

MARCH 2011

THE

NEWSLETTER

Fairbanks Native Association

### Parents As Teachers develops new program; aims to reach more with winning strategies

Shirley Williams is the director the FNA's Parents As Teachers program. A slight, bright-eyed mother of three children, 6, 8 and 20, Shirley and her husband Darel have lived in Fairbanks for 18 years.

Parents As Teachers is part of FNA's mission of developing healthy and happy children. The program works with families to assure that their children are meeting development milestones.



Shirley Williams

Its parent educators share with mothers information and skills to help their kids thrive. Parents As Teachers serves approximately 140 families.

Shirley comes to the program from an entry-level position, having worked for FNA since 1997. She started as a teacher's assistant at the Woman and Children's Center for Inner Healing. Then she became a teacher and later a parent educator.

Along the way, and with the cooperation of FNA, she earned an AA degree in Human Services from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. In May, she'll graduate with a BA de-

**Parents As Teachers, See Page 2**

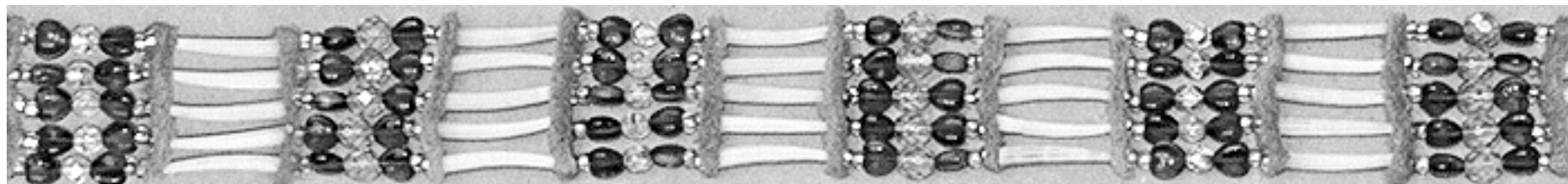
### Bob Maguire: a life of service in the north

FNA board member Ray DeWilde and Bob Maguire sharing bear feast and winter traditions with youth



On a mild, early winter afternoon not long ago, Ray DeWilde wanted to celebrate his bear kill in the ways of his ancestors. Along with friends and members of his extended family, Ray organized the bear party at a place on the Tanana River, near Fairbanks. In the traditional way, the event was for males only. Bob Maguire was among the invited guests and is seen here, second from left, trading stories with Ray.

Bob Maguire, a great friend of Native Alaskans, departed this life just as spring returned to the Interior. He is remembered by many in rural Alaska as a school teacher and principal for 30 years; a high school basketball coach; and a volunteer for countless projects involving the welfare of children and elders. In Fairbanks, Bob's community service included salvaging roadkill moose, judging science fairs at Effie Kokrine Charter School, and providing counsel and advice to inmates at the local jail. Bob was special friend of FNA. He was always on call when the occasion needed a steady and experienced hand. We believe Bob's legacy is seen in the smiles and laughter of children.



## Parents As Teachers, Continued from Page 1

gree in Family Studies. Shirley's academic ambitions include a masters degree in guidance counseling. In the future she plans to pursue a private practice in family/play therapy.

On a recent afternoon, as a spring sun beamed through the windows of her cozy office, Shirley shared with a visitor plans for a new program that will exclusively target parents who are struggling with the responsibility.

Considering her words carefully, Shirley said, "Parents truly are their child's most influential teacher and learning starts at home. Parenting can be rewarding, but at the same time it can be very challenging.

"That's when the resources we have at Parents As Teachers, the ongoing support and guidance, give parents the tools they need to help their children's over all development. In this way, parents can help children reach their full potential.

"And, of course, isn't that what we want? A community with healthy parents and healthy children. It is important for parents to feel secure in their parenting so they can provide a safe learning environment for their children. The tribal home visiting program we are planning will be a dedicated resource for parents.

"We've an assessment and needs project underway that's the result of a one-year planning grant. Research will determine the scope of what we'll offer. We're currently gather-

ing information and will have an implementation plan by the end of June," she said.

Shirley says the plan is to enroll Alaska Native and American Indian families, particularly those that are identified as high risk. The planned project is tentatively called 'Tribal Home Visiting' and aims to make weekly home visits.

The new program promises to be comprehensive. The increased frequency of home visits will mean more contact time with parent educators and is expected to produce better outcomes. Shirley says the assessment is still gathering data, so hard numbers are not yet available. However, it is anticipated to serve about 70 families.

One feature of the ongoing community needs assessment is found on the FNA web site. On the main page is a questionnaire for parents who may be interested in the services of Parents As Teachers. To view the material, go to [www.fairbanksnative.org](http://www.fairbanksnative.org). Participation is confidential. The information will help Shirley and her staff better anticipate needed services and the circumstances of individual families.

