

# THE ALEUTIAN CURRENT



Spring 2023 • vol. 57 • issue 1

📍 Sand Point, Alaska

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## Q&A FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING Page 4

Recap on the Q&A from the 50th Annual Meeting of Shareholders regarding the Settlement Trust, TAC Business Operations, Shareholder Relations, and In-Region Support.



## SHAREHOLDER ARTIST SPOTLIGHT Page 6

Shareholder Rhonda Shelford Jansen shares her heartwarming story of how she started painting and her inspiration behind her artwork.



## SHAREHOLDER STORY SERIES Page 11

'Reinvention' is a short film starring Gertrude Svarny that tells her story about becoming a renowned Unangaġ artist, and 'Interwoven' is a short film about the history of the Russian Orthodox faith.



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Aang Unanga Family,

It's been a busy winter for our Corporation, and I am pleased to share our direction as we start the new fiscal year.

In January, I presented TAC's Strategic Plan to the Board of Directors, outlining our vision for TAC's future. Last year my priority was assessing the state of the Corporation, implementing critical changes, and setting new goals. Now our focus is on sustainable growth, business development and regional development.

One area of focus in business development is balancing our companies' portfolios, so they are not as dependent on 8(a) contracts. We're working with our subsidiaries to diversify into new lines of business. By leveraging our entire family of companies, we can utilize our subsidiaries' strengths when pursuing new opportunities. As you know, we are stronger together.

Regional development is a top priority for our Board and our shareholders. TAC is recruiting a shareholder or registered descendant for VP of Regional Affairs. This new position will be dedicated to strengthening relationships with our village corporations, tribal entities, and non-profits, as well as facilitating opportunities where we can partner together to provide innovative economic solutions for our region.

Continuing our success with a federal grant award to rehabilitate Pier 5 in Adak, TAC will continue to pursue grant opportunities to develop renewable energy in our region and clean-up our contaminated lands. We have created a Lands Department at the corporate level as part of our commitment to being good stewards of our land and resources. We are carefully and cautiously moving forward with responsible and sustainable mineral exploration activities.

Chair Nelson will share several exciting shareholder initiatives and updates in her letter. As we close out this fiscal year and look ahead to next year and many years beyond, I am honored to serve you as President & CEO of our Corporation.

Qaġaasakung,

**Skoey Vergen**  
President & CEO



## BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Dear Shareholders & Descendants,

2023 has started at a full sprint. I'd like to take this opportunity on behalf of TAC's Board of Directors to say thank you. We had a wonderful turnout at the 50th Annual Meeting and we appreciate all your questions, comments, and participation. Included in this newsletter is a recap of those questions for our shareholders who couldn't attend. We took to heart the comments about establishing a Settlement Trust, and we have an update to share. Please read about it in the Annual Meeting Q&A on page 4.

The Board met with TAC Management to review and discuss short- and long-term priorities for the Corporation. Looking ahead, TAC has developed a comprehensive strategic plan that outlines an ambitious and innovative vision for the coming years.

Skoey discussed a few of those initiatives in his letter, and I am excited to share more about TAC's shareholder opportunities.

TAC's internship program has transitioned over to The Aleut Foundation. TAC will continue to work closely with TAF for recruitment. TAC will better leverage its internal resources, like the talent bank, TAF scholarship pools, and descendant databases, to find and recruit shareholder and descendant talent.

TAC not only wants to increase the number of shareholders in our entry- and mid-level positions, but in the next two years, we want to increase the number of shareholders in executive and leadership positions by 5%. And we want to see that number continue to grow from there.

We are really excited to announce a new endeavor to support shareholder-owned businesses. This initiative is still in the infancy stage, but TAC Management's goal is to establish a formalized application process within the next few years where shareholders can apply for a financial award. Stay tuned for more details.

TAC staff is hard at work preparing for our upcoming Shareholder Informational Meeting in San Diego. We look forward to seeing our Southern California shareholders.

On behalf of the TAC Board of Directors, Qaġaasakung for your support.

Sincerely,

**Jenifer Nelson**  
Chairman of the Board



## Q&A RECAP FROM THE

# Annual Meeting

### TAC BUSINESS OPERATIONS

#### WHEN WAS ALEUT FEDERAL CREATED AND HOW IS IT PERFORMING?

Aleut Federal was created in 2020 as a result of combining Aleut Management Services (AMS) and Aleut Remediation Services (ARS). Aleut Federal ended FY23 (April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022) with a \$5.5M loss. TAC Management audited Aleut Federal's government contracts and identified that the losses were primarily from the legacy AMS and ARS environmental and construction business lines. As a result, TAC and Aleut Federal instituted process and controls to ensure all contracts are bid to be profitable. TAC Management continues to work with Aleut Federal to monitor each of the business lines closely and adjust oversight as needed.

