



Dove Tales

A publication of AWARE, Inc. "Aiding Women in Abuse & Rape Emergencies." Serving the communities of Elfin Cove, Gustavus, Haines, Hoonah, Juneau, Klukwan, Pelican, Skagway, Tenakee Springs and Yakutat.

Thoughts & Thanks from Saralyn!

I wrote this My Turn out of a need to openly recognize Darcy Ervin's bravery and courage in publicly coming forward with her identity as SAM, a young woman sexually abused for years by her father. Because of the layered complexities surrounding child sexual abuse and the associated trauma, and because of the social stigma, it's a rare day when a victim says, "this happened to me and it's not ok;" and yet, given the right circumstances, it's one of the most healing things a survivor can say. It's also one of the most risky and scary things a survivor can say. I'm not sure where Darcy found the courage to move into this fear, and the mettle to stand up and speak out. Victims of child abuse, domestic violence and rape, whether children or adults, have done nothing wrong, have nothing to be



Executive Director
Saralyn Tabachnick

ashamed of, deserve to be safe and protected. They deserve to be able to come forward and have loud and clear community

support saying, this is unacceptable, and the perpetrator must be held accountable.

As I understand it, Darcy confided in a friend whose sister overheard a phone conversation and spoke to

an adult, who reported the abuse to the authorities. And once reported, Darcy spoke up in an effort to protect her siblings. Her father denied that he raped Darcy, and people wanted to believe him. I understand this-it's hard to fathom that a father could intentionally cause such trauma and harm to his child, to someone he is supposed to love and protect. Yet according to the findings of two judges, Darcy's credibility is undeniable. There

is no benefit to Darcy in fabricating these allegations. This young woman lost her family, her mother who stands by Brian Ervin, and her younger sister and brothers. It was her concern for their safety that encouraged Darcy to talk once the disclosure occurred. She no longer has relationships with any of her immediate family.

When Darcy spoke her truth, she lost her family and gained her freedom. It's unfortunate that Darcy had to choose, and it highlights the courage, integrity and self-respect it must have taken for her to come forward. She restored some of what her father took from her- her ability to be her precious self, and to make choices based on HER wants and needs, and not her father's. Darcy Ervin staked claim to her freedom.

It's very different from the freedom her father claims after serving his prison sentence.
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Spring 2012

"May the love hidden deep inside your heart find the love waiting in your dreams. May the laughter that you find in your tomorrow wipe away the pain you find in your yesterdays."

~Anonymous

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2012 Women of Distinction Wrap-Up!!

AWARE's Sixteenth Annual Women of Distinction Dinner and Silent Auction was a magnificent success! It was a privilege to recognize this year's honorees Sharron Lobaugh, Amy Dressel, Joan O'Keefe, and Megan Gregory. Their unique contributions to our community and their words of wisdom and inspiration made the evening a wonderful celebration.

AWARE extends gratitude and appreciation to our Juneau com-

munity for your overwhelming support. This annual fundraising event was made possible by numerous people offering generous gifts of expertise, energy, and heart. Our thanks to Representative Beth Kerttula for her opening remarks and presenting the Legislative Citations to the honorees. We thank Katharine Heumann for her joyful and lively hosting as Mistress of Ceremonies; to Rob Cohen, Adrian Minne, and Clay Good for graciously providing

opening music; to Allison Warden for warming us up with her creative and custom raps honoring the women. We thank Amy Carroll for designing the printed program, Jeanette St. George for producing bid sheets and table names, and Rie Munoz for her beautiful artwork. Thank you to Janet Lumiansky for videoing and Jeremy Gieser for photographing the night.

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April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)!!

AWARE's 40-hour Advocacy & Volunteer Training



AWARE topics covered include dynamics of domestic violence, sexual abuse, child abuse, how to advocate, crisis intervention, legal action, developing safety plans and more! Dates are: **March 22** (5:30-8:30pm), **24-25** (9-5pm), **26, 29-30** (5:30-8:30pm), **31** (9-2:30pm), **April 1** (9-3:30pm), **2 and 5** (5:30-8:30pm).

Part 1 is a 25-hour series of presentations and interactive discussions exploring the basic history and foundation of domestic violence, adult sexual abuse and child sexual abuse. The training introduces the role of advocacy and accountability in addressing intimacy violence in our culture. A panel of agency representatives discusses how they work together to

address this violence in all aspects of our community. Part 1 culminates an overview of all of AWARE's services highlighting the tools and strategies for Prevention.

