

HCR

44



February 8, 1988

Representative Fran Ulmer
Alaska State Legislature
PO Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Ulmer:

I am writing at the suggestion of Carol Beery Davis who has been involved in the process to nominate Joanne Townsend for the post of Poet Laureate of Alaska. As a result of inactivity at the Juneau Poetry Society (the group which normally makes recommendations to the Legislature regarding the Poet Laureate), the State Arts Council, its Literature Panel and the former Poets Laureate participated in a nomination and selection process for the next Poet Laureate of Alaska. Writers statewide were invited to submit letters of interest and selections from their work for review. Panel members reviewed material submitted by about fifteen writers and recommended that Joanne Townsend of Anchorage be appointed to the post by the Legislature.

Members of the panel further recommended that since the Poet Laureate post is a significant one and the Laureate is called upon not only to produce work but to read publicly at any number of events, that a stipend of \$5,000 be requested as an add-on to the State Arts Council's budget. Ms. Townsend is a significant writer within the state and someone who has a serious commitment to Alaska and its literary arts. It was the feeling of both the panel and the Council that a stipend in addition to the honorary post was entirely appropriate. Since Mrs. Davis resides in your district, she suggested that you be contacted regarding this. We agreed with her suggestion since you have long been a supporter of the arts in Alaska.

I am hopeful that you will agree to sponsor a resolution in the Senate naming Ms. Townsend Alaska's Poet Laureate and would be happy to discuss her qualifications, the panel discussion and the process in more detail. We will also be contacting Senator Sturgulewski in the Senate so that resolutions from both bodies can potentially be introduced simultaneously.

For your information I have enclosed Ms. Townsend's material which was submitted for review by the panel. I have also enclosed some background material on the issues facing the State Arts Council as we move forward into the future.

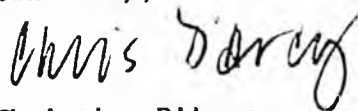
Alaska State Council on the Arts

619 Warehouse Avenue, Suite 220/Anchorage, Alaska 99501/(907) 279-1558

Representative Fran Ulmer
February 8, 1988
Page 2.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine D'Arcy".

Christine D'Arcy
Executive Director

CTD:kh:1663B
enclosures

5522 Cope Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99518
October 27, 1987

Poet Laureate Review Panel
Alaska State Council on the Arts
619 Warehouse Avenue, Suite 220
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Poet Laureate Review Panel:

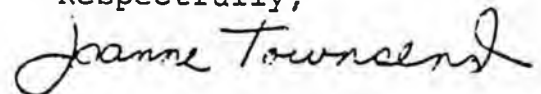
Well, what can I say? This is my second time around expressing interest in and consideration for this poet laureate position which "carries no salary or job description."

I regret that I haven't had the opportunity to move around the state as much as some writers, but in the Anchorage area where I've lived for the past 18 years (with the exception of four semesters at an Arkansas graduate school), I believe I am respected by my colleagues for the quality of my writing and for my long dedication to poetry as a vital force in our community.

Joseph Brodsky, the recent Nobel prize winner, was quoted in the press as saying that poetry should make us aware of our human existence, of "the passage of time." I believe that my own poems try to do that. They carry stuff of memory, comings and goings, geography and history that are circular as well as linear. They are not all about the North, but they are always aware of it: who and what we're bound to, and the natural world, non-judgmental with its gifts of harshness and beauty.

Many of my waking hours have been spent increasing "public awareness of writing in Alaska." I would be honored to represent Alaska as its poet laureate.

Respectfully,



Joanne Townsend

P.S. If there is anything on my application that is not clear or warrants any questions from the review panel, I am available by phone at (907) 562-7835, or by mail at the above address.

RESUME

JOANNE TOWNSEND

5522 Cope Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99518

(907) 562-7835

EDUCATION: M.A. in English, University of Arkansas, 1984
B.A. (*cum laude*) in English/Humanities, Alaska Pacific University, 1981

OTHER CONTINUING EDUCATION: Sitka Summer Writers' Symposium, June 1985
International Writing Conference, University of East Anglia,
Norwich, England, March 1985
Midnight Sun Writers' Conference, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, 1980, 1981
Napa Valley Poetry Conference, Napa College, 1981--poetry-writing
workshops with Philip Dow, Galway Kinnell, Carolyn Forché
New York University, Poetry Writing Course with Louise Bogan, 1962
New York University, Seminar in Creative Writing with Charles Angoff, 1963

COLLEGE TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Fall semester, 1985 to present. Instructor in English, part-time, New
University of Alaska, Anchorage (UAA, ACC)

1984-1985, Adjunct Professor, Alaska Pacific University, taught writing,
English skills, etc.

1982-1984, Graduate Teaching Assistant in English, University of Arkansas,
Fayetteville, Arkansas

1981-82, Adjunct Professor, Alaska Pacific University. Taught a women's
creative writing course both for credit and non-credit, also taught
Effective Writing Skills.

COMMUNITY/OUTREACH TEACHING:

1985, taught 6 week course in poetry-writing for the Alaska Women's Resource Center.

1982, Creative Writing Teacher for children ages 7-17, Alaska Pacific University
Summer Fine Arts Camp.