#### IS TAC PURSUING MINERAL EXPLORATION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT IN OUR REGION?

TAC firmly believes that we are stewards of our land and any mineral exploration or land development must be done

so responsibly and safely. TAC's Board is moving forward cautiously; TAC is not rushing forward into any type of pre-exploration or exploration agreement that does not explicitly safeguard our land and our fish. The Board has made it very clear that it will reject any proposal or partnership that puts our land or our fish at risk.

### SETTLEMENT TRUST

#### WHAT IS THE ALEUT CORPORATION'S POSITION ON CREATING A SETTLEMENT TRUST?

ANCSA allows Alaska Native corporations, like TAC, to establish and maintain a settlement trust to provide tax-free dividends to shareholders. The Board of Directors will discuss the creation of a settlement trust at the March 2023 Board meeting. If it moves forward, it will be presented to shareholders at the October 2023 Annual Meeting. TAC Management and the Board will determine the appropriate timing of moving assets into the settlement trust while balancing TAC's net operating losses (NOLs). TAC will continue to receive the benefit of our NOLs through 2035.

### SHAREHOLDER RELATIONS

#### IS THE ALEUT CORPORATION PLANNING TO OPEN ENROLLMENT?

The "open enrollment" question has come before the TAC Board repeatedly throughout the years. The overwhelming opinion of our shareholders has been not to dilute dividends by increasing the number of shareholders. Our focus as a corporation is to grow TAC's revenue and operating income over the next 5-10 years to an amount that could support expanding our shareholder base. Shareholders can gift their shares to descendants to encourage becoming active participants in their Corporation. Contact our Shareholder Relations department with any questions regarding gifting shares.

#### CAN TAC IMPROVE THE REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR AN ADOPTED DESCENDANT?

For cases of adoption, when there's not a clear connection back to an original shareholder, the Board approved TAC's recommendation to allow DNA testing for purposes of registering with the Corporation as a descendant.

### IN-REGION SUPPORT

#### COULD YOU PROVIDE AN UPDATE ABOUT THE POLLOCK QUOTA ATTACHED TO ADAK?

The Aleut Corporation has tried several different approaches to get our pollock quota back. TAC went before the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council with our case. When that didn't prove successful, TAC went to the Department of Justice. The DOJ did not find enough evidence to act.

TAC has shifted its strategy to engage the Alaska delegation, Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan and, most recently, Congresswoman Mary Peltola, to take a top-

down approach. They are working with the Department of Interior and NOAA. It's a high priority for TAC to get our pollock allocation back.

#### OUR REGION IS FACING DRASTIC MIGRATION OUT OF OUR COMMUNITIES. CAN THE ALEUT CORPORATION DO MORE TO INVEST IN OUR REGION?

The out-migration from our regional communities, from rural to urban areas, is common across the state for all Alaska Native corporations. Every quarter, the Board reviews statistics on where our shareholders and descendants are located. The balance has shifted dramatically in the past 5-8 years from moving out of the region into Anchorage and then out of Anchorage into the Pacific Northwest. A majority of our shareholders now reside in Anchorage or the Lower 48. In our smaller communities, the impacts of migration can be devastating. TAC is working with the Aleut Foundation to hire our kids as they come out of college. But it is an uphill climb.

TAC is also prioritizing how it invests in our region. We are pursuing federal grants for exploring renewable energy viability, repairing crucial infrastructure, and cleaning up our contaminated lands. We are going to be better partners for our village corporations and look for innovative solutions that benefit and support our communities. TAC can't stop the out-migration from our communities, but we can help support and provide opportunities for shareholders and descendants to come back to.



# WELCOME NEW SHAREHOLDERS!

The following shareholders have received The Aleut Corporation stock through inheritance or gifting:

Kody Jones	Edmond Cumberlidge
Kyle Jones	Dick Cumberlidge
Annee Gruver	Silas Lestenkof
Edgar Smith III	Nikolai Lestenkof
George Romero-Ferguson	Constantine Lestenkof
Zoey Huwe	Brian Lestenkof
Ross Ortiz	Michael Tutor
Hanna Valentine	Christopher Yatchmeneff
Ryan Wagner	Robin Kenezuroff
Malia Valentine	Evangelina Marine
Karin Nayler	Katrina Kenezuroff
Evan Wilson	Anesia Tetreault
Carmen Philemonof	Kaylin Klotunowitch
Dale Peters	Benjamin Merculief
Zena Castillo	Jadden Merculief
Jennifer Peters	Michael Johansen
Donald Fadden	Jeanne Morton
Kenneth Stepetin	Robin Gamble
Shannon Merculief	Lance Morton



## SHAREHOLDER ARTIST SPOTLIGHT THE SCARS WE CAN HEAL

Artist Rhonda Shelford Jansen

For Rhonda Shelford Jansen, what she paints is all about why. Her grandmother Lydia Resoff Shelford was a painter, and when she noticed the child had a love for sketching and doodling, Grandma began teaching her to paint, always directing her to take inspiration from reality: still life, images, photographs. But as she grew older, Rhonda realized that what she wasn't painting was their culture. As she transitioned into a full-time career as an artist, Rhonda's body of work developed around a discernable theme: Alaska Native people playing, subsisting, and simply existing amidst the natural world – sometimes joyful, sometimes serious.