Part 2 is a 15-hour intensive and interactive study of how these programs actually work. We get hands-on with Advocacy training by practicing to create safety plans, write protective orders, conduct lethality assessments and walk through emergency response procedures.

In total, this 40-hour training is an eye-opening experience regarding the health and well-being of our community. We are offered a deep contemplation of our own personal beliefs and thought constructs about women in society in the 21st century. Part 1 is invaluable

to those seeking to educate themselves on these issues, to students seeking to understand modern feminism and social health, and to those working directly with women and/or children who have experienced trauma. It gives a glimpse into the possibility of a non-judgmental, fully empowering environment in which women can heal with their children and regain or gain for the first time the tools to address the responsibilities of a healthy life with healthy relationships. Those interested in becoming AWARE volunteers are eligible to apply for Part 2.

For more information and/or to register please visit our website and/or call Sarah N. at AWARE 586-6632 or www.awareak.org.

Compassionate Communication Training

AWARE, The Juneau Buddhist Peace Fellowship, SAGA, UAS and Juneau People for Peace and Justice are co-sponsoring a Compassionate Communication Workshop by certified trainer Kathleen Macferran from the Center for Nonviolent Communication.

When: March 23 (6-8pm), 24 (10-5pm) and 25 (12-6pm)

Where: UAS Library



Explore how to bring authenticity and courage into daily life through restorative practices for engaging with conflict in a way that is likely to inspire compassion in others.

To register, call Claire at 609-902-3965 or email her at clairemurphyduluth@gmail.com. Suggested tuition of \$150. No one will be turned away due to lack of funds.

March 29th Governor's Choose Respect March



Over 120 Alaskan communities will join together on March 29 to raise awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault in Alaska. This March is part of Governor Parnell's Campaign to end violence against women and children. The Juneau March starts at the Capitol Steps at noon and ends at Marine Park.

To visit the Governor's Choose Respect website, visit:

<http://gov.alaska.gov/parnell/priorities/choose-respect.html>





First Friday Healing Arts Exhibit at B's Bistro



Bakery and Bistro



B's Bakery and Bistro is partnering with AWARE for Sexual Assault Awareness Month by displaying artwork made from our healing arts workshops at the Canvas earlier this month. These healing art workshops are held as a safe place where women can create art in a gentle, safe and open setting and give meaning

to non-violence, to support loved ones an/or express creatively one's own unique self!

B's will also donate \$1 for every cupcake sold during the month of April to AWARE in honor of survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.

The art opening will be held at 4:30pm on First Friday (April 6). The location of B's is 230 2nd St. in downtown Juneau!



AWARE's Man Training

Are you a man? Do you consider yourself to be a good role model? Do you strive to treat women and girls with respect? Then what's holding you back? Join Juneau's Violence Prevention Coalition and Tristan Knutson-Lombardo as we present **MAN TRAINING** on Tuesday, April 3 from



5:30-8:30pm at Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority. This interactive and thought-provoking evening for men will open the curtain wide on what it's like to be a woman in today's society, why there is domestic violence and sexual assault, and

how we—as men—can step up and take ownership of **our** issue. Registration is required, this event is free, and dinner will be provided. So, man up!

Call Mark Calvert at 586-6610, visit www.mantraining.eventbrite.com, or email markc@awareak.org for more information.

AWARE's 5K Waterfront Race

Join AWARE for our annual 5K Waterfront AWAREness Race on Saturday, April 7 at 10am. Race starts at Juneau Arts & Humanities Council. Refreshments will be served after the race. \$15 to pre-register at JRC-The Alaska Club or at AWARE, and \$20 on race day. Scholarships are available.

Mark Calvert, AWARE's Community Engagement Advocate will speak about AWARE and our services.

Thanks in advance to Paul DeSloover (Race Director for Southeast Alaska Roadrunners) for helping set up the race.

Please contact Mandi J. at AWARE 586-6623 with questions and/or for more info. We hope to see you there!



Become a GOTR Running Buddy for Spring Season 5K Fun Run!



Girls on the Run (GOTR) is an innovative program for 8-12 year old girls that uniquely combines training for a 5K run with life skills lessons that emphasize healthy habits and an active lifestyle. The young girls in our programs train for their first big race. They get stronger and can run longer. They learn about goal setting and achievement, motivation and over-coming obstacles. They cross a finish line that changes their outlook on themselves and their lives.