1981, Poetry-writing Workshops: Abbott Loop Elementary School, East High School

1981, Creative Writing Teacher, Alaska Pacific University Fine Arts Camp

1980, conducted a children's poetry workshop, ACC Arts Fair.

1980, Nov. 13-Dec. 19, taught four seventy-minute classes per week in creative
writing to 5th and 6th graders, Lake Otis School, Anchorage, Program
for the Creative and Artistically Talented (PACT).

1980, Sept.-Dec., Creative Writing Teacher (volunteer), Third Avenue Men's Prison,
Anchorage.

1979, co-ordinated a dialogue series, "What Makes a Poem Go?" for Immanuel
Presbyterian Church, Anchorage.

1977-78, co-ordinated experiences in poetry and art for the then new Susitna
Optional Elementary School.

1987, current, am working to develop a fifteen week course on creativity to be
offered by The Seminary of the Church, an ecumenical teaching institute
of Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Anchorage.

HONORS AND AWARDS:

1985 Alaska State Council on the Arts Fellowship in Creative Writing

1984 University of Arkansas, Felix McKean Award for poetry

1981 Co-ordinating Council of Literary Magazines Publications Grant Award for
Harpoon. Harpoon was also nominated for an editorial development grant.

1981 Travel Grant Award to attend Napa College Poetry Conference

RESUME, CONTINUED

HONORS AND AWARDS:

- 1980 Poetry Purchase Award for "Poem Making" by the Alaska State Council on the Arts. The poem was later published by the council in its anthology Finding the Boundaries.
- 1980, 1981, elected to Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.
- 1982-1984 fellowships, graduate teaching assistantship awards, University of Arkansas
- 1978-80, Alaska Pacific University Trustees' Scholarships
- 1984 "February: Letter to Alaska" winner of literary review contest (annual), The Grapevine
- 1986, 1981--Tanana Valley Fair, Creative Writing Division--my poems took prizes in free verse, experimental, light verse, haiku, and collection categories.

PUBLISHING/ PRODUCTION VENTURES:

- 1986 Assistant to Christine Walter, producer for Leading Edge Video Productions on Alaska: A Place for Poets (Part I). Co-ordinated writers, catalogued poems read, selected sites, etc. Assisted with and appeared in Alaska: A Place for Poets (Part II). On the 2nd video I read my work, also conducted an interview about the sense of place in Alaskan poetry with Sandra Eacker.
- 1981-1984 Sedna Press, a women-owned business, published poetry broadsides, postcards, posters; also offered editing services and poetry workshops for events such as the ACC Women's Arts Fair.
- 1978-1982 Co-editor and Co-publisher (with Steve Levi) of Harpoon and Harpoon Press. Harpoon was an award-winning literary journal published three times yearly for a total of nine issues.

PUBLICATIONS:

BALANCING ACT (Anchorage: Harpoon Press, 1979)

LEAVETAKING, a finished manuscript for which the publisher Intertext backed out is currently in revision.

POEMS AND BOOK REVIEWS PUBLISHED:

Please note--this is where my resume is weakest. Our house was destroyed by a huge cottonwood last year and suffered two subsequent floods. Many records were damaged or shoved in boxes. Thus, I can only really give a partial listing. I tried to indicate on my fifteen pages submitted which poems had been published since for those, I had an acknowledgements list.

- 1975-1981 Poems appeared in The Alaska Woman; The Album (Tagore International Institute of Creative Writing, Madras, India); A Long Line of Joy: Poetry, Commentary, and Interviews; The Anthology of Magazine Verse and Yearbook of American Poetry (1981, "With Due Deference to Thomas Wolfe"); Broken Streets; The Christian Science Monitor; Etcetera; Finding the Boundaries; Harpoon; Karmic Runes; Minotaur; Northward Journal: A Quarterly of Northern Arts (21/22 Alaskan Art and Writing featured "Southeast," "Those Twenty-four Hour Days"); Orca II: A Collection of Alaskan Poetry and Prose; Maelstrom Review

RESUME, CONTINUED

Poems published 1982-1987

Poems have appeared in AKA Journal (forthcoming); The Alaska Quarterly Review; Calliope's Corner; Grapevine; "Heartland" in The Fairbanks Daily News Miner (appearing in 1985 were "writing Teacher: Summer," "Mist," and "Afternoon Song for Jean"); Hunger and Dreams: The Alaskan Women's Anthology; Interim; Loonlark: Orca Anthology of Poems and Prose; Rhino (forthcoming); The Wayward Wind: On Being Jewish.

Book reviews 1978-82

In Harpoon I reviewed and wrote critically on books by the following Alaskan authors: Sheila Nickerson, Ann Chandonnet, Ruben Gaines, Dick Dauenhauer, Helen Slwooko Carius (*SEVUKAKMET: Ways of Life on St. Lawrence Island*), and others.

Recent review "White Space" of Ann Chandonnet's "*Auras, Tendrils: Poems of the North*" appeared in The Small Press Review.