"The reason I started painting Native culture," Rhonda tells us, "is because of my grandma. She was born in 1912, and she had many scars from being treated poorly, had a lot of shame in her. And remembering it breaks my heart. Even my dad has scars, particularly living in the Lower 48, and they were not treated well. I'm farther down the line. I don't have those same kinds of hurts, but [I feel their pain while] hearing my grandma talk and trying to coax her into pride for her heritage and into love for it. I paint for her, to honor her and to show her all this beauty, all the resilience, the creativity, ingenuity, all the amazing things that our ancestors and other Native peoples contributed that is just profound."

While Rhonda was growing up, her family lived in several places around Alaska, including Unalaska and Kodiak. When they moved to Homer, Grandma booked Rhonda for lessons with renowned local artist Toby Tyler. Little did they know, Mr. Tyler was about to change the course of Rhonda's life.

"Toby would say, 'Today, we're gonna paint a house, a red house, etc.,'" Rhonda says. "So, it was from my brain, not reproducing an image. It was painting from my imagination."

As Rhonda got older – and better – Grandma drove her all over Kenai to art shows, where the young painter learned to compete and win ribbons. While Grandma was her first art teacher, she also taught Rhonda to not be afraid to put art out in the world. She said, "So many of us are afraid to fail, but none of us are good when we start out."

Today, about 85% of what Rhonda paints starts as an idea in her head, then she does research, then sketches, then sketches on canvas. At that point, she may do more research and edit the sketch. Finally, she begins to paint.

Once a painting is complete, Rhonda leaves it for a couple days on the easel, then returns to look at it with fresh eyes and makes any adjustments she feels it needs.

Rhonda primarily works in her home studio, but during summer, she paints outdoors as much as possible, sketching scenic views along Turnagain Arm, for example. But more than anything, Rhonda likes to paint Alaska Native people. She depicts all cultures, not just her own Unanga꥕ culture, which is why the research is so important to her. She works hard to get everything right, from clothing to kayak oars.

"Especially at the beginning," she tells us, "a lot of my paintings included water. We have a long family history in fishing, since at least the 1920s. The Dutch Harbor dock is named after my Uncle Bob. I love to paint boats, and I return to water whenever I can. When I lived in Dutch, there wasn't a bridge, and I had to take a boat to school. We lived right on the water ... I love hiking the hills to sit up there, and you can see water on all sides, and I would just sit up there and let my mind wander, and I would just stare at the absolute beauty."

Rhonda's grandmother passed away in 1999, so she never got to see the accomplished artist Rhonda has become.

"I so wish that she was watching me paint, could see the good that I'm trying to demonstrate, the pride and how much there is to be proud of," she tells us.

**"I HOPE, ONE DAY, MY ART LASTS AND THAT IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE THAT, IN YEARS TO COME, PEOPLE CAN SEE IT, AND IT WILL SPEAK TO THE BEAUTY OF THE CULTURES FOR A LONG TIME. THAT'S MY MISSION."**

When asked if she has advice for her fellow shareholders, Rhonda says, "Overcoming fear of rejection is still my biggest obstacle. I would tell people to be proud of your gifts and your talents, even if you're a fledgling (which most of us are). Dang it, go for it! We keep culture alive by doing that."

"I just wish my grandma could have lived to see the revitalization of Native peoples and cultures. Native people, we have a creative bend that needs to be set free and not be hindered by walls or fears. Go for it! You're good enough, and you're important."



You can view Rhonda's work at [RhondaShelfordJansenArt.com](http://RhondaShelfordJansenArt.com) or [RSJArtist.com](http://RSJArtist.com)

# IMPORTANT DATES

**APRIL 7**  
Good Friday *TAC Office Closed*

**APRIL 9**  
Easter

**APRIL 14**  
Orthodox Good Friday

**APRIL 16**  
Orthodox Easter Sunday

**APRIL 28**  
TAF Summer Applications Due

**MAY 14**  
Mother's Day

**MAY 15**  
TAF Culture Camp Requests Due

**MAY 29**  
Memorial Day *TAC Office Closed*

**JUNE 12**  
Board of Directors Candidate Nomination Packets Due

**JUNE 18**  
Father's day

**JUNE 21**  
TAC Incorporation Day *TAC Office Closed*

**JUNE 23**  
Update addresses/Direct Deposit for 2023 Dividend Payout

**JUNE 24**  
Aleut Picnic

**JUNE 30**  
TAF 2023 Fall Scholarship Applications Due



## FAR FROM ALASKA, CLOSE TO HOME

*Aleut Strong, a shareholder's small business in NY*

TAC shareholder Dolores Anna Mercurief-Davis lives as an example proving that, even when life carries us far from the region, Unangaġ people can stay connected to our culture and to each other. Ever since her family moved from St. George to Anchorage when she was just 10 years old, Dolores has sought ways to develop her skills as an artist.