A **Girls on the Run Running Buddy** is a person who supports a Girl on the Run on

her race day! Running Buddies run along with their Girl on the Run, encouraging and motivating her throughout the race. Running Buddies do not need to be elite athletes, but need to be able to walk, run, hop, or skip a 5k with their runner. We will match you with a girl of similar ability. If you are interested in becoming a Running Buddy or would like information about GOTR contact *Keri Dixon* at 586-6623 or email



kerid@awareak.org.

Saturday, May 5

The Spring 2012 Girls on the Run 5K Fun Run will be Saturday May 5th!

When: Festival starts @ 10am; Run is at 11am!

Where: Riverbend Play Area





Presidential Proclamation-Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month

Our Nation must continue to confront rape and other forms of sexual violence as a deplorable crime. Too many victims suffer unaided, and too many offenders elude justice. As we mark National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, we recommit to building a society where no woman, man, or child endures the fear of assault or the pain of an attack on their physical well being and basic human dignity.

Despite reforms to our legal system, sexual violence remains pervasive and largely misunderstood. Nearly one in six American women will experience an attempted or completed rape at some point in her life, and for some groups, rates of sexual violence are even higher. Almost one in three American Indian and Alaska Native women will be sexually assaulted. Young women ages 16 to 24 are at greatest risk, and an alarming number of young women are sexually assaulted while in college. Too many men and boys are also affected. With each new victim and each person still suffering from an attack, we are called with renewed purpose to respond to and rid our Nation of all forms of sexual violence.

Sexual assault is considered to be the most underreported violent crime in America, and criminal justice responses vary widely across our country. Some communities have developed highly trained, coordinated teams who understand the nature of sexual assault and can respond with compassionate understanding. In other places, victims hesitate to report these

crimes because they fear the criminal justice system will respond with skepticism or fail to bring the perpetrator to justice. We must ensure our police, prosecutors, and courts treat victims with the seriousness and respect they need and deserve. We must do more to provide services that help victims recover from the trauma of sexual assault. And ultimately, we must prevent sexual assault before it happens.



Under Vice President Joe Biden's leadership, my Administration is committed to engaging a broad spectrum of Federal agencies and community partners to prevent sexual assault, support victims, and hold offenders accountable. The Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women is leading the Sexual Assault Demonstration Initiative to improve the way sexual assault survivors are served. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is funding innovative prevention campaigns that engage bystanders in reducing sexual assault, and the Department of Education is working to combat sexual violence at schools and universities. We will continue to support new approaches that show promise in changing cultural attitudes toward sexual violence and preventing these crimes.

Each victim of sexual assault represents a sister or a daughter, a nephew or a friend. We must break the silence so no victim anguishes without resources or aid in their time of greatest need. We must continue to reinforce that America will not tolerate sexual violence within our borders. Likewise, we will partner with countries across the globe as we work toward a common vision of a world free from the threat of sexual violence, including as a tool of conflict. Working together, we can reduce the incidence of sexual assault and heal lives that have already been devastated by this terrible crime.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2011 as National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. I urge all Americans to support victims and work together to prevent these crimes in their communities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

~The White House, President Barak Obama, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/03/31/presidential-proclamation-national-sexual-assault-awareness-and-preventi>. 2011.

Poverty, Homelessness, and Women

I have been asked to give a talk at the State Museum on Domestic Violence and Homelessness. In working on my presentation, I've been thinking a lot about how women experience poverty. When we are young, little girls and little boys are equally likely to experience poverty. As we age, and women enter their child-bearing years, the poverty gap between men and women widens significantly. It evens out a bit during adulthood (although women still are more likely to be poor- the margin just shrinks a bit), then widens again in our elder years. Why, why, why? There are likely a multitude



of reasons, but those that strike me as particularly poignant are: women are paid less than men for similar work, women are more likely to bear the costs of care-giving for children, pregnancy impacts a woman's job and educational opportunities, and women are disproportionately affected by domestic and sexual violence. While all of these reasons require scrutiny and advocacy, my heart is filled with the last one- how can we help mitigate the impacts of violence on the women we serve? How can we keep victimization from having long-term economic impacts that devastate

women and children? For staff at AWARE, we must continue to explore and confront this issue with our participants, even as we work through the crisis at hand.