READINGS:

PARTIAL LISTING

- 1985-87 Participant in "Wednesdays in the Dark, which is now "First Mondays" on a regular basis.
- 1985 Open reading participant, Sitka Conference
Featured reader, Anchorage Museum of History and Art World Poetry Day Celebration
Performance piece, Immanuel Presbyterian Church; three of my poems were done with modern dance by Lynette Turner and readings by Dick Madden and myself.
- 1984 August, featured reader with Sheila Nickerson at the Alaska Women's Bookstore.
- 1984 May, Pueblo, Colorado, Pueblo Public Library
May, Pueblo, Colorado, featured reader and guest of Pueblo Poets Assoc.
- 1984 Anchorage, World Poetry Day Reading
- 1983 Fayetteville Public Library, Fayetteville, Arkansas; one of four featured readers for "An Evening of Women's Poetry"
- 1981 Co-ordinator (with Ann Chandonnet) of the memorial reading for Margaret Mielke, Alaska's first poet laureate, at the Eagle River Public Library.
- 1981 One of four featured readers at the Spenard Public Library, "Poetry Arts Festival."
- 1976-1981 Ran with Jim Gove of Minotaur the monthly Minotaur readings which featured many Anchorage poets. These began at the Nunaka Valley Community School, later moved to the old Bridge restaurant. Steve Levi took over for Jim; by 1981 the readings were sponsored by Harpoon and were at the Bridge or at the museum.
- 1980-82 Co-ordinated readings in the Alaska Arts Council Series and invited out-of-town poets. Also read at some of these readings at St. Mary's Episcopal Church

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Chairman of the Poetry Judging Committee for the University of Alaska Anchorage/Anchorage Daily News Contest in 1986 and 1987.

Judge, poetry, American Mothers Contest, 1986

Member of Literary Review Panel, Alaska State Council on the Arts, 1981-1982

Destinations

San Francisco, 1965.

Chilly. 5 in the morning. Down to our last twenty dollars.
Drove non-stop, Nevada border to the Bay Bridge. South of
Market we find an all night cafe, order coffee. Swirls
of steam rise from the heavy mugs, fog our faces.

Two winos come in,
place a dollar on the linoleum counter top,
are served tawny port in cracked water glasses. No one
can give us directions. Later I write home:
Wine is cheaper here than bread.

Anchorage, 1970.

I sold enough and bought the ticket.
You meet the plane with a borrowed car,
hoist to your shoulders our two-year-old and his teddy bear.
We drive to Sears;
you buy tacks, a plumber's helper, a three-pronged plug.
Already I know what I want: your closeness and Northern California
spring, the green-gold mustard fields--to run through them
shifting all I carry. Know what I want: all simultaneously.
Winter is dark. The snow is dirty.

Anchorage, 1981.

The house breathes a belly
in which we stumble, too constricted to really see.
Eleven years spent in three rooms...who
would have thought it? "A starter house," the realtor said.
But the box curled around its center. Tentacle grips.
I tell you some days the air
is bad, as if cracked plaster gave off poisons,
and there are moans behind the scuffed paneling,
peculiar cartons in the attic. If I scrub the window glass,
we can see the mountains. The mortgage is low.
We take trips to California.

Some place or any place, this day or any day....

Continents. One half inch per year, the plates slide.
The house loosens. How many years
to learn our silences? We smile forgetfully.
Change is as certain as the pulsing wings of one
hundred hoary redpolls rising from the highbush cranberry
when the dog barks.

I Am Not A Swallow

Now
toward what side of the horizon
does your hair flutter?
Yannis Ritsos

Beyond the creek
a night freight rumbles
and these windows rattle
while the plastic clock
with the broken alarm
ticks off panic
ten minutes at a time.

I am sleeping alone.
It's the wrong bed:
ful' of crumbs and too wide.
I can't recall his face or the child's--
Trying, I rub into crumbs.
Aspirin doesn't help
or that white ghost, the phone,
only morning.
Grey light on old snapshots.
Rain on the roof.

published in Callicope's Corner (fall, 1985)

February: Letter to Alaska

Snow is tomfoolery
in Arkansas what falls
an inch or less of wet
barely dusts the dandelion shoots
teases tree limbs and disappears

Last night leaving the Restaurant on the Corner
stepping from dimness
I fancied the pavement washed with white
a stroke of incandescent light or mind

Now a flood of warm sun
Savannah sparrows cheep in the sycamore
I raise the window and think
of you stamping in at twenty below
ice crystals lodged in your bushy brows
Moose blocked the highway
Power out Waterline frozen
 Raven scolding

Distant as the Aurora
the sharp sounds of home

Winner of literary review contest,
The Grapevine (Fayetteville, AR), and published
in The Grapevine (Nov. 1983)

Iris: The Goddess, the Rainbow, the Flower

for Phydella Hogan

Next year I'll return
when the crescent moon
hangs over Arkansas
thin as a teacup handle.
In the warm spring.
In the season of Iris.

"My hands are too stiff,
I can't play," you say.
We urge, coax,
hold our breaths
while you reach for the smaller instrument
(less burdensome on your lap)
then ease your fingers from pain to plucking
Barbara Allen and Dish Rag.