**“BACK THEN, IN 1976, ANCHORAGE SCHOOLS DIDN'T HAVE NATIVE ARTS AND CRAFTS, SO I HAD TO LEARN ABOUT THEM THE OTHER WAY, TRADITIONALLY,”** *- Dolores tells us.*

As an adult, she began selling jewelry, which gave her experience marketing through social media. When the COVID pandemic hit, her son suggested she make cloth masks with an Alaska or Pribilofs theme. She used her TAC dividend to invest in a logo, equipment and other costs of developing a home business, and created mask designs based on traditional Unangaġ art and iconic imagery of the region.

“I wanted to show more of what Alaska is. Because I've seen t-shirts that say, 'Aleut Pride' and I kind of find it offensive because they got bow and arrows, which we do use, but with feathers and such that didn't look right,” Dolores says. “It didn't look Aleut to me, so that's why I decided to come up with my logo, and I'm still figuring out other... ideas to get that across.”

Today, Dolores lives in Buffalo, New York, with her husband. She felt separated from her culture and realized she was forgetting much of the traditional art techniques she'd learned in her youth. So, she created a few designs rooted on an empowering statement: “Aleut People Build Strong Communities.” Then, she founded an online store called “Aleut Strong” and expanded her product line to coffee cups, t-shirts, kitchen aprons, and more, which she sells via her website.

When friends and customers in the region pointed out that we sometimes prefer to use our traditional name for ourselves, she switched to using the name “Unangax” in her designs (though her store still uses its original name).

**“WHEN I MAKE THESE, I THINK ABOUT HOME,”**  
*- Dolores tells us.*

“I wish I could be there, wish I could do traditional arts, like basket weaving and beading. I use contemporary tools, like computer and graphic design and social media, to get my meaning across in the products to showcase the region's culture and heritage. It helps get our culture's messaging delivered in a modern way.”

In keeping with our traditional values, Dolores chooses products that protect the environment as much as possible. She reuses packaging and ships merchandise in recycled boxes. She reuses vinyl and tries to ensure the plastics she needs for her business do not go into the garbage but are instead repurposed for different crafts or projects.

Many of her products are ready to buy, and she is hoping to be able to produce more items in the future, but Dolores also offers custom-made items, such as personalized mugs.

“My customers are the most fulfilling part of Aleut Strong,” she says. “They are always happy and send texts on Facebook Messenger like, 'Hey, that came out great, looks even better in person! Thank you for making it!' At Christmas time, I did 10 mugs for a family. I was able to put names on them all. They were happy, so I'm happy.”

The biggest challenge for Dolores is getting the word out – she hasn't yet advertised beyond Facebook. Aleut Strong is a one-person operation, but Dolores hopes to eventually have employees and broaden her audience. For now, keeping customers happy is fulfilling for her, and she enjoys being able to provide people with something they care about and gives them Unangaġ pride.

“My advice to others would be just go for it, instead of hesitating or procrastinating,” Dolores says. “Get the right mentor to help. Right now, I'm going with SCORE through the U.S. Small Business Administration. Taking classes and webinars is definitely helpful. I would say go for it, have family by your side to tell yourself you can do it and you're ready, even if you feel like you're not ready for that time. Go at your own pace if that's what is necessary.”

You can find her work at:  
@aleutstrong



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# HISTORIC MOMENT

Check out this baidarka pump made by the renowned Andrew Gronholdt (1915-1998) from an Aleutian Current in April 1981! We have it proudly showcased in our 3rd floor lobby in great condition.

*Former TAC Board Director, Andrew Gronholdt presented the Corporation with an Aleut Baidarka (boat) pump at the February Board meeting. He crafted it himself from his boyhood memory of the traditional boat pump, which has long since passed into Aleut history. Constructed of two solid pieces, typically cedar, and fastened with sinew, it was used to siphon water out of a skin boat. The water caused the cedar to swell, thereby sealing the seams of the pump and making it more efficient with use.*



# WATCH OUR SHAREHOLDER STORY SERIES!



## REINVENTION

Widely respected for her contributions to preservation, awareness, and education for Unangaġ culture and art, Gertrude Svarny's path to becoming one of Alaska's foremost Alaska Native artists was long and, in many ways, unexpected. 'Reinvention' depicts Gertrude's inspiring journey of becoming a renowned Unangaġ artist. Qaġaasakung to Gertrude and to the Svarny family for their support and cooperation.

