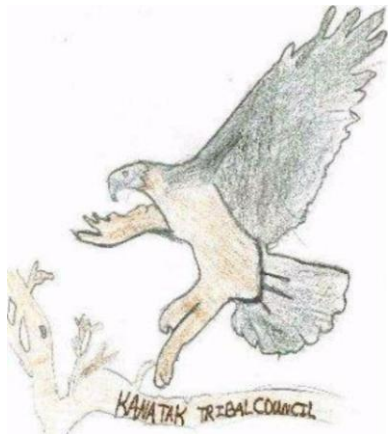


# Kanatak Tribal Newsletter

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## Letter from the President

January 22, 2010

Dear Kanatak Tribal Members,

I hope that you all had a safe and good holiday season. This letter is to give you an update about the status of the Native Tribe of Kanatak.

There are many issues that the council is currently addressing. Our number one issue is the election we have gone through the process once and did not receive enough votes. We have sent out nomination forms and have started the process again. Every vote is important according to our Election Ordinance this time 20% of the voting membership will be required.

Questions have arisen by a small minority group of members concerning the current council and our Administrator. We have mailed a brief

questionnaire on a prepaid postcard if you have not already done so; please take the time to respond it will help with this small minority of members concerns.

We are waiting for our funding for FY10 and expect to have those funds in the next few weeks. Congress has not yet funded our programs, but is expected to do so soon. So we continue to operate on our carryover funds from FY09.

Our Tribal Boat is fully repaired and operational after a few setbacks. Any members that have not yet registered for a Subsistence Halibut Permit may obtain an application from the Kanatak website at [Kanatak.com](http://Kanatak.com) or the office. We will have trips available from Seward, as well halibut available for those members unable to fish

or those living outside of Alaska. You can contact the office if you have any questions. We do still have funds available for our Energy Assistance Program for those who qualify. We also continue to have our Youth Education and Activity, Emergency Assistance, and Higher Education Programs. Our Annual Meeting planned for January 10, 2010 has been changed to January 31, 2010 a post card reminder will have been sent out this week with all call-in information. If you would like to add an agenda item please contact our Administrator Tony Olivera at the office.

Please feel free to contact me, council members or our administrator, if you have any questions or concerns.

Shawn Olivera  
Kanatak Tribal  
President

## Word from our Administrator

Dear Kanatak Tribal Members,

I understand it has been sometime since a newsletter has been sent to the members. I would like to thank all that contributed to this newsletter and taken the time to help complete it. I have been ill for the last few months but continue to work daily, as has always been the case the office phone is forwarded to my cell so please leave a message if you do not reach me directly.

We continue to operate on our FY09 funds and hoping to receive our FY10 funds soon. We do still have funds available for most services so please contact me at the office with any questions. The Emergency Shelter has had an addition added to it. It is now a one bedroom shelter. The

Council is in the process of developing guidelines concerning the shelter. They plan to make it available when not in use for members on nightly bases. Contact me if you are interested in utilizing this.

Our office is going to be remolded in the immediate future. Kanatak was awarded a grant from the Department of Energy to fund this remodel. The office will continue to operate during the construction work.

I continue to work with the council on the purchase of a Security Business to begin 8a Contracting with the Department of Defense. This will allow for many more programs and services for our members as well, allow the tribe to continue to operate with depletion in funding.

Kanatak has experienced a large number of Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Cases. I have been working with a number of states on these cases. Please keep in mind that all children that are members or descendents of the tribe have certain rights not afforded others. If you our any others minor members have any issues concerning custody, adoption or protective services, don't hesitate to contact me. These rights do not matter what state you reside in the tribe does have jurisdiction of all members and descendents.

Please don't hesitate to contact me about any issues our questions you may have.

Tony Olivera  
Kanatak Tribal  
Administrator

### Contract Labor-

If you are interested in being placed on the Contract Labor List, please contact the office at (907) 357-5991 or [kanatak@mtaonline.net](mailto:kanatak@mtaonline.net). When the opportunities arise for contract labor you will be called in order. There currently are not many chances for contract labor, but we hope to have increased workloads this summer.