White iris petals lean
over the rim of a mayonnaise jar
Iris stalks your fingers
Your notes rise across the kitchen
float past mahogany
the table
one hundred years of scratches.
The baby crawls to the screen door
presses her tongue to where night hovers.
When the Mockingbird Sings in the Lilac Bush
Goodbyes are so hard.

In the warm spring I'll loosen my wools
and come carrying spruce boughs
from the dark corners of my life.
We'll finish searching the craft fairs
for the dulcimer with the perfect tone.
I will learn your music
in the season of Iris.

published, spring, 1987, in Interim (University of
Nevada, Las Vegas)

On a Bright Morning

On a bright morning we must have climbed into Morry's boxy black Cadillac, Rose sitting high in the front next to her beau, Daddy and I in the bumpy back, and traveled two hours on the dusty old road to Nantasket Beach. On that morning we must have made it without the car breaking down or my upchucking cornflakes all over the plush upholstery and getting Morry mad, for here we are, in faded sepia, smiling into the camera. Rose is pretty as a rose, Daddy looks neither Polish nor Jewish, just boyish, his bare chest is lean, muscular. I reach nearly to his knee. I am holding out a toy pail of carefully gathered blue-black clam shells. I don't understand yet about angry gods or the threatening clouds above the Warsaw houses of my great great-aunts. It is 1939. Behind us, an unfinished sand castle. The surf is gentle, wind to the south.

published in The Alaska Quarterly Review (fall, 1986)

Machnovka, You Exist

for Frances

*and after the Nazis murdered the Jews
of Kiev, they sent patrols and trucks
into the neighboring villages and towns
and they rounded up the Jews
and they burned the villages,
and they murdered these Jews also,
at the ravine called Babi Yar*

and

facts of history

Machnovka, town of my ancestors,
limp herring swallowed by an iron bear,
your wooden synagogues taught Torah too gentle.
Machnovka, fate as bitter as horseradish root,
a void on the map,
you exist
etched in the lifeline of my palm.
Machnovka, you exist.
The bend of your stream
is the crook in my finger
that nags and will not

straighten.

published in Balancing Act, 1979,
and in The Wayward Wind, 1985

(Grandfather Poem I continued)

Florida morning. Orange ball of sun filters into a gray hospital room; a few beams of light rest on the Yiddish papers. They sit still folded on a bedside table. He lies in a diabetic coma irreversible the doctors say. His wife pulls her sweater tighter, finds the room too cool, heads for the solarium.

They come from the shadows
 as he lies alone,
 The people from his Polish village;
 on the day of his death
 they fill his room.
 First the women, wives and girls in their Sabbath best,
 lace headscarfs, wool shawls around their shoulders,
 soft skirts billowing;
 Then the curly-locked boys, and the men
 the men deep-eyed, dark bearded, rough textured,
 carrying well-worn prayer books;
 Then the male dancers, the dancers Hassidim,
 frock coats askew, whirling twirling, fervently moving forward
 moving forward in front of the others

Moving closer
 dancing and chanting.
 On the day of his death they come to meet him,
 the faces of his Polish village
 Descending, ascending
 in
 a
 long
 line
 of
 joy.

published in A Long Line of Joy: Poetry, Commentary,
 and Interviews (William J. Robson, 1978) and in
Balancing Act

(Epilogue: After the Grandfather Poems continued)

I type the last word, pound the last period,
 slip the final page
 out from the typewriter...rise
 and step outside, breathe in night,
 pale camel humps mountains
 snow against sky.

I dare you stars to fall.
 I dare you
 (stars)
 to make a noise.

published in Harpoon

Riddle

If there is a dream,
 there is a woman who looks like no one;
 she pushes her way in, bathed in light,
 brighter than the fat half-moon.
 Her arms are strings of letters,
 her fingers are words.

If there is a woman,
 there is a dream made of words.

If there is a dream,
 there is a woman made of words.

If from the dark, the owl
 calls, who is to answer,
 the dreaming woman
 or the woman in the dream?

forthcoming, fall 1987, in Rhino

Thoughts for Solzhenitsyn

*The clock, surviving through it all,
Measures the time as honorably
Between the others and ourselves,
Those who've come and those who've fled,
With the same ever-even tread,
Only the ancient hands' fine lace
Is trembling slightly on its face.*
Solzhenitsyn, Prussian Nights

Say that an hour is still an hour
even though styles of clocks have changed.

Say that this pea soup fog
makes everything outside the windows
eerie, otherworldly,
that the far ridge of bare trees,
stripped by Sunday's sharp winds
of their last clinging leaves,
becomes a menacing forest.

Say that I refuse
all ghostly beckoning,
all time suspended.

Say that indoors there is color:
red and blue and yellow,
music from the radio,
tea water boiling in its kettle,
the knowledge that sooner
or later the phone will ring.
The voice might be my own.

(As Through a Far Window continued)

III

At Wingaershaek in August,
if you get the memory right,
you lie with your lover on a rumpled blanket.
Your fingers stroke his sun-tanned back.
Suddenly he asks whether *anything*
has ever satisfied you, severing the day.