Scan the QR Code to watch



## INTERWOVEN

Father Evon Bereskin tells how the Russian Orthodox adopted Unangaġ traditions. Sarah Tcheripanoff Virg-In shares memories about growing up in the church on Akutan. Qaġaasakung to Father Evon Bereskin and the Holy Ascension of our Lord Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Unalaska and the community of Akutan for their part in making this piece happen.

Scan the QR Code to watch





## MEMORY ETERNAL **LIZ KUDRIN**

Elizabeth Olean (Golodoff) Kudrin, 82, fell asleep in the Lord's arms on Sunday, February 19, 2023. May our merciful God grant her rest and make her memory eternal.

Known to those who knew and loved her as "Liz", she lived a truly remarkable and extraordinary life. Liz was born February 16, 1941, in the village of Attu, an island at the far western end of the Aleutian Islands of Alaska. She was only a year old in 1942 when Japanese troops invaded the village of Attu during World War II and all the villagers were captured and taken to Japan as Prisoners of War, where they remained for three years. After their return to Alaska, the United States government and military denied the Attuans return to their island. Liz and her family were among the Attu survivors who were relocated to the village of Atka in the Central Aleutians. Liz was still a young child when they returned, and she grew up in Atka, speaking the Atka dialect of Unangam Tunuu. Her husband, George Kudrin, shares his wife's greatest legacy, being a World War II P.O.W. survivor, with her mom Olean and her siblings. As the youngest Attu baby to be taken to Japan, she survived being a prisoner of war, and went on to have a family of her own; she was truly the last mother of Attu. George memorializes her as "ayagam kayutuu" - a strong woman.

Despite her difficult times and sorrows, Liz always maintained her steadfast faith in God through all the hardest trials. And in the best of times, Liz had a wonderful sense of humor; she absolutely loved to laugh and found humor in so many ways, big and small.

On January 18, 1973, Liz married George Kudrin in a civil ceremony in Anchorage, Alaska, and three years later, on February 22, 1976, they were wed in the bonds of Holy Matrimony in the Orthodox Church. In January 2023, they celebrated 50 years of marriage, and Liz passed just several days shy of what would have been the 47th anniversary of their Church wedding. During their many years together, George was a loving and devoted husband and took dedicated care of his dear beloved wife.

Together, Liz and George lived in Atka for a number of years, where she was a homemaker, and was beautifully skilled and talented at crochet, until rheumatoid arthritis made it too difficult to continue. One of her great joys while living in Atka was going out on picnics around the island. Liz was an enrolled Tribal citizen of the Native Village of Atka and a baptized Orthodox

Christian, carrying the baptismal name Elizaveta (the Russian form of Elizabeth). She and George eventually moved permanently to Anchorage in the 1990's.

Liz had five children, though sadly four of her five children preceded her into eternal life: daughter Eva (Golodoff) Gaddis, and three sons, Billy J. Golodoff, Nikolai J. Golodoff and Adam Golodoff. She was also preceded in death by her father, Lavrenti Golodoff (d. 1945), mother, Olean (Horosoff) (Golodoff) Prokopeuff (d. sometime after 1976); siblings John Golodoff (d. 2009), Helen Golodoff (d. 194-), Leonty Golodoff (d. 194-), Minnedora Golodoff (infant), Nick Golodoff (d. 2013), and Valirijan Golodoff (d. 194-).

Her youngest son, William Dushkin, was adopted by John and Lavera Dushkin of Nikolski, where he was raised, though he later learned that Liz was his birth mother, and they met for the first time since his birth in 2001. They shared an instant connection as mother and son, and he was blessed to know the love of two mothers.

Liz is survived by her husband, George Kudrin; son William J. Dushkin and wife Crystal; grandchildren Christopher Gaddis, Mary J. McPartland and (great-grandchildren) Kai and Max, Jackie McPartland, Holly Cole; Lessa McVey and (great-granddaughter) Elizabeth; and Nadia, Anysia, Ivaan and Elias Dushkin; siblings Gregory Golodoff and wife Pauline, Agnes (Prokopeuff) Thompson, Lawrence Prokopeuff and wife Millie, Teresa Prokopeuff, brother-in-law Alex Kudrin and wife Rena, sister-in-law Antoinette (Toni) Stepetin and husband Ernest, sister-in-law Molly Kudrin, and many numerous beloved nieces and nephews.

Liz was greatly loved by all her family, relatives, and friends, near and far, and will be remembered and missed by all who knew her. She will be remembered as one who always thought of others rather than herself. She loved her family and kept them close at heart always. Vechnaya Pamyat (Memory Eternal); her soul shall dwell with the blessed.

