connection:** Adults' unconditional belief in a young person—and holding them to high expectations—is the single most important factor determining whether those young people will be able to overcome challenging circumstances.

**Character:** Young people need a clear sense of right and wrong and a commitment to integrity. We need to help them! Clarify! Explain! Role model!

**Contribution:** Communicate the belief that our youth can make the world a better place.

**Coping:** Young people who possess a variety of healthy coping strategies will be less likely to turn to dangerous quick fixes when stressed.

**Control:** Help them learn to take one step at a time towards their goals.

Courtesy of Linda Thai



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### **Fairbanks Native Association**

Main: 907-452-1648

Behavioral Health: 907-452-6251, ext. 6400

Community Services: 907-452-5225

Early Childhood Development: 907-451-8814

Johnson-O'Malley: 907-452-1648

Denakke Language Program: 907-452-1648

# **FNA Employee of the Month**



**Louisa Hisamoto – BHS Nurse  
December 2018**



**Monica Edemar – ECD Primary  
Educator, January 2019**



**David Stepp – Facilities Manager  
February 2019**