And now the hourglass has broken;
codes, translations, stored fragments
of your gypsy self shower the ground--
beached sea creatures, water-smoothed, recognizable:
fabric snips, paper, shopping bags,
green string from parcels,
messages retrieved from pockets of suitcases,
holdings you've clung to crisscrossing the continent,
east to west, west to east, square to circle.

*Here is the ivory tea mug you bought in Arkansas,
your name still on it, one letter missing;
here the dry crusty bagel
your husband brought to your hospital room
for luck on the eve of a serious operation.
Here the turquoise menorah you gave to your infant son,
a leap into light for the child's beginning;
and here, seeping wax, is the cracked Yahrzeit glass:
its wick refused to burn--
perhaps moist air, a breath had stilled it,
yes, your father's ghost whispering Enough, enough.*

All these tokens of, if not love, at least benevolence,
you relinquish at Wingaershaek.
"Eat, esse," she always said.
She died when you were twelve.
Who could know then the routes flexible as vision,
the journeys, the voices begging resurrection?
Losses swirl like kelp in eddies.
Your hands are free.
There are the gains--visible or invisible--
footholds under the unswerving sky.

*Yahrzeit: Memorial remembrance of
the dead; especially on the
anniversary of the dead, a candle
a glass is burned.*

STATE OF ALASKA
1988 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

No. 1
BILL VERSION: HCR 44
PUBLISH DATE: HOUSE 2/24/88

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
Title: APPOINTING JOANNE TOWNSEND POET
LAUREATE OF ALASKA
Sponsor: ULMER
Requestor: _____

EDUCATION
Agency Affected: STATE ARTS COUNCIL
BRU: _____
Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: CHRIS D'ARCY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Phone: 279-1558
Division: ALASKA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS Date: 2/19/88

Approved by Commissioner: Christine D'Arcy for ASCA Date: 2-19-88
Agency: _____

- Distribution (by preparer):
- Legislative Finance
 - Legislative Sponsor
 - Requestor
 - Office of Management and Budget
 - Impacted Agency(ies)

Alaska State Legislature

Committees:

Chair: State Affairs
V. Chair: Judiciary
Telecommunications
Special Ethics
Legislative Council
Finance Subcommittee
for the University of Alaska
Joint Committee
on Economic Recovery



PO. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 465-4947

REPRESENTATIVE FRAN ULMER

PRESS RELEASE

April 14, 1988

HCR 44, naming Joanne Townsend Poet Laureate of Alaska, passed the Senate today. Representative Fran Ulmer, D-Juneau, sponsor of HCR 44, congratulates Ms. Townsend on this honor. Poets Laureate have been recognized by the State of Alaska since Margaret Mielke was so honored in 1953. Other include Oliver Everett in 1965; Carol Beery Davis, 1967; John Haines, 1969; Ruben Gaines, 1973; Sheila Nickerson, 1977; and Richard Dauenhauer in 1981. Ms. Townsend's poems have appeared in many publications and include "Balancing Act," a collection published by Harpoon Press. Joanne Townsend, an Anchorage resident, was unanimously recommended by all past living poets laureate, the Alaska State Council on the Arts, and its Literature Panel after a statewide search.

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH Y. STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907.465.3800

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY

May, 1988

Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the STAIRS database CMPR. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Van Nimwegen

HSA

2-22-88

3:00 p.m.

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date referred: 2/15/88

FURTHER REFERRALS:

DATE: 2/22/88

The State Affairs Committee has considered HCR 44

Appointing Joanne Townsend Poet Laureate of Alaska.

RECOMMENDS:

- replace with _____ the same title
- attached amendment(s) a new title
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

- fiscal impact same as previous fiscal note published _____
- zero fiscal note same as previous zero fiscal note published _____
- zero with analysis

SIGNING/DO PASS:

Mark Talbot

Lynda Hoffman

Scott W. Williams

Terry Maston

Michael Douley

Cliff Davidson

R.A. Brubaker

SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

John Ulmer

 Chairman's signature



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House

P.O. BOX V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

February 24, 1988

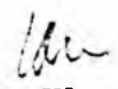
Richard Dauenhauer
3740 North Douglas Highway
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Dick:

Thank you for coming and being prepared to testify on Joanne Townsend's nomination as Alaska's Poet Laureate. I am sorry the committee time was taken up with other matters. More time on poetry and less on matters of war would have been my preference.

The next step is for HCR 44 is to be scheduled for House floor action and then on to the Senate.

Sincerely,


Fran Ulmer, Chair
Committee on State Affairs

Enclosure



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House

P.O. BOX V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

February 24, 1986

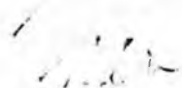
Sheila Nickerson
540 10th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Sheila:

Thank you for coming and being prepared to testify on Joanne Townsend's nomination as Alaska's Poet Laureate. I am sorry the committee time was taken up with other matters. More time on poetry and less on matters of war would have been my preference.

The next step is for HCR 44 is to be scheduled for House floor action and then on to the Senate.

