

Program Coordinator Report February 2025

Kari Petersen

In early December Mary Ann Rainey took a trip to Washington DC with her niece, Amy Lucas, to see the big Christmas Tree from Wrangell and several others in various federal buildings that displayed ornaments made in her classes.

Rainforest Writers, led by Orin Pierson, began in November and has been well attended. Orin is taking February off and will offer 2 sessions in March. Orin's use of the Artist and Writer's Method to lead these workshops offers a truly special experience that we are so fortunate to be able to offer our community.

Through our various story time programs, we are now serving about 50 young patrons weekly, creating lots of enthusiastic library lovers! *Wiggles & Giggles* happens every Thursday at 11am and is open to the public. Weekly, Good Beginnings Pre-School and Tlingít Haida Head Start bring their classes to the library and I go to the Children's Center Pre-School.

A new batch of 22 interviews has gone up on the Homegrown Conversations podcast. KFSK is airing them Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm. These interviews were conducted last Spring by Mr. Shumway's Senior Alaska History class at Petersburg High School. The library archives them for posterity.

We are developing some new sequential arts programming geared toward elderly people that will be open to all adults. Mary Ann Rainey has a significant following of elderly women who like to participate in her programs, so we decided to start with her as an instructor. Mary Ann is a wonderful mentor who is excited to teach, and we are delighted to showcase her talents.

Our portion of the two-year IMLS grant, in partnership with Sealaska Heritage Institute, will be wrapped up in April. During the first year, I collaborated with Sealaska and librarians from Juneau, Sitka, and Haines to create 9 curriculums for use in Public Library Cultural Programming. Next, we put each curriculum to the test and evaluated them by offering monthly *Baby Raven Reads at the Library* events. I feel this is the most meaningful work I've done in the past two years. I've learned so much from working with Sealaska about how to offer Cultural programming in a respectful manner. I love that Sealaska has helped regional public libraries develop this curriculum. Now we have the tools and relationships to better serve our Native community and help our non-native community engage with and learn about the local Native Cultures. We are so fortunate to have Sealaska as a publisher in our region, especially of children's books. First and foremost, these books allow local Native children to see themselves represented in the books they find at the library. Second, because the stories are specific to our region all kids can see their life and the unique environment they reside in, represented in these books. *Baby Raven Reads at the Library* is a program we will carry into the future after the IMLS grant is complete.