~Mandy O'Neal Cole, Direct Services Manager





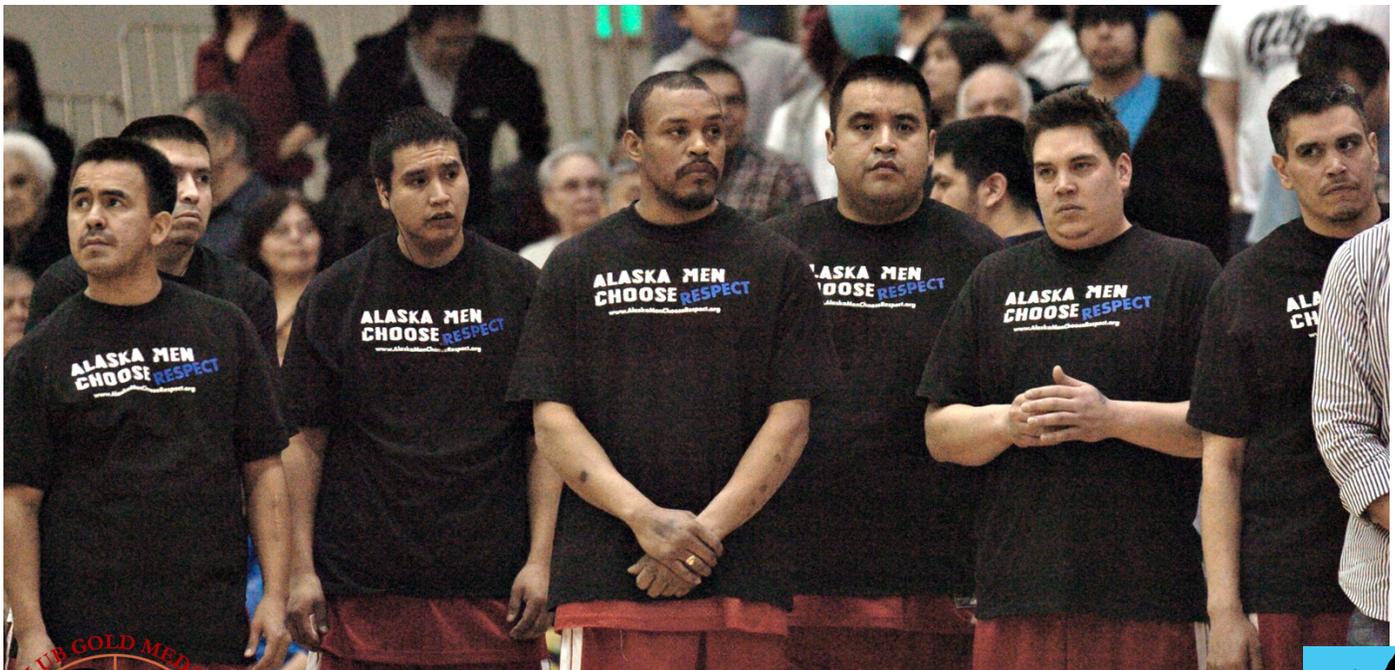
Thoughts & Thanks Continued from Page 1...

Her father’s attorney said in court that he was not a worst offender because of “his lack of criminal conviction, his age, his sterling military record, his sterling employment history... no significant history of drug or alcohol addiction.” Let’s not fool ourselves. Sex offenders come in all sizes, shapes, and colors. Many maintain a positive external demeanor. Some are college educated with advanced degrees and some are high school dropouts. Some have trust funds and some are homeless. The comfort we get from creating and believing stereotypes of who child molesters are and aren’t puts children, families, and communities at great harm and great risk. There is no gain in believing men of privilege cannot be rapists when in fact, they use their privilege to manipulate victims, partners, families, and systems, including those meant to hold them accountable.

I know Darcy has given much strength to many people in our community, and I know there is much support for her. I know this by who was in the courtroom during Brian Ervin’s sentencing hearings, by online comments to Juneau Empire articles, and I know this by emails written to me as Executive Director of AWARE. Last October, results of the Juneau Victimization Survey revealed that in their lifetimes, 47% of women experienced intimate partner violence, 35% experienced sexual violence, and 55% of women had experienced either domestic violence, sexual violence or a combination of both. These Juneau women are our friends and family, our neighbors and co-workers, in our faith communities and in our hearts. No matter the demographics of their offenders; may every one of these women know that

AWARE is a resource, 24/7 at 586-1090. May every women in her healing process be inspired by Darcy’s strength and courage on their path to regaining wholeness. May all of us in Juneau, men, women and children, be inspired by Darcy’s capacity to face incredible difficulties and injustice with perseverance and grace, on our individual paths to freedom. No child should ever have to endure what Darcy has been and is going through. As a community, may we be inspired towards a policy and practice of zero tolerance for domestic violence, sexual assault, and child sexual assault, whether the victim is a child or an adult; and may we stand united for safety and support for victims and protective parents, and accountability for perpetrators.