## Programs Available

We currently have in the budget for the following programs:

Youth activities program: to provide assistance for youth members fees in sports, music, drama, leadership, and other extra curricular activities.

Youth exchange program: to provide opportunities for youth members to

travel to host tribal families out of their residential region.

Higher education Scholarship program: to provide financial assistance for members seeking to further their education or job skills.

Student educational

support/tutoring program: to provide qualified support for students with tutors.

Housing programs: Down payment assistance  
Emergency repairs and utilities assistance.

## Garden & Subsistence Programs

This summer's garden produced large amounts of cabbage, zucchini, broccoli, radishes, snow peas, tomatoes and lettuce. Members that requested vegetables through the office were delivered as they were available. We would like to thank Amariah Olivera for planting, weeding, and watering throughout the summer. We are currently discussing if the

garden will be planted again next season. We would like to know if there are any members that would like to work on the garden this summer. If you would like to participate in taking care of the garden please contact the office and sign up.

The subsistence program will be up and running this summer. After mechanical delays, the

boat is ready for use this fishing season. We have three certified captains, and if you would like to arrange time to go out on the boat please contact the office for coordination.



## Member Achievements News

If you have any news or achievements you would like to share with the Tribe, please submit it in written format to the office for posting in the next newsletter and/or on the website.

Kari Stiles has recently returned to Alaska. She is currently living in Wasilla and has adjusted to the weather in quick time!

Christina Olsen has recently moved to Alaska. She and her family are living in Wasilla.

Ronalda and Tony Olivera recently celebrated their tenth wedding anniversary. They will be getting married in the Catholic Church on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Amariah Olivera is enjoying her senior year of high school, and will be

traveling to Washington DC as a part of the Close Up Program. She plans on attending UAA in the fall.

Maria Yovino graduated Purdue University with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. Way to go Maria!!



## Grant funded expansion!

We are very excited to inform everyone that the grant for the emergency shelter has been approved and the work has started!

The emergency shelter is currently undergoing an expansion. The grant was approved to add on a bedroom. It will no longer be a studio unit. The shelter is available for

members who are in need temporary housing placement. There is a time limit so please contact the office for more information.

It will also be used for members who are visiting Alaska, and needing a place to stay instead of paying for a hotel, as long as the shelter is not being used by any members. Please contact the office for availability.

The office also had a grant approved for renovations. The office will get new flooring, windows, new roof, and new lighting!

This is all through grant money so the Tribe does not have to pay.

Thank you Tony for all your hard work on getting the grants approved!



## Never forgotten

Marlane's Memories of Mom, January 2010

Happy 79<sup>th</sup> Birthday Mom! As I listen to Judy Collin melodious song "Bright Morning Stars Are Shining" containing the special words "all my loved ones in Heaven have a bright new world in view" bring to mind your special love and knowing God has awarded you your legacy of a brighter new world for the years you've given us on this earth.

Mom struggled to raise several young children on her own without the aid of a job, Welfare, Social Services, or any of the other current sources of aid we receive today. If she didn't hunt and fish, we didn't eat. If she went hunting and fishing, we all went hunting and fishing, and picking berries. She was tough as nails and as generous without limits.

Mom was the best cook in the world -- she could make soup fit for a king with just a nail (or just about). My favorite memories of her later years was stopping by to visit with her. She always had something cooked and at times would wait for me to join her where we'd share stories and cherished memories of those who left for home without us.

She taught me how to commercial fish, subsistence hunt, fish, pick berries, and make do with little. She was creative and colorful. I remember living in Egegik, she decorated flowers on her homemade cupboards by dipping spaghetti noodles in bright paint and sticking them to the wood – worked quite well. Her toughness and bravery was proven time and time again. Such as the time when Dad traveled to Egegik for food staples, leaving her with all of us kids alone in the bear-filled town of Kanatak. We were awoken early one morning to dogs barking and loud gunshots nearby. James, Frieda, and I cautiously walked outside where Mom stood with the rifle near the Grizzly bear who had dared to eat her drying fish on the fish racks. As the wind blew the long wiry hair on the Grizzly, it brought shivers down my spine and a fear I'll never forget.