In lieu of flowers, any donations may be made to the family's GoFundMe fundraiser page.

The burial will take place in the spring at Anchorage Memorial Park Cemetery.

Obituary lovingly prepared by Crystal Dushkin and the Kudrin Family.



*Liz Kudrin GoFundMe*



## MEMORY ETERNAL **JANET BOURDUKOFSKY**

Janet I. Bourdukofsky, 71, of Anchorage, Alaska, passed away peacefully surrounded by family

at the Alaska Native Medical Center on Feb. 28, 2023.

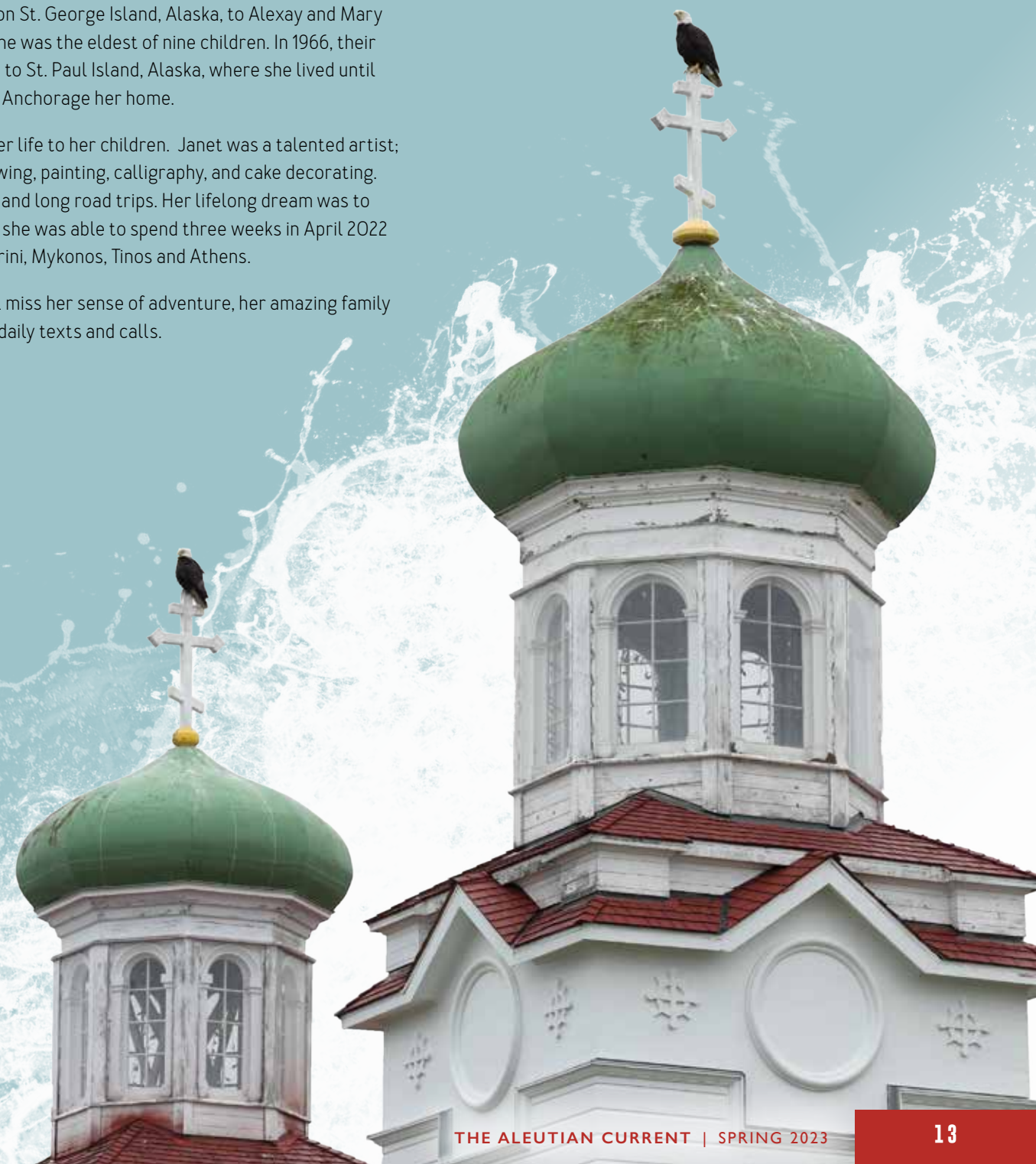
Janet was born on St. George Island, Alaska, to Alexay and Mary Lou Mercurief. She was the eldest of nine children. In 1966, their family relocated to St. Paul Island, Alaska, where she lived until 1999, then made Anchorage her home.