Hoonah Gold Medal Basketball Team Sport Choose Respect Shirts!



On Sunday March 18, in front of 1,000 onlookers, the Hoonah "C" team took a stand to Choose Respect at the Gold Medal Tournament. Before the game, the entire team took the White Ribbon Pledge **to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and girls**. In a pre-game ceremony, Carolyn Noe performed a traditional Tlingit song about respect, the Governor's Rural Affairs Advisor, John Moller (accompanied by his 5 year old son, Ian), commended the team for their commitment, and Marsha Hotch spoke in Tlingit about respect. (Photo taken from Klas Stolpe, Juneau Empire).





Meet AWARE's 2012 Women of Distinction Honorees!

Amy Dressel, Community Pediatrician

Amy was born in Denver, Colorado and grew up in Ft. Collins. She loved the small/college-town atmosphere and vowed to always live where the sense of community was valued. Something about the field of health-care (and northern climates) caught her attention, and in 3rd grade Amy declared that she was “going to become a pediatrician and live in Alaska.”

After completing her undergrad at Cornell College, Amy taught preschool to severely abused and neglected children at the Henry Kempe Center in Denver before attending the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Her desire to help children and her new found respect for medicine melded in her residency at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

Amy has always worked well with young children. Spurred by her dad’s inspiration and experience with children who experienced abuse, she helped champion the groundwork for Juneau’s Child Advocacy Center. Her mother, a



selfless volunteer, was also an inspiration to volunteer and gave extra whenever available. Amy is a member of the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder diagnostic team (“Not a single drop!”) and worked on several community health-related issues including cleft-lip palate team, free well child exams, medical liaison for Juneau School District, TOT evaluations with the Infant Learning Program, and Vaccinate Juneau’s Kids Coalition. She was also on the Youth Activity Board and the board of the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council. Amy is proudly the lead medic for Juneau Roller girls.

Amy loves learning and volunteers in many child-related projects including Big Brothers/Big Sisters and coaching both a First Lego League team and Girls On the Run. She regularly presents medical topics to local Girl Scouts, and spent a week as camp doctor at a camp for children with diabetes. Amy also serves the greater SE community by providing medical care thru traveling clinics.

Amy is a part owner of Glacier Pediatrics, LLC. She loves working alongside colleagues who inspire and teach her daily, including the outstanding nursing support at Bartlett Regional Hospital. Amy organizes a monthly meeting for the pediatricians in town to talk and learn together, and is an active member in the American Academy of Pediatrics and the All Alaskan Pediatric Partnership.

Amy loves spending time with her Juneau family (her wonderful, caring and sweet mother, her best friend and awesome numerous friends—especially the ones who have kids!) having game night, going on hikes, bonfires, listening to music, and taking in all Juneau has to offer. She loves showing her creative side in the annual Wearable Arts show. She loves dogs and loves getting together with her family and “laughing our butts off”. Amy also loves winter, snow (esp snowboarding) and would love to travel more. Amy is an intermittent member of Juneau Symphony Orchestra, loves a good book (especially the kid ones!) and is working on adopting children of her own.

Megan Gregory, Young Woman of Distinction

Megan was born in 1987 and grew up in Kake, AK. As a young Tlingit woman from a rural community, Megan represents the newest generation of leadership. It is her ultimate desire to become an outstanding Native leader statewide. She is passionate about seeing greater youth leadership opportunities created and provided for all youth in rural Alaska. She believes it’s



important to instill hope and confidence at a young age and wants to encourage all youth to stand up for themselves, their beliefs, and to make their voices heard.