Another time, she became very angry after we all returned from a long hunting trip only to find her pots missing. Knowing that our neighbor had a knack for "borrowing" her pots and pans, she took a butcher knife, all of us kids and marched up to her house. She pounded on the door yelling, "GIVE ME BACK MY POTS!" Shortly thereafter, the door opened a wee bit and the pots came flying out!

Yes, Mom, you are certainly unique and special. I look forward to the time when you'll greet me with Leonard and the rest of our family – Happy Day's for sure!

Mary "Gram Abalama  
January 27, 1935- July 3,  
2003



## Never forgotten

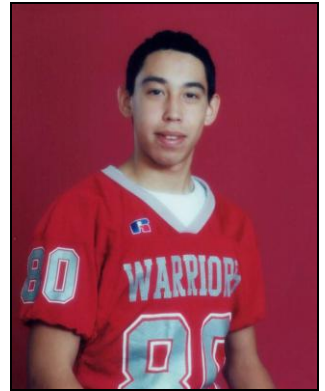
Remembering Mom on Her Birthday, by Kari Michelle Stiles, January 2010

They say, "It's not easy to walk in someone else's shoes." And if anyone can say they walked a mile in Mother's shoes, they are doing darn good! Mom had shoes that are very hard to fill. She would give the coat off her back. One story in particular brings back special memories of this. I recall when Mom was raising Wendy and I alone in Anchorage when I was about five years old, we walked down town to the old Woolworth's store where all Mom could afford was about a cup of coffee and one soda for Wendy and I to share. A homeless man came in and asked her for change for a cup of coffee and one of her cigarettes. Mom finished her coffee and stuck the last \$5.00 she had to her name in her cigarette package and gave it to the homeless man. I feel God rewarded her generously when the very next day a man brought a bouquet of the most beautiful flowers and informed her she had just won a trip for two all expenses paid to Acapulco, Mexico! This is just one example of the many, many times Mom helped out those in need, even though she herself did not have much. It is my firm belief that Mom always tried to walk in God's shoes, and was greatly rewarded.

Mom would always take us everywhere with her and always made it such a fun time. I recall one sunny-warm day when Son-Son was just a baby when I was 16 years old; I drove Mom, Wendy, Son-Son, and myself to Clam Gulch for the Razor clam-digging tides. Mom hunted down the small circular hole in the sand, telling Wendy to dig the shovel into the sand, scooping out the sand and instructing me to get on my knees and dig them out as quickly as possible. So Wendy and I began to follow her instructions to a "T" with Wendy quickly digging the shovel into the sand just an inch away from the hole and me by instantly grabbing the clam nose. I began yelling at Wendy that it was slipping away, so Wendy got on her hands and knees and started digging. She soon screamed "I GOT IT, I GOT IT!" "She couldn't understand why I was laughing so hard and when she pulled out the clam, it turned out to be my thumb" However, we still managed to get the clam as it was tightly clasped between my two fingers. This caused everyone to laugh for hours, especially Mom.

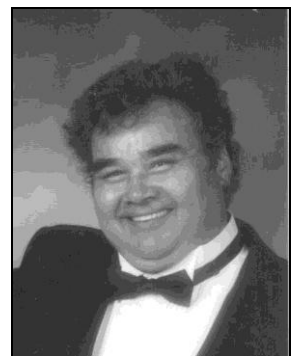
One thing I'll always be grateful for is when I had Gordon James (everyone knows him a "Son-Son" a nick-name Jenny gave him when she couldn't say "Gordon James" ) at the age of 14, she raised both of us and later ended up adopting him as her son whom she cherished until the day she left for Heaven. Of course, we all knew that Mom believed Son-Son could walk on water! ☺

What I miss most about her is that I can't pick up the phone to call and say "MOM!....." If Mom couldn't fix it, she sure could find someone to fix all of our issues – she never gave up! Looking forward to seeing you again Mom (and Wendy, Son-Son, James, Gordon, and all the rest of our family who happily reside on the other side!



