

# *H*onoring *A*laska's *I*ndigenous *L*iterature



## *2006 Awards Celebration*

February 8, 2006  
Fairbanks, Alaska

David Salmon Tribal Hall  
6:00–8:00 PM



*H*onoring  
*A*laska's  
*I*ndigenous  
*L*iterature

*Orators*

*Storytellers*

*Masters of Indigenous  
Knowledge*

Recognizing our indigenous people  
who have developed culturally-based  
curriculum materials.

## **Opening Prayer**

Martha Stackhouse, Inupiaq Elder

## **Introduction of HAIL Executive Board and Working Committee**

Lenora Carpluk

## **Co-Masters of Ceremonies**

Bernice Tetpon, Linda Green

## **Introduction and Presentations**

Linda Evans, Athabaskan  
by Virginia Ned

Elizabeth Bernhardt-Pinson, Inupiaq  
by Annie Conger

Miranda Belarde-Lewis, Tlingit  
by Marie Olson

Academic Department/LKSD, Yup'ik  
by Nita Rearden

Barbara Švarný-Carlson, Unanga  
by Bernice Tetpon

April (Isiik) Laktonen Counciller, Alutiiq  
by Linda Green

# The 2006 Honoring Alaska's Indigenous Literature Awards

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Indigenous educators from across the state of Alaska have had numerous opportunities to meet cross-regionally and share issues and concerns of importance to them in their roles as educators. They first met as students of the ARTTC (Alaska Rural Teacher Training Corps) program and then as students of the X-CED (Cross-Cultural Education Development) program. With the formation of regional Native Educator Associations in the early 1990s to the present and the help of the Alaska Rural Systemic Initiative they continue to meet within their regional associations and in statewide Native educators conferences. As indigenous educators they have paved new trails in curriculum development, Academy of Elders camps and many other initiatives.

A concern in the area of literature in reference to indigenous peoples led to the formation of a working committee made up of representatives from each of the regional indigenous educator associations which led to the development of the *Guidelines for Respecting Cultural Knowledge*. These guidelines address issues of concern in the documentation, representation and utilization of traditional cultural knowledge as they relate to the role of various participants, including Elders, authors, curriculum developers, classroom teachers, publishers and researchers.

Along with the guidelines are a set of recommendations, one of which called for establishing a prestigious award to honor indigenous Elders, authors, illustrators and others who make significant contributions to the documentation and representation of Native cultural knowledge and traditions.

The 2001 Celebration of Alaska Native Literature was the first to recognize those who have made an impact in our lives as indigenous peoples through their work in indigenous literature. We hope this was the first of many celebrations of recognizing our people in the area of literature as we choose to define literature, with an indigenous perspective.

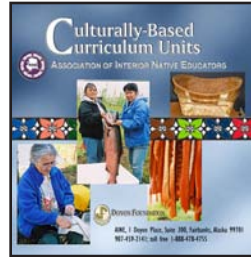
The 2001 awards program was organized by a group called the Alaska Indigenous Literary Review Board per the above-mentioned guidelines. In the spring of 2001, the group changed its name to Honoring Alaska's Indigenous Literature, or HAIL. The HAIL Executive Board and Working Committee are listed on the back of this program.

# 2006 Award Winners

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## Linda Evans *Athabascan*

Nominated for: Curriculum  
Development for  
Association of Interior  
Native Educators/  
Doyon Foundation  
Published in 2003  
Available on CD



Publisher information contact:  
Ms. Joy Simon, Doyon Foundation

In 1992, Linda Evans earned her teaching certificate and took a job teaching elementary school in Rampart. Since then, she has returned to school to get her master's degree, taught a year in Fort Yukon, worked for the Alaska Native Knowledge Network at the University of Alaska Fairbanks creating a curriculum database and spent three years developing culturally-based curriculum units through the Doyon Foundation and the Association of Interior Native Educators. In 2004, Linda became the superintendent of the Yukon Flats School District.