After graduating high school, Megan left Kake to attend the Rural Alaska Honors Institute (RAHI) in Fairbanks and then interned for Senator Lisa Murkowski in Washington DC. When Megan returned to Alaska she served as the inaugural Youth Advisor to the Sealaska Corporation Board of Directors and just recently completed her term as the Youth Representative for the Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. Most recently, Megan was one

of three youth board members named to the Center for Native American Youth Board of Directors. She has been working very closely with the Center to reach out to youth across Indian Country. The goal of the Center is to bring greater national attention to the issues facing Native American youth, and to foster solutions with special emphasis on youth suicide prevention. Megan has also recently joined the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention Task Force. Megan looks forward to addressing the issue of suicide at a national level, and sharing what she learns with her regional suicide prevention task force.

Megan currently works in Juneau as the Community Project Assistant for the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) -Behavioral Health Division. She is a member of “1 is 2 Many,” Southeast Alaska Regional Suicide Prevention Task Force and is also the founder of the new Youth Ambassador Program. Megan created this program to bridge the gap between youth and adults, and to give all youth a role and a voice for positive change in their communities. Megan states, “It is important for us to connect with our youth. I am interested not only in the prevention of suicide, but also in

enhancing participants’ skills while developing new ones, and continuing to expand an established network of Youth Leaders. I encourage everyone to think about how they can make a difference in their community and take action! We should all consider ourselves as leaders of today.”

In August, Megan was selected as a 2011 National Indian Health Service Behavioral Health Achievement Award recipient and was honored for Outstanding Youth Leadership. She was also recently selected to serve as a Youth Council Member with the Cooperative Extension Service through the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Megan looks forward to working with the Cooperative Extension Advisory Council and taking a more active role with the 4H program and other programs that promote growing more local food, increasing energy efficiency and economic development.

In her free time, Megan enjoys sharing her love for running by volunteering as a coach with the AWARE affiliate of the International Girls on the Run program, where she also raised funds for the program as a Solemate. She is also attending the University of Alaska Southeast, and enjoys the outdoors, cooking, traveling, and reading.





Joan O’Keefe, Advocate for Healthy & Inclusive Community

Joan graduated with a Bachelor in Liberal Arts and Masters in Business Administration. She has worked at Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL) for 15 years, the first five being the Director of Outdoor Recreation and Community Access (ORCA) and the last 10 years as Executive Director.

Joan became involved in disability and senior issues after 17 years working in the woods, primarily as a private contractor in silvaculture. This was the beginning of a new chapter in her life. Joan was appointed by Governor Tony Knowles to a seat at the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), a disability advocacy board. She served under Governors Knowles, Murkowski and Palin. Recently, she was appointed to the SILC by Governor Parnell.

In 2005, along with Kim Champney, Marianne Mills and John Kern, Joan helped start the Juneau Coordinated Transportation Coalition (JCTC). Due to the work of JCTC, a coordinated transit plan was developed and some

dozen vehicles and hundreds of thousands of dollars in purchase of service dollars were granted to Juneau organizations. In 2008, CBJ completed a Transit Development Plan and updated the coordinated human services plan. SAIL continues to be the lead agency for purchase of services in the JCTC.

Joan is a member of the United Way of SE Alaska board of directors and the Foraker Group Operations Board. She is also a co-founder of United Human Services of SE Alaska, and recently joined the Region X Advisory Board for the NW Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Center. She is a past member of the Community Schools Advisory Board, the STAR Board of Northern Southeast, and the Assistive Technology Committee for the Alaska State Rehabilitation Committee.

Joan was a volunteer snowshoe coach for the Special Olympics and was a Special Olympics



World Games snowshoeing coach. Joan proudly carried the Olympic torch when it came to Juneau. She was a member of the Juneau Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and was the chair for most of her nine years on the board. She worked on both ballot initiatives to promote a new swimming pool in Juneau. Additionally, she was co-chair of the Mayor’s

Task Force for the Dimond Park Pool. While not a swimmer herself, she believes the pool is a fantastic community asset. Joan believes and demonstrates that communities can be made better by working hard and generously giving of oneself.

Joan is married to Larry O’Keefe and has been raising her grandson Trever, for the past ten years. In her spare time, Joan enjoys jogging local trails with her dog Marbles and escaping to their Horse Island cabin. She also enjoys kayaking and learning how to snowboard.

