

# KCL MONTHLY



## Kuskokwim Consortium Library Newsletter

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Volume 4 Issue 1

## 2024 Year in Review

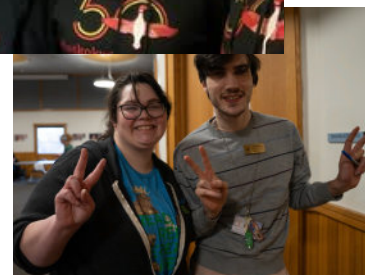
*By: Theresa Quiner,  
Library Director*

2024 was another amazing year at the library. As always, we enjoyed being with and serving the wonderful community of Bethel. The library is an important third space in this community, and we strive to provide a variety of programs throughout the year to meet the needs of the diverse community that we serve.

In February we celebrated the release of the new book "Tengautuli Atkuk-the Flying Parka" with a panel discussion with authors and contributors to the book. Ann Fienup-Riordan, Marie Meade, Merna Wharton, and KuC's own Golga Oscar shared stories about parkas in Yup'ik culture. A recording is available on our YouTube channel for those who missed it.

We continued to provide some of our longstanding programs every month, including Toddler Time, Story Time, and Chess Club with some new additions including Board Game days, Dungeons and Dragons and Craft Club. We were also excited to partner with the YK Fitness Center starting in October to expand our Toddler Time to a weekly program, with every other week happening at the Fitness Center. This was made possible through a generous donation from the VFW Auxiliary. Toddler Time provides an opportunity for kids to learn important socio-emotional skills while also providing a social space for parents and kids to congregate and build community.

Through a collaboration with the Bethel Housing and Homelessness Coalition, we provided several Project Homeless Connect (PHC) events throughout the year through a collaboration with the Bethel Housing and Homelessness Coalition and many community agencies. PHC events provide an opportunity for people to access needed services, while also providing a venue for the Housing Coalition to collect survey data on homelessness in Bethel. Every year one of the PHC events is held on the day of the Federal Point in Time Count, which is where communities around the country collect survey data in order to get a snapshot of what homelessness looks like nationwide. We saw these collaborative efforts come to fruition this year when Bethel's first Permanent Supportive Housing facility opened in March, and many people who have used the library as the de facto daytime homeless shelter have now moved into apartments of their own.



We provided a variety of workshops throughout the year. These included a candle making class, learning to cook with a sous vide, a southern fried chicken cooking class, Zine making, adult art programs, sewing, Dutch Oven Gourmet cooking and kitchen to cosmetics. We were also excited to bring out UAF Cooperative Extension's Jasmine Shaw from Sitka to do a packed weekend of workshops on gardening, pressure gauge testing, pickling and fermenting, and canning. We hope to work with her again this year to do even more CES workshops in Bethel! We have incorporated much of the equipment for these workshops into our library of things so people can continue to use their new knowledge at home!



The KuC campus celebrated their 50 year anniversary in 2024, and the library was excited to help coordinate some of the celebrations. We worked with the unofficial campus historian Cindy Andrecheck to host a live Ask An Alaskan game show with the former campus librarian and original game show host Thom Foote. The show featured current and past KuC employees and trivia questions highlighting campus history.

We always celebrate the end of the long winter with programs geared towards getting people outside to enjoy the beauty of the great outdoors. This year, we hosted kayaking programs, another Finding Fiddleheads plant walk, and a new plant walk to learn about wild rhubarb. Community member Carey Atchak leads the walks and shares cultural stories and information about the plants.

Summer is one of our busiest and most fun times at the library when we celebrate literacy with our summer reading programs! Summer reading has two components. We have a lot of fun programs for youth and adults, and we also encourage people to track their reading in order to get entered into our very fun summer reading raffle. Some of the programs we enjoyed this summer were crafting with a cop, a three day Molly of Denali Community Science camp for 6-8 years olds, a kids cooking class, a kids sewing class, Teen Dungeons and Dragons, and a weeklong Artapalooza workshop with teaching artist Jimmy Riordan. We wrapped up with our annual Summer Reading Celebration. The theme this year was "The Silly Olympics" since the real olympics were happening at the same time, and we enjoyed some hilarious activities like blindfolded tug of war. We also raffled off our many prizes and gave away books. Summer reading is sponsored every year by the Alaska Commercial Company, Swansons, and Donlin Gold.



Carey Atchak teaches community members about foraging.

BFD vs BPD in a blindfold tug of war at "Silly Olympics"



Kids learn about the science of salmon from fish biologist Avery Hoffman in the Molly of Denali Salmon Protector Camp





In the fall the library is very busy with some of our large community events. We kicked off September with our third annual Tales on the Tundra storytelling event modeled after the popular Arctic Entries events in Anchorage. We partner with KYUK and the Southwest Alaska Arts Group every year for this fun event. Six storytellers shared a story about their own life. This year's storytellers were Anne Kosacheff, Alice Rearden, Diane McEachern, myself (Theresa Quiner), James Harris and Esther Green. Local band PNKS with Paul Basile, Nate DeHaan, Kevin Morgan, and Shane Iverson performed, and elder Bev Hoffman hosted.

The library spearheaded the third annual Indigenous People Day Community Celebration in October with 8 hours of cultural activities. This year the new KuC Native Arts Coordinator Golga Oscar helped organize and added a very cool new event- a Fur Fashion Show! We followed up IPD with our first screening of the Rocky Horror Picture as a joint fundraiser with the Southwest Alaska Arts Group, and people came in costume and enjoyed the cult classic. Immediately following this we held our annual Trunk or Treat in the parking lot of the cultural center. This year we had the added fun of an indoor Halloween Carnival hosted by GCI, and KYUK and the Bethel Actors Guild hosted a haunted house at KYUK.