Sincerely,


Fran Ulmer, Chair
Committee on State Affairs

Enclosure



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House

P.O. BOX V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

February 24, 1988

Joanne Townsend
5522 Cope Street
Anchorage, AK 99518

Dear Joanne:

Congratulations on your nomination as Alaska's Poet Laureate. Thanks for being available by teleconference on Monday of this week; I am sorry there was not time available for you to testify. I am pleased, however, that HCR 44 passed from State Affairs Committee so expeditiously. The next step is for it to be scheduled for House floor action and then on to the Senate.

Best wishes for your term as Alaska's Poet Laureate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Fran Ulmer".

Fran Ulmer, Chair
Committee on State Affairs

Enclosure

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
Title: APPOINTING JOANNE TOWNSEND POET
LAUREATE OF ALASKA
Sponsor: ULMER
Requestor: _____

Agency Affected: EDUCATION
STATE ARTS COUNCIL
BRU: _____
Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

[Empty box for analysis]

Prepared by: CHRIS D'ARCY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Phone: 279-1558
Division: ALASKA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS Date: 2/19/88
Approved by Commissioner: Christine D'Arcy for ASCA Date: 2-19-88
Agency: _____

Distribution (by preparer):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

Introduced: 2/1/77
Referred: Rules

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY
BY REQUEST

1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10 am H

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Designating Sheila Bunker Nickerson as
6 poet laureate of Alaska.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 WHEREAS literary expression in the form of poetry is a pursuit which
9 reaches and enriches human beings in all walks of life and circumstances; and

10 WHEREAS Sheila Nickerson's literary endeavors include teaching for the
11 Alaska State Council on the Arts in its poetry-in-the-school programs in
12 Juneau (1974), Petersburg (1975), and Skagway (1976); and

13 WHEREAS Sheila Nickerson has advanced our citizen's knowledge and appre-
14 ciation of poetry through the conducting of numerous writing workshops and
15 classes in the Juneau area, as well as the voluntary teaching of poetry in
16 the Juneau schools in 1974 and 1975; and

17 WHEREAS Sheila Nickerson's books, published by Thorp Springs Press
18 include "Letter From Alaska and Other Poems", 1972, poems collectively
19 entitled "To the Waters and the Wilds", 1975, and the novel, "In Rooms of
20 Falling Rain", 1976; and

21 WHEREAS she has published over 200 poems in periodicals in the last ten
22 years;

23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that Sheila Bunker
24 Nickerson be designated poet laureate of the State of Alaska.

State of Alaska



THE LEGISLATURE

HONORING - RICHARD DAUENHAUER

The members of the Twelfth Alaska Legislature wish to commend Richard Dauenhauer on his selection as seventh Poet Laureate of Alaska. Mr. Dauenhauer, author of Glacier Bay Concerto and Snow in May, among numerous other writings, is an ~~Associate Professor of Humanities~~ at Alaska Pacific University and is widely respected for his poetry and work as a translator.

Alaska is one of only twenty states which honor poets with selection as Poet Laureate, and the long and successful creative career of Richard Dauenhauer makes him an ideal choice for our State.

In addition to the honor accorded him for his work in poetry, Mr. Dauenhauer has been chosen Humanist of the Year 1980 and has been selected to receive the Individual Artists Grant from the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

We congratulate Richard Dauenhauer, Poet Laureate for Alaska and we encourage him in his creative efforts.




SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE


PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Date: April 6, 1981

Requested by: Senator Ray



Issues Facing the Alaska State Council on the Arts
For discussions during the 1988 Legislative session

Background

The Alaska State Council on the Arts, established by legislation in 1966 and governed by an eleven member board appointed by the Governor, has been a part of the Department of Education since 1981. The Council, the primary funding agency for nonprofit arts groups and artists across the state, is the largest cultural agency within state government and is supported with both General fund dollars and federal grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. While the Council's overall budget and staffing levels have been reduced by the Legislature in recent years, it has continued to offer a variety of programs and services structured to bring the arts to as broad an audience as possible in Alaska.

The Alaska State Council on the Arts recognizes the importance of the arts to Alaskan society and the close link of the arts to our overall quality of life. The arts, more than perhaps any other area of concern, is what civilization is based on and judged against. With these concerns in mind, the Council has based its plans for the future.

Alaska is a state in which it is hard to form statewide networks, but in which those networks are crucial to overall advocacy for and development of the arts. Alaskans value their isolation and sense of place and privacy; they also want access to programs and opportunities. Dependence and independence are contradictions that make up the diversity and character of the state. Since it began, the Council has recognized these contradictions, designing programs that have, over the years, stressed the following:

- serving as a catalyst for accessibility of high quality arts programs to people in all parts of the state
- providing resources and tools which encourage stability, cultural preservation, and independence in artists and arts organizations
- forming partnerships to make scarce resources go farther and building networks to strengthen arts groups and artists

Providing financial assistance in the form of matching grants and fellowships is the Council's primary function and has as its objective support of professional artists, arts organizations and institutions which offer quality programs serving Alaskan residents.

