

# Teen zine

THIS ZINE THEME IS:

MY ALASKA!!

# A Message From Your Teen Librarian

Welcome to the first annual Teen Zine from Anchorage Public Library! Our theme for the inaugural edition was “My Alaska”. What does Alaska look like to the teens who live here, how does one person's Alaska experience differ from someone else's or how do they look similar? These were the ideas teens were exploring when creating their work. I hope you enjoy the hard work of all the teens represented here.

You might be wondering, what is a zine? A zine, short for magazine, is a way for people to share their art, writing, experiences, and more with other people. Zines are typically self-published or self-made using a variety of techniques.

This zine features art, poetry, short stories, book reviews, playlists, and more from teens in Anchorage. Thank you to all the contributors for your hard work!

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# **The Jewel of Alaska**

**Avaleigh J.**

Alaska is my home.

On the cold, windy beaches of Southeast Alaska

With the smell of salt water and cold air

Constantly brushing through my straight hair

The tall, mysterious, green trees

From the border of the beach.

With some sweet salmon berries

And black bear with her cubs.

The constant sound of seagulls

Trying to annoy the eagles

And the waves hitting the shore,

Covered in dried seaweed.

The gloomy, gray clouds

Above me, with small peeks from the sun

Shining on the grass of the beach.

This is my home.

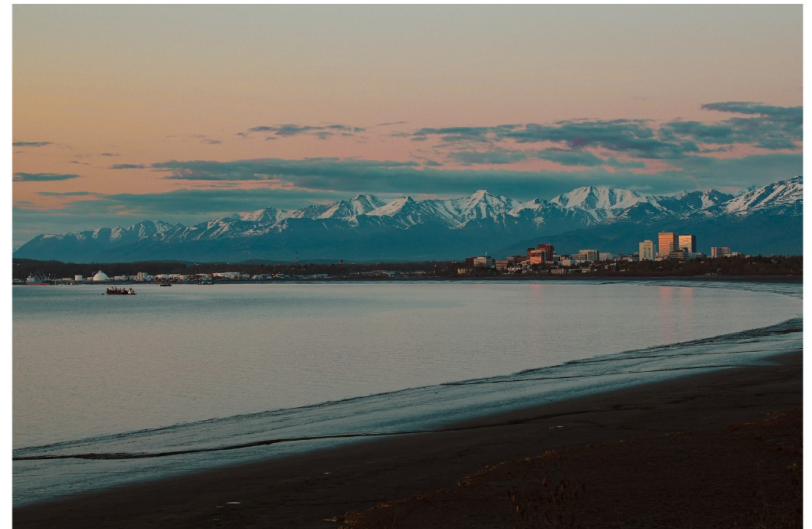
# Alaskan Art and the Affects

Sophia P.

I've interviewed people from the Anchorage art community and asked them about how the art spaces in Anchorage, specifically Downtown, have affected them over the years. One community member said that maybe art doesn't affect the community enough! The gallery this community member volunteers to run is the International Gallery of Contemporary Art which is a non-profit organization that shows and sells local artists' work. However, you don't have to just go to galleries to see art from local artists, just try going to local restaurants like Middle-Way Cafe, Wild Scoops, or Great Harvest. A lot of people don't realize it but there is a plethora of different art events all the time. There are also set days that are recurring like First Fridays. Overall I figured out that there are lots of different ways to support local artists and thought it important to share.

# Mountain City

Mac B.



"This photo was taken from a lookout point on the drive to point Wornzoff, it captures the city I grew up in and will be sad to leave it for college."

# **Alaska Means To Me**

**Freddy K.**

Alaska means to me skiing in the fresh winter powder while the sky is blue and the sun is high with all my friends, getting crappy \$30 chicken tenders at the roundhouse, biffing on a cliff that was guarded by caution tape. Alaska means to me camping, in Homer, Seward, Kenai, and more. Eating campfire food, creating fires, biking, and fishing. Alaska means to me hiking up in the high up alaskan mountains picking berries with my family. Alaska means to me exploring everything, and generating more and more curiosity.

# **Springtime**

**Celeste K.**

The icicles drip with angst and cry from desperation,  
Branches were covered with melting snow.

Winter time is no more,

Spring is here and setting abode.

Seasons change with flourish.

Let the flowers blossom and birds chirp!