She dedicated her life to her children. Janet was a talented artist; she enjoyed drawing, painting, calligraphy, and cake decorating. She loved music and long road trips. Her lifelong dream was to visit Greece and she was able to spend three weeks in April 2022 exploring Santorini, Mykonos, Tinos and Athens.

Her children will miss her sense of adventure, her amazing family dinners and her daily texts and calls.

Janet is survived by her mom, Mary Lou Mercurief of Anchorage; children, Dionisy Jr., Angela, James, and Mark of Anchorage, and Peter (Stacy) of St. Paul Island; brothers, Jacob and Alexay Jr. Mercurief, and Michael Chercasen; sisters, Serafima Mercurief, Joann Salenski, and Patricia Mercurief-Booth; grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her grandparents, Laurence and Natalia Prokopiof; dad, Alexay Mercurief Sr.; and brothers, Stefan and Ron Mercurief.





# TAF UPDATE

Happy Spring!

More daylight lingers with every new day, ushering us to the graduation season. For our

students who are graduating this spring, you can fill out the required graduation report in your scholarship application. We will also be creating graduation announcements to celebrate our graduates on our Facebook page.

We have a current list of our students who made the dean's list last semester and a list of brand-new students who applied during November for our winter/spring scholarships. The Aleut Foundation is incredibly proud of our students and are excited to be a part of their education journey.

While our main focus has always been scholarships for post-secondary education (both traditional and vocational pathways), we do have many other opportunities for our shareholders and their descendants. For both individuals and our communities, we have career development opportunities. For individuals we can help up to \$3,500/year. We have funding for communities to provide educational opportunities for their employees or community members who are shareholders/descendants.

As we head into the summer, I think CAMP! For communities that are putting on cultural camps, it is time to fill out the grant application. We will be emailing the application to those that have applied previously. If you haven't seen one or are interested in providing a culture camp for your community, get in touch with us. For individuals who are interested in traveling to a camp, get your application in as well. We will have that posted on our Facebook page. Our travel scholarships to culture camps are exclusively for airfare.

Looking forward to serving our people again this year.

Qaġaasakung!

**Julie Toomey**  
Executive Director  
The Aleut Foundation

## FALL 2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### DEAN'S LIST

- Elise Beers, Film - *American Film Institute*
- Julianne Renee Berikoff, Nursing - *Northwest Nazarene University*
- Mitchell Bourdukofsky, Computer Sciences - *Oregon State University*
- Daniel Calugan, Undeclared - *University of Alaska Anchorage*
- Johannes DeBakker, Business - *Saint Martin's University*
- Lauren Denham, Political Science - *Texas Christian University*
- Kyra Dushkin, Nursing - *Mohave Community College*
- Logan Dushkin, Mechanical Engineering - *Colorado School of Mines*
- Kyrie Dyakanoff, Nursing - *Northern Arizona University*
- Rosalyn Elgarico, Business - *Alaska Pacific University*
- Anna Emanoff, Psychology - *Penn State University*
- Sharayah Foster, AK Native Executive Leadership Program - *Alaska Pacific University*
- Micah Fouts, Human Services - *John Brown University*
- Avery Fouts, Business - *Lipscomb University*
- Christina Galanin, Psychology - *University of Alaska Anchorage*
- Brittany Gardner, Biological Sciences - *University of Alaska Anchorage*
- Brianna Gray, Indigenous Studies - *University of Fairbanks*
- Anna Gould, Medical Billing - *Everett Community College*
- Carson Harris, Mechanical Engineering - *University of Alaska Anchorage*
- Jake Harris, Fire Science - *Glendale Community College*
- Natasha Harris, Operations and Technology Management - *University of Portland*
- Shaynese Havens, Undeclared - *Pueblo Community College*
- Georgia Kashevarof, Business - *Alaska Pacific University*
- Jeffery Kauffman, Finance - *Grand Canyon University*
- Jordan Jenckes, Geological Sciences - *University of Alaska Fairbanks*
- Julia Johannesen, Advertising and Public Relations - *University of Oregon*
- Carter Johnson, Chemical Engineering - *Arizona State University*
- Megan Kashevarof, Social Work - *University of Alaska Anchorage*
- Selah Kone, Psychology - *University of Hawai'i at Mānoa*
- Raietta Kuzakin, Nursing - *Whatcom Community College*
- Addison Lutchen, Education - *University of Nebraska at Kearney*
- Maxim Malavansky Jr., Business - *University of Alaska Anchorage*
- Dustin Mack, Education - *Western Governors University*
- Marisa Mack, Business - *Western Governors University*
- Alexandra Mangrum-Prokopiof, Theater, Art & Architecture History - *Miami University*
- Kayla Marcoulier, Nursing - *Gonzaga University*
- Delanie Maxon, Business - *University of Alaska Anchorage*
- Mia McWilliams, Business - *California State University*
- Concepcion Melovidov, Fisheries - *University of Alaska Fairbanks*
- Alexis Merculief, Human Development - *Oregon State University*
- Danielle Merculief, Business - *Alaska Pacific University*
- Kimberly Miles, Criminal Justice - *Wayland Baptist University of Anchorage*
- Desiree Mobeck, Social Work - *University of Alaska Fairbanks*