Agency Goal Statements

The State Arts Council, which has undertaken significant planning efforts over the past two fiscal years, has developed the following goals and targets for achievement over the long term:

- to encourage diversified bases of support for the arts
- to promote organizational stability within arts organizations
- to assist with the development of greater opportunities for Alaskan artists and provide technical assistance for individual artists to earn a living in the state
- to encourage the preservation, growth and recognition of Alaska's Native arts
- to encourage the development of artists, audiences, critics, patrons, the public at large and public decision-makers to become more knowledgeable about the arts
- to promote the continued development of high quality works of art
- to encourage greater experimentation in and collaboration between the arts
- to support a broad-based advocacy network for the arts
- to promote increased partnership between ASCA and the statewide arts constituency
- to stimulate and encourage a broad range of arts in all areas of the state

Key Policy Issues Confronting the State Arts Council

Short Term Issues

o to provide an adequate and stable base of funding to arts organizations based throughout the state through the continuation of the Council's ten distinct grant programs. The Council, through each of its grant programs, targets funds to achieve specific goals - many of which are unique to Alaska. Grant funds are allocated to nonprofit arts groups according to published criteria, artistic merit and an eye to an equitable distribution of funds across the state. Budget reductions of 60% to the Council's grant funds have forced some organizations

to seek funding directly from the Legislature. Direct line item funding to arts groups seriously undermines the Council's efforts to distribute funds equitably. Further ASCA grant reductions will encourage rather than discourage more of this. The State Council on the Arts was established by statute to set arts policy for the state and to provide for adequate arts funding statewide. The Council is committed to continuing its work in this area. An adequate base budget for the grants line of the budget is essential to maintaining this obligation.

- to continue to support and encourage the development and preservation of Alaska's traditional Native artists through the reinstatement of the Council's Native arts staff position and the continuation of grants to support Native arts organizations, tribal entities undertaking programs of cultural significance and individuals seeking to learn or pass on traditional skills. The State Arts Council Native Arts program, which was operative from 1980 through 1986, was considered one of the foremost folk arts programs in the country until a 50% personal services reduction forced the elimination of all ASCA program staff positions in 1987. One of the state's most valuable resources is the collective Native cultural wealth of its peoples. If this resource is to be preserved, nurtured and allowed to flourish, adequate funding and direction must be provided.

- to develop, with the aid of the arts constituency through out the state, new and streamlined methods for bringing live performance to the vast and varied regions of the state. A two day statewide meeting on the state of performing arts touring was coordinated by the State Arts Council in November 1987. The recommendation from this task force was that central program coordination of these efforts is needed and that ASCA should renew its efforts in this area. As nonprofit groups are less able to continue program responsibilities, more programmatic responsibilities are shifting back to the State Arts Council.

- to continue to serve as the primary information clearinghouse and resource center for arts constituents and the general public through the production of newsletters, catalogs and other publications and the collection of statistics and reports. The State Arts Council serves as the primary information source on the arts within the state. As both large and small organizations reduce staffs, limit outreach and stop production of printed material, the central services provided by the State Arts Council to a statewide audience are all the more critical.

- to continue to provide services not offered by other agencies through technical assistance workshops for artists and arts groups and assistance to other state agencies where cultural

development is involved. The Council plays a unique role in the statewide arts community. We not only provide grants to nonprofit arts groups and artists but also work with other state agencies on issues relating to the arts and as arts advocates within the executive branch of government.

- to develop new directions in arts education through continued work in advocating arts as part of the basic curriculum and in the involvement of professional artists in arts in education situations. Significant changes in the way the National Endowment allocates funding for arts education has made ASCA's role in this process critical. As a statewide agency, we are working with our Artists in Schools program contractors, arts education advocacy groups, artists and local school districts to not only improve activity in this area but enhance what has already been implemented. A two-day meeting on this subject was held with the field in November 1987; the result of that meeting was a strong directive to the Council to take a leadership position in arts education in Alaska.

- to further strengthen local arts programs through more defined support of community arts agencies throughout the state. New grant guidelines developed by the Council this Fall will focus more attention on the programs and services provided by these local groups, will more adequately support grassroots arts efforts and will train local people in more professional arts management techniques. This program will provide for more arts jobs in small Alaskan communities.

- to strengthen Alaska's cultural ties to Pacific Rim countries through continued support for performances and exchanges already begun by Alaskan arts organizations and involving Asian art forms. . Alaska's and particularly Anchorage's location as an air crossroads puts it in a unique position for international art exchange. Alaska's Arctic Chamber Orchestra completed a successful tour throughout China; the Visual Arts Center of Alaska has undertaken workshops with visiting Japanese artists and touring groups like the Peking Acrobats have performed throughout the state. This kind of exchange not only enhances the quality of life and culture for state residents, but contributes to the positive image the state wishes to project as it promotes its resources to a world market.

Long Range Issues

The greatest long range issue facing the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the arts in Alaska is funding. Both government and private funding for the arts has decreased dramatically in recent years while the demand for arts programs has increased. Stability for arts organizations and the effective planning for the future are two of the Council's major goals. What is a major issue is the public/private partnership which has historically provided support for the arts. The availability of public dollars establishes a value and priority position for the arts which is critical to and important for attracting private dollars. The availability of state dollars often triggers additional funds on a local or borough level. In addition, preservation of cultural traditions and the development of programs which nurture traditional art forms are important concerns which will be addressed by ASCA over the next three to five years.