Sharron Lobaugh, Artist & Advocate

Sharron graduated from Washington State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and moved to Alaska in 1962 with her husband Cliff who had the opportunity to open a veterinary clinic. Immediately the inspiration of S.E. Alaska motivated her. “So much to paint,” she thought. The Lobaughs raised four sons. When one of them was diagnosed with Schizophrenia as a teenager, she became an advocate for persons with mental illness. This was at a time when Juneau had no psychiatrists, hospitalization facilities, or treatment services. After years of not knowing where to turn, she placed a small ad in the newspaper inviting other families who have a loved one with a mental illness to a potluck. Six couples came and they formed a support group. Later, the group expanded and formed the Juneau Alliance for the Mentally Ill, and affiliated with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI Juneau). After a few years they obtained funding to support the Juneau Community Mental Health Center (JAMHI) and the development of housing and treatment services. Sharron continued to form affiliates throughout the state and served as President of NAMI Alaska for a number of years.

When she served on the Juneau School Board in early 70’s she encouraged the district to adopt Special Education programs for students with disabilities. Her employment career began as an art teacher in the High School in the 80’s. Later she was employed as a Race and Sex Equality Specialist for the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory and conducted statewide workshops for teachers addressing issues of bias towards women and minorities. Sharron worked in

the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities as the principle author of Medicaid Waivers for children and adults with disabilities. She retired from the State in the Section of Emergency Medical Services after having served for several years as an Injury Prevention Specialist.

Sharron served on a number of state-wide boards and commissions. While a member of the Alaska Mental Health Board, she advocated for increased programs for the seriously mentally ill. Sharron and NAMI members became involved with the litigation Weiss vs. State of Alaska, a lawsuit involving a twenty-five year old legacy of a million acres of land left to support programs for the mentally ill enacted by Congress. After many years, the Mental Health Trust Authority was created.

In an effort to understand how to help persons with a mental illness in their recovery, Sharron earned her second Masters Degree (her first in Education), in Psychiatric Rehabilitation from Boston University. Throughout her life Sharron painted, exhibited, and sold works of art. Her volunteer efforts in art included a term on the first Alaska State Council on the Arts, serving as President of Alaskan Arts and Crafts, Inc, and organizing the Juneau Arts Council. She has works in the Alaska Art Bank, the Alaska State Museum, and she was selected for the 1980 Calendar of Women Artists of America. She also chaired the Alaska Purchase Centennial State-



wide Juried Exhibit in 1967 which traveled to 22 sites in Alaska. Her watercolor of the Mendenhall Glacier was selected as part of an exhibit of Alaska artists held in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. Private collections can be seen at the Juneau Bone and Joint Center and Southeast Alaska Animal Medical Center. She is a member of the Juneau Artists Gallery.

Additionally, Sharron was appointed the Department of Education Advisory Board for Innovative and Exemplary Education (EESA TITLE III). She also continues to advocate for the environment and belongs to the Juneau Group of the Sierra Club, Audubon, SE Alaska Conservation Council, and Friends of Admiralty. She also is a member of the League of Women Voters and Chapter N of PEO.

Sharron says she is “most proud of the work I have done to promote education, support advocacy for the mentally ill and thankful for the opportunity to work on the settlement of the Mental Health Trust Lands and service on the Alaska Mental Health Board.” Today her focus is on the “Family to Family” program, a 12-session training for family and friends needing information about mental illness. She is also self-employed at the Fine Arts Studio and Juneau Artists Gallery, which she helped found with Connie Boochever. In her spare time, Sharron loves to paint with watercolors and oils, garden, cook, travel, play scrabble and be with her pets.





New Faces at AWARE

Sarah Newsham—Volunteer Coordinator



Hello! My name is Sarah Newsham and I started in February as the Volunteer Coordinator at AWARE. I grew up in St Louis, MO then moved to Chicago to get my undergrad degree in social work,

psychology, and art at Loyola University. After a year stint in Baltimore, I came to Juneau almost four years ago as a Jesuit Volunteer to work at the Canvas. I am rather smitten with this town--the mountains, ocean, and wonderful community. I'm incredibly thankful for such supportive and passionate

people that are involved here at AWARE; there are so many who give your time and talents, it is fantastic getting to meet you (and I'd be really glad to talk you if you aren't currently involved)! Happy Spring!