- Stephanie Myer, Psychology - *Pacifica Graduate Institute CA*
- Christina Newhall, Linguistics - *University of Arizona*
- Oxcenia O'Domin, Business - *Alaska Pacific University*
- Gianna Pallotta, Business - *San Diego Mesa College*
- Lauren Peters, History - *University of California Davis*
- Valene Peratrovich, Combined Media - *Salt Lake Community College*
- Taylor Pierce, Nursing - *Grand Canyon University*
- Amanda Poe, Psychology - *Alaska Pacific University*
- Benjamin Raugust, Cognitive Science - *University of California Davis*
- Darin Robinson, Business - *Oregon State University-Cascades*
- Robin Rutledge, Psychology - *Liberty University*
- William Rutledge, Business - *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*
- Anna Rutledge, Biological Sciences - *Liberty University*
- Edith Schliebe, Education - *University of Alaska Fairbanks*
- Torin Schroeder, Economics - *Fort Lewis College*
- Madeline Snigaroff, Linguistics - *University of Chicago*
- Kallin Spiller, Communication - *University of Hawai'i at Mānoa*
- Justin Spiller, Undeclared - *University of Washington*
- Haliehana Stepetin, Native American Studies - *University of California Davis*
- Luke Stowe, Business - *Alaska Pacific University*
- Payten Stroud, Education - *University of Alaska Southeast*
- LaVonna Thomas, Social Work - *Walden University*
- Samantha Torres-Taylor, English - *University of San Diego*
- Joanne Wathen, Education - *Saint Mary's College*
- Serena Wohlwend, Architecture - *University of Alaska Anchorage*
- Elexa Yee, Biochemistry - *University of California Santa Barbara*

## SPRING 2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### HONORS

- Aaron Frenzel, Marketing - *University of Alaska Anchorage*
- Raythan Robbins, Kinesiology - *American Military University*
- Lily Stewart, Medicine - *Evergreen State College*

### EXCEPTIONAL

- Asher Kone, Electrical Engineering - *University of Michigan*
- Natalie Mack, Psychology - *University of Alaska Anchorage*
- McKenna Merle, Biology - *Washington State University*
- Caiden Miller, Mechanical Engineering - *Bellingham Technical College*
- Danelle Shellikoff, Nursing - *University of Alaska Anchorage*
- Robert Snigaroff, Computer Science - *Columbia University*
- Joseph Spencer, Aviation Mechanics - *Texas State Technical College*
- Jake Stewart, Education - *Central Washington University*
- Logan Thompson, Food & Beverage Management - *Johnson & Wales University*

### ACHIEVEMENT

- Thea Chelsey, Business - *University of Alaska Anchorage*
- McKale Hill, Mechanical Engineering - *University of Alaska Anchorage*
- Phillip Pletnikoff, Management - *University of Alaska Anchorage*
- Kendra Robbins, Electrical Engineering - *University of Alaska Anchorage*

### MERIT

- Angelena Lekanoff, International Studies - *University of Alaska Anchorage*
- Taylor Huett, Biological Sciences - *University of Alaska Southeast*
- Alexia Holmberg, Undeclared - *University of Alaska Southeast*

### GRADUATE

- Sean Mack, Geography - *Pennsylvania State University*
- Marche Meister, Business - *Alaska Pacific University*
- Robin Stepetin, Education - *Western Governors University*
- LaVonna Thomas, Social Work - *Walden University*
- Kiara Washington, Finance - *Liberty University*
- Zianna Weston, Cultural Studies - *Claremont Graduate University*
- Cody Williams, Education - *Cambridge College*

### PART-TIME

- Nikita Bereskin, Government - *University of Alaska Fairbanks*
- Danielle Gould, Accounting - *Everett Community College*
- Ashley Powe, Interdisciplinary Studies - *University of Alaska Fairbanks*

### WORKING

- Shurina Skonberg, Accounting - *University of Alaska Southeast*

### HIGH SCHOOL ADVANCED COLLEGE CREDITS

- Henery Kushin, Business - *Matanuska-Susitna College*

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE STUDENTS WHO ACHIEVED A CUMULATIVE GPA OF 3.50 OR HIGHER AT THE END OF THEIR 2022 FALL TERM! WE ADMIRE YOUR ACHIEVEMENT AND WE ARE PROUD OF YOU WORKING TOWARD YOUR GOAL!

-The Aleut Foundation Staff

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