Linda initiated the curriculum development for AINE/ Doyon Foundation. She helped to develop the following units that make up the Culturally-Based Curriculum Units CD: *Living in the Chandalar Country*, *Interior Plant Project*, *Introduction to Athabascan Culture*, *Appreciating Caribou: Vadzaih*, *Athabascan Games*, *Athabascan Traditional Values*, *Fish Skin Boots and Geometry*, *Birch Bark Uses*, *Lookk'e in Their Seasons*, *Vadzaih*, *Athabascan Potlatch*, and *We Are Gwich'in*.

# 2006 Award Winners

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## Lower Kuskokwim School District, Academic Department *Yup'ik*



Lower  
Kuskokwim  
School  
District

Nominated for: Numerous titles published featuring local authors and others.

Website: [www.lksd.org](http://www.lksd.org) and go to material catalog to verify titles of books published.

Publisher information contact:

Joy Shantz at (907) 543-4929 for addresses of publishers.

**B**everly Williams is the director for the Academic Department. Please read the following excerpt from the LKSD web site:

### ***Camai! Welcome!***

Once called Bilingual-Curriculum Department, we have changed the name to better describe our role.

Our primary goal is to help teachers and site administrators provide the best educational program possible for LKSD students in both Yup'ik and English. In order to meet this challenge, our responsibilities include all curriculum development and implementation, all state and district assessment, Yup'ik language and culture programs, staff development and instructional support through grants, training and on-site services.

The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta is home to over 15,000 Yupiit (Eskimos). The indigenous Yup'ik language is spoken in at least 18 communities in the Lower Kuskokwim School District (LKSD). The majority of young children entering school in these villages speak Yup'ik as their dominant language. Cup'ig is spoken by Elders in the village of Mekoryuk. In the LKSD, Yup'ik/Cup'ig Language and culture are critical components of the district's curriculum and instructional program for these reasons:



*Bev Williams, Director*

1. First language instruction and support in core curricular areas allow students to develop and “keep up” academically while learning English, a research based and OCR approved approach to English Language Development.
2. The Yup'ik language is valued as an important world language. The LKSD program supports students in meeting this state content standard, and supports communities in maintaining and strengthening their Native language for future generations.

Bev Williams, Director

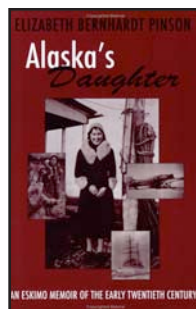
# 2006 Award Winners

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## Elizabeth Bernhardt-Pinson *Inupiaq*

Nominated for: *Alaska's Daughter*

Publisher: Utah State University Press  
Logan, Utah 84322-7800  
Published in 2004



Elizabeth (Weyanna) Bernhardt Pinson was born and raised in the Bering Straits region. Her German father, Albert Bernhardt, and Inupiaq mother, Agnes, raised 13 children. Her grandparents came from Point Hope. Her mother was born in Wales, Alaska. From her marriage, Elizabeth has one son.

Mrs. Pinson wrote a book about the life she had in the Teller area. Her upbringing tells of the hardship she and her family had while living in a small village during the early 1900s. Elizabeth tells about the history of what happened during her life in Teller that includes the Norge flying and landing in Teller and meeting Ronald Amundsen, traveling in ships to get from one place to another, subsistence activities her family did throughout the years while living in Teller and the flu influenza.

Mrs. Pinson now lives in Marysville, Washington. Of her 13 siblings including herself, four are still living. From her son Michael, Mrs. Pinson has four grandchildren and three great-children. They all live in the state of Washington.

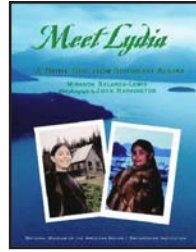
Mrs. Pinson still speaks the Inupiaq language. She is saddened to hear the language is dying. She would like the Inupiaq language to continue to be spoken by the younger generations.