Ask Shirley how she and her husband raise their kids and you'll hear the word involvement. Darel, a union steward for Local 942, who works at Flowline Alaska, and Shirley have found that after-school activities keep their children involved in productive interests. Tae Kwon Do, gymnastics and Girls Scouts present useful and challenging activities for their children.

As an outgrowth of her professional in-

## Fairbanks Native Association

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### FNA's Mission

We provide our membership and the greater Fairbanks community quality services in a professional manner. These services are provided through special and innovative programs, which preserve the membership's unique lifestyle and culture, while improving the quality of life for the community.

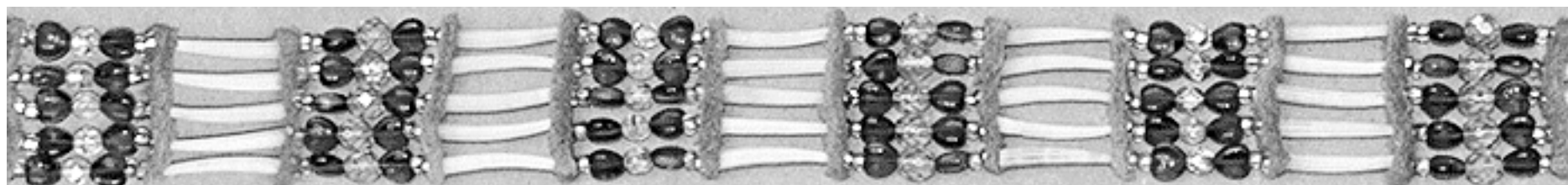
Steve Ginnis, Executive Director  
Doreen Deaton, Deputy Director  
Duane Hoskins, Director of Finance  
Rhonda Howard, Director of Human Resources  
Perry Ahsogeak, BHS Director  
Suzanne Price, WCCIH Program Director  
Perry Ahsogeak, Acting Graf Program Dir.  
Mary Willey, Head Start Program Director  
Angela Foster-Snow, Early Head Start Program Dir.  
Shirley Williams, PAT Program Director  
Freda Williams, Community Services Program Dir.  
Louise Glynn, FASAP Program Director  
Linda Woods, Johnson O'Malley Program Director

terests, Shirley serves on the boards of several education organizations, including an appointment by the borough mayor to a seat on the Early Childhood Commission.

## Parents As Teachers aims to engage healthy attitudes in families New program seeks community input; see questionnaire link page 4



Engaging children early in activities involving learning and play engages attitudes and coping skills that help a child thrive.



## Participation in yearly meeting continues to grow

# Annual election adds two new faces to FNA board of directors

FNA's annual meeting occurred on March 10 in the tribal hall. The major items on the agenda were the election of three board members, the financial report, and the executive director's report. As people entered the tribal hall, they were registered to vote. We were pleased to once again to benefit from the impartial services of election judges Gerald Haugeberg and Nick Gasca. A quorum was established with more than 70 members present and eligible to cast votes.

Gerald is affiliated with the certified public accountants Cook and Haugeberg. FNA appreciates his oversight.

A light buffet of sandwiches welcomed people to the meeting as well as a bounty of door prizes that were given to people with winning tickets. The colors were posted by the Alaska Native Veterans Association, followed by an inspiring invocation by Don Thibedeau, a case manager at Denali Center. Don's comments drew people's attention to the clarity and sparkle of the ice sculptures that populate the city at this time of year.

Reporting for Mikunda Cottrell, Alex Beckman gave a presentation of FNA's current financial health. According to the numbers, FNA has an "unqualified clean report". Net income is in positive territory and trends are moving in the same direction. For the second consecutive year, the organization is in the black. We have an annual budget of \$12 million and employ 228 people to deliver and administer services. There were no questions following the report.

Moving to the election. Board member and treasurer, Cheryl Cadzow, announced she would not stand for reelection. The vacancy left the seat open to floor nominations exclusively. The

other two seats to be decided were those held by board president Rhonda Baker-Joseph and board secretary Shirley Moses. In addition to the incumbents, four nominations were recognized from the floor. Following the 30 minutes allotted for voting, the results showed that Rhonda Baker-Joseph had retained her seat. Roy Roehl, Sr. and Roxanne Frank had captured the two remaining seats. Due to another vacancy, the first alternate, Shirley Moses, was reappointed to the policy making panel.

Steve Ginnis began his report by noting the accomplishments of the last year. He was particularly pleased with the adoption of FNA's strategic plan in December. Steve said it sets the direction of the organization for the next five years. "It will not sit on the shelf," he said. "I will report quarterly [to the board] on the progress of the plan."

