

# 1986 Governor's Arts Awards announced

JUNEAU — Governor Bill Sheffield announced that five Alaskans and organizations which have made significant contributions to the arts of Alaska are winners of the 1986 Governor's Awards for the Arts.

Awarded to individuals or organizations whose efforts as artists, benefactors and advocates of the arts have had a profound effect upon the cultural life of the state, the Governor's Awards for the Arts will be presented this week to the Alaska Native Brotherhood Camp -1, Sitka; Mary K. Barsdate of Fairbanks; George Rogers of Juneau; Martha Shields of Saxman and three volunteers from the *Tausigniaviat* or Native Hospital Gift Shop in Anchorage, Agnes Coyle, Jeanne Dougherty and Karin Vogeler. Here is a profile of the award winners:

**ALASKA NATIVE BROTHERHOOD, CAMP -1, Sitka.** Known throughout the state for its accomplishments on behalf of the social betterment of Alaska Native people, the Alaska Native Brotherhood, Camp -1, has in recent years also played an important role in the development of arts in Southeast Alaska. Since 1968, Camp -1 has operated and directed the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center at the National Park in Sitka.

In its early years, the Cultural Center met a growing and critical need of the times as students gathered at the Center to learn and to produce dancing robes, shirts vests, head pieces and drums for the new Indian dance groups, and today the design and creation of dancers' regalia continues to be an important activity at the center.

As the talents of developing artists

who have participated in the Center's program mature, they enrich the cultural atmosphere of our state. The instructors, many of whom are renowned, are not only reviving and preserving traditional art forms, they are also exploring new aesthetic frontiers.

**MARY KAY BARSDATE, Fairbanks.** Mary Kay Barsdate personifies the quiet, dedicated worker in the arts without whom the cultural life of Fairbanks and Alaska would not have grown and flourished. During her tenure as a member of the Alaska state Council on the Arts (1981-1983), she was a vigorous advocate for all arts disciplines and was a leader in support for the importance of the arts in education.

Her position that the arts should have a role early in a person's life is demonstrated by personal example — she is an ardent supporter of young people's music and forensic programs and an articulate proponent of public art education. She has actively served many arts organizations including Alaska Arts in Education, the Fairbanks Arts Association, Arts Alaska and the Alaska All-State Honors Music Festival.

Many arts groups are indebted to this "organizational magician" for the success of their programs and projects. Mary Kay Barsdate works hard promoting the arts and deserves all our recognition for her tireless efforts to bring greater public appreciation and understanding of the arts.

**GEORGE ROGERS, Juneau.** George Rogers' contributions to the arts in Alaska range from playing bit parts to leading roles in theater, sing-

ing in choral groups, designing posters for arts groups and stage sets for theater companies, to serving as a local art and drama critic.

On the administrative end, Rogers has provided strong leadership for local arts organizations, including terms as president of the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council and the Juneau Lyric Opera Association. In addition, Rogers has been a generous contributor to the arts.

Because the arts are important to George Rogers personally, they become important also to the many public officials and private individuals with whom he comes in contact, and his influence in cultural matters has extended well beyond his own community of Juneau to all of Alaska. All who work in the arts in Juneau have been touched by his contributions. Described as a "bundle of energy, a whirlpool of brilliant ideas, a synthesizer of themes from past to present," George Rogers is a "true man of arts and letters whose sole concern has always been the good of the artistic community."

**MARTHA SHIELDS, Saxman.** For more than 50 years Martha Shields has worked to preserve and maintain the cultural heritage of the Cape Fox Tlingit in Saxman. In 1926 she started the original Cape Fox Dancers, and since then she has taught many people singing and dancing and the traditional Tlingit arts of beading and dance regalia construction.

Martha shields is a strong, active and gentle artist who willingly shares her skills and knowledge with anyone who needs her. Because of her work, one can visit homes in Saxman today

and hear young children singing Tlingit songs, eagerly asking if they can dance next. She still teaches Native art classes, provides counsel for the development of the Saxman Tribal House, and leads the Cape Fox Dancers, sharing the beauty and joy of the Tlingit dance with the wider public. Her decades of efforts to ensure the development to Tlingit art and dance merit both our honor and thanks.

**TAUSIGNIAVIAT VOLUNTEERS: AGNES COYLE, JEANNE DOUGHERTY AND KARIN VOGELER, Anchorage.** Agnes Coyle, Jeanne Dougherty and Karin Vogeler are the dedicated volunteers who have been in charge of the Alaska Native Medical Center Craft Shop for many years. The craft shop, *Tausigniaviat*, literally "The Peoples' Shopping Place," is a part of the Alaska Native Hospital Auxiliary and is run on a nonprofit basis by volunteers. It provides a tremendous service for Alaska Native artists and craftspeople.

Always a place with a warm and friendly atmosphere, *Tausigniaviat* has been a source of encouragement and support for many craftspeople during the past ten years, and excellence and pride in craftsmanship are continuously encouraged at this "bursting at the seams" shop.

Coyle, Dougherty and Vogeler have expanded the shop's work through outreach by initiating an annual and very successful Native People's Bazaar and by endeavoring to promote Alaska Native art through frequent

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presentations to community groups. They are friends to the artists and ambassadors of good will to the public. The quiet, conscientious volunteer work of Agnes Coyle, Jeanne Dougherty and Karin Vogeler on behalf of **Tausigniaviat** make them fitting recipients of the Governor's Award for the Arts.

Governor Sheffield presented the Governor's Awards for the Arts on April 25 during a special ceremony at the University of Alaska Museum in Fairbanks. The Alaska State Council on the Arts, which works with the Governor's Office in identifying potential awardees, commissioned noted Fairbanks painter, Kes Woodward, to create this year's awards. Woodward's "Birch Portraits," oil and alkyde paintings on paper, were given to each award winner.

As in past years, the State Arts Council has published a commemorative poster honoring the recipients and featuring the artwork commissioned for the award. The 1986 poster, designed by Clark Mishler of Anchorage, is available from the State Arts Council.