Robert Jesse Olivera – May 2, 1982 – February 14, 2008. Robert passed away almost two years ago, and not a day goes by without his family thinking of him fondly. He was taken home at the age of 25. We miss him every day.

Daniel Olsen- April 20, 1941 - December 25, 2001.



You are always on our mind. Love, Your Family and Friends.

**Kanatak Tribal Council**  
P.O. Box 872231  
Wasilla, AK 99687

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KANATAK TRIBAL COUNCIL  
Working Together for our Future



**We're on the Web!**

**[www.kanatak.com](http://www.kanatak.com)**

## Happy Birthday!

### Member Birthdays:

Nichole Forshey, 1/8	Chantel Forshey, 2/21	Gage Wagner, 4/29
Katherine Nelson, 1/8	Molly Mitchell, 3/1	Tony Giacometti, 4/30
Seth Ramirez, 1/8	Dakoda Yovino, 3/1	Timothy J. Forshey, 5/1
Shelby Stiles, 1/9	Faith Ramirez, 3/5	Sadie Spargur, 5/1
Frieda Byars, 1/11	Danielle Rane, 3/6	Beverly Thompson, 5/1
Cynthia Parker, 1/11	Larry Hickey, 3/8	Roman Mosquito, 5/2
Jack Wagner, 1/14	Jeremy McGowan, 3/9	Roy Matsuno, 5/5
Nichole Breneman, 1/18	Joyce Chester, 3/11	Sophia Myers, 5/12
Helen Carbone, 1/24	Issac Specht, 3/15	Tony Olivera, 5/13
Renae Booher Sizer, 1/25	Alex Giacometti, 3/16	Donna Gerard, 5/17
Cara Pederson, 1/30	Doris Lind, 3/14	Frank Correa, 5/19
Isaac Ramirez, 2/1	Andrew Nelson, 3/17	Joseph Kalmakoff, 5/19
Nicholas Hansen, 2/2	Shawn Olivera, 3/22	Brittany Arey, 5/20
Anastasia Bahem, 2/5	Michelle Carbone, 3/23	Kathy Hansen, 5/21
Roseanna Bahem, 2/6	Cindy Gabel, 4/2	Christina Leyland, 5/21
Jeffery Forshey, 2/6	Destin Yovino, 4/7	Arielle Willis, 5/22
Robert Yovino, 2/6	James Baehm, 4/18	Eilish Wagner, 5/23
Robert Elliott, 2/9	Marlane Shanigan, 4/19	Tessa McGowan, 5/25
James Shanigan, 2/9	Loretta Pitchford, 4/22	Andrea Thompson, 5/28
Jessica Wagner, 2/9	Daniel Forshey, 4/25	Ryan Olivera, 5/30
Maggie'May Ramirez, 2/11	Maria Yovino, 4/25	
Henry F. Forshey, 2/15	Anthony M. Forshey, 4/28	

We would like to wish everyone a Happy Birthday from January to May! If your name is not on the list please contact the office to be added.

## Art Contest for our Youth!

We are having an art contest for our youth. The age groups will be

1. 5 years and under
2. 6 years to 10 years
3. 11 years to 18 years

We would like to see art work from our youth! Please have your child submit art work for this contest. We will put the submitted pictures on the Kanatak website for everyone to judge. The winners in each age group will receive a \$20 gift card for Wal-mart. The picture should be on plain white paper so we can scan the picture to the website. You can also scan the picture yourself and submit by email to [kanatak@mtaonline.com](mailto:kanatak@mtaonline.com) or you can mail the picture through the postal service. If you have any questions, please contact the office. **We look forward to seeing all of the creativity from our tribal children!**

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