Steve went on to highlight the successful financial audit, the state certification of the enhanced detox unit and the successful CARF review. He also praised new funding coming from federal stimulus monies. In a collaboration with Head Start, the funds will enable Women & Children's Center for Inner Healing to reach an additional 40 children.

However, as he did at the FNA staff meeting a few days earlier, Steve warned that funding will become increasingly difficult in the near term. He called people's attention to the size of the federal deficit and the inevitable funding downturn he anticipates as its consequence.

"But, he said, the world is not going to end because funding is stressed. We can still lobby our state legislature, and the point to remember is we should not neglect the people in need. If nothing else, it will bring us closer together, even if we have to downsize."

Steve continued by citing problems wherein rising employee insurance costs are eating into program funds. As a manager, he explained how he's constrained by FNA's budget and the rising costs in medical insurance.

"These costs are coming from funds that would otherwise be going to our programs," Steve said.

He thanked program directors and the financial staff for making the necessary changes that "pulled us out of the red."

He went on to recount the outcome of the detox unit shut down and the partnership with TCC that provides a physician as the unit's medical oversight. In the event the detox PA (physicians assistant) is unexpectedly called away, TCC will provide a PA to conduct intake examinations. The detox unit is now licensed to operate for three years. At the end of that period, it will be subject to another review.

Detox unit is a project close to Steve's heart. In his comments, he acknowledged his personal struggle with alcohol and drugs. As a reformed addict, he emphasized his support and advocacy of detox and its allied behavioral health programs.

Prior to adjournment, Rhonda Baker-Joseph spoke to the membership. She called on the memory of her great uncle, Andrew Northway, by asking people to remember the power of speaking from the heart. She credited the board for working together to finalize the strategic plan and, though a sometimes tedious task, she said it will improve services for the membership. Rhonda spoke of her mother's cancer struggle and how the experience has opened the power of prayer and galvanized her efforts to assure that everyone is treated with respect.



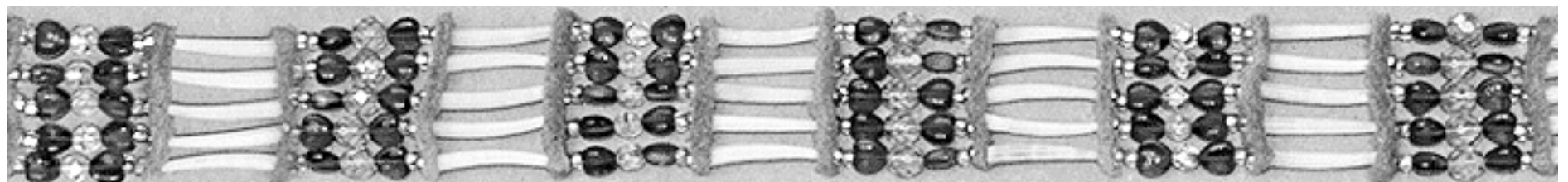
Maurine McGinty of FNA, left, monitors the ballot box.



Doreen Deaton, FNA's deputy director, chats with Wally and Kim Carlo.



Gerald Haugeberg and Nick Gasca register voters.



# JOM basketball tournament ignites fever in players



Competition was keen at the 11th annual Alaska Native Youth Basketball Tournament, March 14-16. In many contests, scoring was tight and the pace furious. From the bleachers, fans and family members whooped and cheered the ball handlers with each basket. According to Linda Woods, JOM's director, there were 26 co-ed teams, grades 3-12. The event hosted 221 players; they came from 28 FNSB schools and 13 village schools. A dedicated crew of 67 volunteers provided assistance to make it happen. To them, and a distinguished list of commercial sponsors, we say thank you!

## **Staff achievements Recognition for a job well done**

Mary Willey, FNA's Head Start director was selected by the Alaska Head Start Association 2010 Head Start Director of the Year.

FNA Head Start has another AHSA award winner. Kathy Pike, a cook for Head Start, was awarded the AHSA Cook of the Year for 2010.

Dina Contreras, a teacher's aide, was awarded the Preschool Provider of the Year for 2010 by Fairbanks Association for Education of Young Children.

Congratulations all.

## **Input requested for new FNA tribal home visiting program**

Fairbanks Native Association has been awarded a grant to design and implement a Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Child Home Visiting program. The program will serve Alaska Native families living in the Fairbanks area who are expecting a baby or are the parents of children from birth to age 5. The purpose is to honor traditional values in supporting parents as they raise healthy, happy children.

To give input, please go to [www.fairbanksnative.org](http://www.fairbanksnative.org) and click on the scrolling link, or call the FNA Parents as Teachers Program at 451-1005 ext. 6029 to request the survey. Thank you so much.