Leona Santiago—Rural & Community Outreach Coordinator

Hello! My name is Leona Marie Santiago and I am the new Rural & Community Outreach Coordinator with AWARE. I bring with me experience of working with Domestic Violence at the Seattle Indian Center and having been a victim myself, I have done what I could to assist others who were in DV situations. I was a Safe Home in Seattle for Native Women who were fleeing their abuser. When I moved to Hoonah, I made it part of my job to assist DV/SA clients. I truly believe in wrap-around service and clients safety. I believe women can become empowered to become self sufficient and be able to pick up the pieces so that they may provide for their children and/or if they have no children to be

able to help themselves. I was involved with the Stop Violence Against Indian Women and Mending the Sacred Hoop provided trainings for Grantees. I also did Consultant work for the Department of Justice through the Mending the Sacred Hoop. I enjoy working for AWARE; everyone brings their knowledge to the table and shares what they know. I am continually learning here and enjoyed the Women of Distinction Dinner that was just held recently. I am very thankful for the welcome from the staff and meeting and being welcomed by Board Members. I am looking forward to the "Alaskans Choose Respect" March, lead by the Governor on March 29, in which I will also be participating. I'm also

looking forward to meeting the community members from each of the nine communities AWARE serves and collaborating with them to ensure that our Women and Children are SAFE! Please, feel free to reach me at leonas@awareak.org.



**Please consider getting Dove Tales by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money & view photos in color!
Contact Mandi J. at mandij@awareak.org to request this option!**

Shelter Wish List

AWARE is in constant need of certain items listed below. Your donations help us cut our operating costs and are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. We appreciate your generosity.

- | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| Laundry detergent | Flashlights | Twin sheets/blankets (white) |
| Bus tokens | Towels | Diapers & Wipes (all sizes) |
| Toilet paper | New sweat suits, socks, underwear (all sizes) | |
| Kitchen utensils | Copy Paper | 3-5 quart saucepans |
| Movie, swim, skate rink & climbing wall passes | | Stamps for residents to mail letters |
| Office Supplies (pens, post-it notes, paper clips, etc.) | | Your time as a volunteer |





2012 Women of Distinction Continued from Page 1...

AWARE would also like to thank the Women of Distinction Corporate Sponsors and Precious Gems. Their generous financial support helps make this event all that it is. Special thanks to our Silver Corporate Sponsors contributing \$1000 are Alaska Communications and First National Bank. We thank our precious gems- Diamonds: Wellspring, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, Sealaska Corporation, Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Dr. Nell Wagoner, Glacier Pediatrics, and Walmart; Sapphire: Juneau Family Health & Birth Center; Emeralds: Tlingit & Haida Indians of the City & Borough of Juneau; Rubies: Elgee Rehfeld Mertz, CPA, MRV Architects, Al and Diane Adams, Sam Kito Jr., Cathy Carter and the Bartlett Family, Southeast Alaska Animal Medical Center, Blue Heron Bed & Breakfast at Glacier Bay, Thyes Shaub, and IBEW Local 1547. We offer a special thank you to KINY Hometown

Radio and KTOO Public Broadcasting, and the Plant People for their generous in-kind contributions.

Thank you to our gracious auction donors! Both businesses and individuals are listed on our website www.awareak.org – thank you for making our dinner a financial success and loads of fun!

We also thank the hundreds of people who attended the dinner, our new members and those who made a financial contribution or bought an advertisement in the Women of Distinction program book. The proceeds from the Women of Distinction event further AWARE's work with victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. It is a wonderful opportunity to honor women who have made a difference while supporting work to end violence in our community.

Finally, I would like to thank the dedicated Board of Directors; Co-Chairs Cheryl Eldemar

and Chris Burke, Vice Chair Michele Masuda, Secretary Tisha Gieser, Treasurer Maren Haavig, and members Robin Gilcrist, Jeff Irwin, Martha Moore, Natalie Powers, Mary Aparezuk Schlosser, Jessica Srader, and the staff at AWARE who worked tirelessly to bring the details of the event to life. Thanks for your commitment to AWARE and our mission.

AWARE's ability to work with survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault is greatly enhanced by Juneau's community support. Together we are working towards a community of respect for ourselves and others, where we can all live in peace and freedom. Thank you for your support. I look forward to seeing you at the Choose Respect March and Rally at noon, on Thursday, March 29th at the Capitol Steps, where we bring the inspiration of our Women of Distinction honorees words into action!



AWARE, Inc.
P.O. Box 20809
Juneau, AK 99802

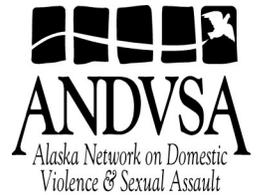
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Executive Director—Saralyn Tabachnick

- | | |
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| Program Manager | Ellen Andrews |
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