Photo credits:  
MaryCait Dolan,  
KYUK

We held several Brown Bag Lunch discussions at the college throughout the year, including "Yup'ik Dance Mask Connects Indigenous Tradition", "Tevatevaaq/Kuaka: Connecting Alaska, New Zealand, and Beyond", and iPhone photography.

We wrapped up the year with our Winterfest Carnival. There were a variety of fun holiday and winter themed activities, concessions, and cake walks, and fun was had by everyone! TWC's Teens Acting Against Violence, KuC staff and many volunteers helped make the event a success. Jimmy Riordan joined in on the fun and led arts activities, and followed up with a week of arts programs at the library. He also provide a digitization station at the library when he is visiting so people can digitize their old VHS and cassette tapes. Stay tuned for the near future when we have a digitization station available for checkout!

I was very honored in December to find out that I was receiving the "I Love My Librarian" award from the American Library Association. Mikayla Miller, our beloved children's librarian, learned about this award when we attended the ALA Annual Conference last summer, and spearheaded gathering testimonials from the community about my work at the library. I am so touched to be recognized in this way, and am very grateful to serve as a librarian in this community. Anything that I have given to the community has been given back to me tenfold!



Read more  
about the  
award here:



Happy New Year from your local library. We look forward to another great year in 2025!

# JANUARY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Library Closed	30	31	1	2	3	4
Library Closed						
5 Library Closed	6	7	8	9	10	11
Library Closed						
12 Library Closed	13 Toddler Time at YK Fitness Center (Pool) @ 11 a.m.	14	15	16	17	18
Library Closed						
19 Library Closed	20 Library Closed Toddler Time at YK Fitness Center (Pool) @ 11 a.m.	21	22	23	24	25
Library Closed						
26 Library Closed	27	28 Project Homeless Connect at the Covenant Church from 12 to 2 p.m.	29	30	31	1

# Project Homeless Connect

Project Homeless Connect is Tuesday, January 28, 2025 from 12-2pm at the Bethel Evangelical Covenant Church. Project Homeless Connect events, or PHC events, are catered towards assisting the homeless and housing insecure by providing clothes and services such as behavioral health information, medical and harm reduction services, and a hot meal. All are welcome to attend these events. This event gathers multiple organizations and agencies throughout Bethel to provide a variety of services in a convenient one stop shop model.

Kuskokwim Consortium Library is a community center for everyone in Bethel. It serves all its patrons. Organizing Project Homeless Connect events is part of the library's seven year outreach initiative with the Bethel Housing and Homelessness Coalition (BHCC). Due to the lack of services in the community for the unhoused population, the library has long been one of the only warm places for unhoused community members to spend time during the day. In an effort to help with community efforts to improve services that will result in people moving from unhoused to housed, the

library has organized PHC events for the past seven years to give the coalition the venue they need to collect survey data that is necessary to get funding for housing projects. Homelessness is not solved in a day, in a week, in a month, or even a year, but we have been grateful to see this collaboration with the housing coalition come to fruition this year when Bethel's first Permanent Supportive Housing facility opened this spring. Unhoused community members who have used the library for years now have an apartment of their own.

Project Homeless Connect events bring the community together, and everyone has the ability to help. People can volunteer to help the event run smoothly, donate a pot of soup, or they can donate warm weather gear like gloves, snacks, pads/tampons, clothing like warm socks and underwear, and other essential items. Otherwise, simply spreading the word and bringing attention to an often overlooked community may blossom into tangible and positive change.

If interested in volunteering, donating, or providing services, please contact Scott Clifford at [scclifford@alaska.edu](mailto:scclifford@alaska.edu) or call 907-543-4544.



## PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT BETHEL

All are welcome to attend or assist with this event geared towards aiding the unhoused population of Bethel with much needed resources!

**Tuesday  
January 28  
12-2 p.m.**

**Covenant Church  
165 Chief Eddie  
Hoffman Highway**

**DONATIONS APPRECIATED**

- Socks
- Hats
- Gloves
- Backpacks
- New Underwear
- Winter Boots
- Food to serve

**Please clean all donations and inspect them for any tears / stains**

**WANT TO VOLUNTEER?**  
Call Scott Clifford at 907-543-4544 or email him at [scclifford@alaska.edu](mailto:scclifford@alaska.edu) to sign up

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## KUSKOKWIM CONSORTIUM LIBRARY STAFF

**THERESA QUINER**, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

**MIKAYLA MILLER**, YOUTH SERVICES  
COORDINATOR

**SCOTT CLIFFORD**, ADULT SERVICES  
COORDINATOR & JESUIT VOLUNTEER

**THOMAS DANIEL**, CIRCULATION  
TECHNICIAN



**@KuskokwimConsortiumLibrary**



**@BethelAKLibrary**



**@kcl\_brary**



**907-543-4516**



**<https://www.uaf.edu/bethellibrary/>**

## MONDAY

11 A.M. - 6 P.M.

## TUESDAY

11 A.M. - 6 P.M.

## WEDNESDAY

11 A.M. - 6 P.M.

## THURSDAY

11 A.M. - 6 P.M.

## FRIDAY

11 A.M. - 6 P.M.

## SATURDAY

11 A.M. - 4 P.M.

## SUNDAY

CLOSED

5