



Alaska State Council on the Arts

RECIPIENTS OF 2009 GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES ANNOUNCED

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Governor Parnell has selected the 2009 recipients for the Governor's Awards for the Arts and Humanities. The awards will be presented during a dinner event at the Hotel Captain Cook on Thursday, October 22, 2009 at 6 pm. The awards are sponsored by the Alaska State Council on the Arts, the Alaska Humanities Forum and the Office of the Governor.

The recipients are:

- Wanda Chin, Fairbanks, *Arts Advocacy Award*;
- Koniag, Incorporated, Kodiak, *Business Leadership Award*;
- Dr. Rudolph Krejci and Dr. James M. Kari, Fairbanks, *Governor's Awards for the Humanities*;
- Lynda Leal, *Alaska History and Culture Curriculum Teacher of the Year*;
- Pauline Lee, Petersburg, *Lifetime Achievement Award for the Arts*;
- Florence Pestrikoff, Kodiak, *Margaret Nick Cooke Award for Native Arts and Languages*;
- Sheila Wyne, Anchorage, *Individual Artist Award*;

About the recipients:

Wanda Chin, Advocacy Award for the Arts

Wanda is Exhibition and Design Director at the University of Alaska Museum of the North, where she has worked for over 25 years. In addition to her duties at the Museum, Wanda has served in numerous leadership positions as an advocate for the arts and museums, including serving on the Alaska State Council on the Arts under Governor Hickel, and as a trustee for the Western Museums Association and the Western States Arts Federation. She has served as a Kellogg Fellow in museums and exhibits and as an NEA fellow. In addition, she has volunteered for numerous panels, designed award winning publications and has had essays published in such publications as *Ice Breakers* and *Looking North*.

Koniag, Incorporated, Business Leadership Award for the Arts

Koniag is the regional Native Corporation, managing the lands and natural resources of the Koniag region in Kodiak. Koniag's support for the arts is most evident in its stewardship of the Alutiiq Museum, which is Kodiak's tribal cultural center. Koniag has

generously supported many programs which have enabled Alutiiqs to preserve, perpetuate and celebrate their artistic heritage.

Dr. Rudolph Krejci, Fairbanks, Governor's Awards for the Humanities

Dr. Krejci has been in Alaska since 1960, when the University of Alaska Fairbanks hired him to teach philosophy. He retired from UAF in 1997. He was a protégé of British philosopher Sir Karl Popper and the founder of University of Alaska's first Philosophy Department. Although retired, Dr. Krejci is still active with the UAF community as a faculty doctoral program advisor, mentor to students, volunteer instructor and guest lecturer.

Dr. James M. Kari, Fairbanks, Governor's Awards for the Humanities

Dr. Kari is Professor Emeritus with the Alaska Native Language Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, having served on the UAF faculty from 1973 to 1997 as a linguist specializing in the Alaskan Athabascan languages. Dr. Kari has continued to pursue an active program of research and publication since his retirement and his contributions to the files of Athabascan linguistics are ongoing. He is well-known among Alaskan linguists and highly regarded, particularly for his published dictionaries, work with Native place names, and the close and respectful relationship he maintains with communities of Athabascan language speakers.

Lynda Leal, Eagle River, Alaska History and Culture Curriculum Teacher of the Year

Lynda grew up in Grayling in Interior Alaska and graduated from Mt. Edgecumbe High School. She earned her BA in Sociology/Anthropology and Asian Studies from St. Olaf College in Minnesota. Lynda decided that she could best serve the Alaska Native community by becoming a teacher and got her Ed. M. from Harvard University before returning to Alaska in 2004, where she now teaches World History and Alaska Studies at Bartlett High School in Anchorage. Ms. Leal was a student of Brenda Campen, the first Alaska History and Culture Teacher of the Year (2006).

Pauline (Polly) Lee, Petersburg, Lifetime Achievement Award for the Arts

Polly Lee is a visual artist, and her work is in public and private collections around the state, in addition to having public art commissions. She is a founder of the Petersburg Arts Council, and has been an outspoken advocate of public art, establishing Petersburg's *Public Art Map* for visitors. At age 86, Polly still maintains a working art studio in her home. Polly just recently stepped down from the Arts Council board, but now volunteers for the Public Art Works committee in Petersburg. She was appointed to the Alaska State Council on the Arts in 1980 by Governor Egan, where she served for 12 years. Polly and her deceased husband, Eldor, settled in Petersburg in 1945. Eldor was a delegate to the Alaska State Constitutional Convention.

Florence Pestrikoff, Kodiak, Margaret Nick Cooke Award for Native Arts And Languages

Florence was born in the rural village of Akhiok in 1937, and did not speak Alutiiq as a child. Like many Alaskans of her generation, English was the dominant language of her

childhood. Her father, however, instilled a deep reverence for Alutiiq heritage in his daughter. Today, Florence is both a fluent Alutiiq speaker and Kodiak elder. For two decades, she has worked almost singlehandedly to bring the sounds of Alutiiq back to Kodiak, and began the first Alutiiq classes at Kodiak college.

About the Margaret Nick Cooke Award for Native Arts and Languages: This award was established in 1996 by Margaret's family in memory of her dedication to Alaska Native communities, language, culture and arts. Margaret was serving on the Alaska State Council on the Arts at the time of her death.

Sheila Wyne, Anchorage, Individual Artist Award

Sheila Wyne has lived and supported herself as an artist in Anchorage since 1984. Since that time, Sheila has established herself as one of Alaska's premier contemporary artists, and her work has been selected for numerous permanent collections, both public and private. She has been commissioned for major public art installations around the state, and is currently installing "Canopy", a collaborative project with Kesler Woodward of Fairbanks, at the Ted Stevens International Airport.

For more information about the Governor's Awards for the Arts and Humanities, call the Alaska State Council on the Arts at 907.269.6610 or visit: www.eed.state.ak.us/aksca