## Miranda Belarde-Lewis *Tlingit-Zuni*

Nominated for: *Meet Lydia – A Native Girl  
from Southeast Alaska*

Publisher: Simthstonian National  
Museum of American  
Indian – Council of Oak Books  
Third book in a series



Miranda Belarde-Lewis is Tlingit-Zuni with maternal heritage in the Southeast village of Hoonah. Miranda was a research assistant in the curatorial department of the National Museum of the American Indian. Like her niece, Lydia, she spent her summers back in Hoonah and Excursion Inlet with her family.

Miranda was born and raised Zuni in the Southwest. Miranda wrote poetry and did artworks for the *Red Ink* magazine and was a featured artist at IBM Corporation's Native American Heritage Month celebration in Tucson, Arizona. She graduated from the University of Arizona in 2002 with a degree in cultural anthropology. Miranda is pursuing a graduate degree at the University of Washington in Seattle.

The book is about her mother's niece, Lydia Mills who, in the summer, lives with her father at Excursion Inlet, a cannery. The rest of the year, she lives with her mother Jane Lindsey, director of the Juneau City Museum.

Miranda's book represents the kind of books that should be out in public. The book is current, showing how Natives live today and not in the past as so many books depict the Tlingit. The book is factual, honest and tells the truth about Tlingit life today. We are still here and will continue to live into the far future.

# 2006 Award Winners

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## Barbara Švarný Carlson

### Unangaĥ

Nominated For: Coordinator/Editor for  
*Unangam Hitnisangin/  
Unangam Hitnisangis/  
Aleut Plants: A Region-  
Based Curriculum for  
Grades 4–6*, available only on the Internet.

<http://www.ankn.uaf.edu/unangam/unangampilot/>



Barbara Švarný Carlson is the granddaughter of Charles and Alice Mercurieff Hope (Unalaska) and Martin and Katherine Švarný; daughter of Samuel and Gertrude Hope Švarný; wife of Michael; mother to Erik and Mischa, grew up in Unalaska, and lives in Anchorage. Barbara earned a double BA in elementary and special education with a minor in psychology; she has done post-graduate work at UAA, UAF Aleutians, APU and studied Unangaĥ language and culture with Moses Dirks, Gertrude Švarný, Nick Galaktionoff and Iliodor Philemonoff. Barbara taught in Puyallup WA, Kenai and Anchorage before stepping down as a formal educator to raise their sons. Heavily involved in their education, Barbara contributed during this same time to state and region by her participation with Keepers of the Treasures-Alaska, The Aleut Institute and the Association of Unangan/Unangas Educators, for which she was the first president. Actively involved as an AUE Board member, Barbara edits their newsletter. See: <http://www.ankn.uaf.edu/ANCR/Aleut/AUE/Vol5Iss1.pdf>.

# 2006 Award Winners

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## April (Isiik) Laktonen Counciller *Alutiiq*

Nominated for: Culturally-based  
curriculum materials  
*Kodiak Alutiiq Language  
Conversational Phrasebook*  
with audio CD

Publication date: 2005

Publisher: Alutiiq Museum and  
Archaeological Repository

Publisher contact info:  
215 Mission Road, Suite 101  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615  
(907)486-7004



As the Alutiiq Language Manager for the Alutiiq Museum in Kodiak, April has worked tirelessly to coordinate the efforts of the Qik'rtarmiut Alutiit Language Revitalization Program. With this project she motivates, inspires and teaches more than a dozen language apprentices who work with a dozen language masters to document and learn the language while also sharing with the interested public.

April has spearheaded the translation of numerous children's books and a selection of songs into our language, and supported the making of the *Alutiingcut* movie. But more specifically, she has dedicated countless hours to develop the *Talking Phrase Book* and with an accompanying CD that is ready for publication and further distribution. To date this is the most comprehensive collection of recorded phrases and conversational Alutiiq made available to the public.

# *HAIL Working Committee*

Lolly Carpluk, Chairperson

Linda Green

Virginia Ned

Bernice Tetpon

Esther Ilutsik

Cecilia Martz

Marie Olson-Elder

Bernadette Yaayuk Alvanna-Stimpfle

Yurrlig Nita Rearden

Ray Barnhardt

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Program layout and design by Paula Elmes