Alaska State Council on the Arts
FY89 Budget Request
Summary of Increments Requested

ASCA's current (FY88) budget totals \$1,800,000 made up of \$1,275,000 in State General Fund dollars and \$525,000 federal dollars from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The FY89 budget request totals \$2,327,000. Additions to the budget for the following specific items were requested:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| \$60,000 | <u>Traditional Native Arts Staff position reinstatement.</u> This requests funds to maintain an existing but suspended program, to provide outreach statewide and to assist Alaskan artists and arts groups in the identification and collection of additional public sector monies for traditional arts activities. It is likely that this position will be expanded to include traditional, rural and Native Alaskan constituencies. Application for federal matching funds has been made to the National Endowment for the Arts. |
| \$40,000 | <u>Performing Arts Touring Program Coordination.</u> This budget increment requests funds to initiate central coordination of statewide performing arts touring efforts via a professional services contract managed by the State Arts Council. As a result of one nonprofit arts group ceasing operations during FY88, 90% of performing arts touring throughout Alaska has been eliminated. An assembly of artists, local Alaskan presenters and arts organizations meeting in December 1987 requested that the State Arts Council assume programmatic responsibilities in this area. |
| \$100,000 | <u>Grants to Local Arts Agencies.</u> ASCA's Community Arts Agency Block Grant program has been suspended since 1985. Since then, the Council has reevaluated what is needed to provide targeted support for locally initiated and managed arts programs. New grant guidelines in this category which will be implemented in FY89 are a major positive step towards solving problems in this area. The Grants to Local Arts Agencies will be key in ensuring that ASCA funds have adequate statewide distribution. |

- \$150,000 Grants to Arts Organizations. The portion of the State Arts Council's budget allocated to grants has been reduced by the Legislature by roughly 80% over a five year period. The Council is the first to admit that this request doesn't begin to provide the volume of support which is needed to sustain arts and cultural activities across the state. Given the constraints of the Cowper budget process, it is a first step towards obtaining more funding.
- \$5,000 Poet Laureate Funding. At the request of the Juneau Poetry Society and Alaskan writers across the state, the State Arts Council facilitated the nomination and selection process for the next Poet Laureate who will replace Richard Dauenhauer of Juneau. Because the Laureate is asked to read work and represent the position at events throughout the year, a modest stipend to support those activities is requested. This request is made because the Council's funding for individual artists, including writers, has been cut substantially and no funds are available.
- \$8,000 Contractual Budget Increase. In the past year, the Council has revised and restructured three of its existing grant programs. The Council's Guide to Programs and Services, the definitive source of information on grants and available services, needs to be reprinted and distributed. It was last printed in FY86. New guidelines and applications for all programs require printing at this time.
- \$50,000 Crossroads of the Continents: Support to the Anchorage Museum of History and Art. The Anchorage Museum of History and Art is one of a handful of American institutions selected for participation in the exhibition, Crossroads of the Continents, a major show of Native American material in the collection of Russian museums. The exhibition is being organized by the Smithsonian Institution; it will travel to the Field Museum in Chicago, the American Museum of Natural History in New York, the Pacific Science Center among other institutions. This is an exhibit of international significance and it is an honor that it will come to our state. The rental fee alone for the show is \$200,000. The Anchorage Museum Association has already given \$50,000 for the rental fee deposit; a \$50,000 level of support is projected from public, ie, State, funds and the remainder will be privately raised.

\$14,000

Upgrading of half time secretarial position to full time. The Council's secretary is its only clerical support staff. There is a great volume of telephone inquiries from Alaska and elsewhere, a large volume of foot traffic in and out of the Council office and a large volume of logistical work between Council, staff, panels and the public which this position is primarily responsible for. Reinstatement of this position to fulltime will enable the Council to meet its mandated task of serving as the central clearinghouse for arts information in the state.

3162A
rev/2-7-88

STATE OF ALASKA



REPRESENTATIVE
FRAN ULMER

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

P.O. Box V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-4947

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Tamara Cook
FROM: Representative Fran Ulmer
RE: Designation of Alaska's Poet Laureate
DATE: February 11, 1988

Attached is proposed language for a resolution designating Joanne Townsend as Alaska's Poet Laureate. Please have this resolution drafted so I can introduce it before the deadline for introduction of personal bills and resolutions.

WHEREAS literary expression in the form of poetry is a pursuit which reaches and enriches human beings in all walks of life and circumstances; and

WHEREAS poets laureate have been recognized by the State of Alaska since 1963; and

WHEREAS Joanne Townsend has been unanimously recommended by all past living poets laureate, the Alaska State Council on the Arts, and the Literature Panel of the Alaska State Council on the Arts; and

WHEREAS Joanne's teaching of poetry and creative writing in Alaska's schools has helped others to a greater appreciation of poetry; and

WHEREAS Joanne is respected by her colleagues for the quality of her writing and for her dedication to poetry as a vital force in Alaska; and

WHEREAS Joanne's published writings include Balancing Act by Harpoon Press in Anchorage; and

WHEREAS Joanne's poems have appeared in many periodical publications since 1975;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that Joanne Townsend be designated poet laureate of the State of Alaska.