# **Book Review:**

## **Fighter in Velvet Gloves by**

**Annie Boochever**

**Kira E.**

The book *Fighter in Velvet Gloves* is a young adult biography of the Alaska Native activist, civil rights hero, president of the Alaska Native Sisterhood, Elizabeth Peratrovich.

The book details Elizabeth's life, but particularly her adult accomplishments such as speaking before the Alaska territorial legislature regarding Alaska Native civil rights. Prior to her work (and sadly after) Alaska was a place very much like the rest of the United States, discriminating against people of color and non-white minorities. Tired of maltreatment in her home state and ancestral lands (Elizabeth was Tlingit from southeast Alaska), Elizabeth fought against injustice. Starting in 1941, when Elizabeth and her husband Roy moved from Petersburg to Juneau, she campaigned to reduce the racism against non-whites in Alaska. By 1945 Alaska's territorial legislature passed an anti discrimination act, one of the first in the nation. While it was seldom upheld, the importance of the statement paved the way for the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

The best part of this book is where Elizabeth learned of her mother's death and yet kept working on her advocacy. If readers like books about strong women, or if they are inspired by women who fight for their rights, this is a great book to read.



# Slush Cup

Mac B.



"This photo, "Slush Cup" captures my Alaska because it is a very popular event for teens and adults alike."

The wind is screaming at the boys now and they decide to run as fast as they can out of the haunted island. Their fear fueled adrenaline as they ran as fast as they could back to their paddle boat. The boys rowed as if the monster was chasing them. As they got to the middle of the lake the fear subsided and they went home peacefully, but the two boys will always know that in the night time when the wind growls viciously the wendigo waits for their return.

## Book Review: We Make a Fire ed. by Cheryl Morse Kira E.

The 1982 poetry and prose anthology by Orca Press, We Make a Fire, edited by Cheryl Morse is quite neat because it has a lot of poems by the Inupiaq and Yup'ik people of Alaska.

The book has a lot of poems about the supernatural beings in Alaska, such as little people, and some things that the Inupiat people do. Also included are prose short stories.

I would say that my favorite poem would be "Spirit Moves" which reminds me about some of my family members. If you like reading poems or hearing about the state of Alaska and its people I would recommend this small anthology book called We Make a Fire.

# Wendigo Island

Daisy M.

One day two teenage brothers decided to go camping on an island in the middle of Lake Eyak in Cordova. They set up their camp in a space where the sky is prominent, but as soon as it begins to get dark a terror fills the air.

The boy's brother Tom gets an unnerving feeling and says "Did you hear that?"

The other brother is confused as he sits there stargazing. Tom begins to grow more worried as he talks about the wind getting stronger. The boy shrugs it off and ignores him until he starts to notice the roaring wind running through the trees. The younger brother Tom explains that it must be a Wendigo.

"Do you remember that show that we watched on tv when we were younger about the monstrous Wendigo?"

The brother is reminded that the wendigo is an evil spirit that possesses humans and makes them commit unspeakable actions and hurt others around them. The eldest grows scared and they both hide under their sleeping bags. As the eldest recalls the television show he remembers the horrible stories of the monster that lurks in the woods as it waits for people to fall into its trap.

# Top 10 Songs to Ski To

Gavin G.

10. Immigrant Song - Led Zeppelin
9. Welcome to the Jungle - Guns N' Roses
8. Midnight City - M83
7. Creep - Radiohead
6. Fly Away - Lenny Kravitz
5. Need It - Migos ft. YoungBoy Never Broke Again
4. The Box - Roddy Ricch
3. Take Me Out - Franz Ferdinand
2. Ultimate - Denzel Curry
1. Redrum - 21 Savage

# 10 Songs About Alaska

Gunner G.

- The Great Big Moose - Scratch Garden
- Alaska And Me - John Denver
- Fairbanks Alaska - The Front Bottoms
- I am George the Magpie - Indie Alaska
- Songs for Seward Alaska - The Guy Who Sings Songs About Cities & Towns Topic
- Mountain Song - Flatland Cavalry
- Winter in Alaska - Patrick Doyle
- Fishing Alaska Style - Kevin Levesque
- Alaska - Maggie Rogers
- Wild Alaska: The Birds of Alaska - Jamin Hunter Taylor

# My Alaska Aviation

Jackson M.

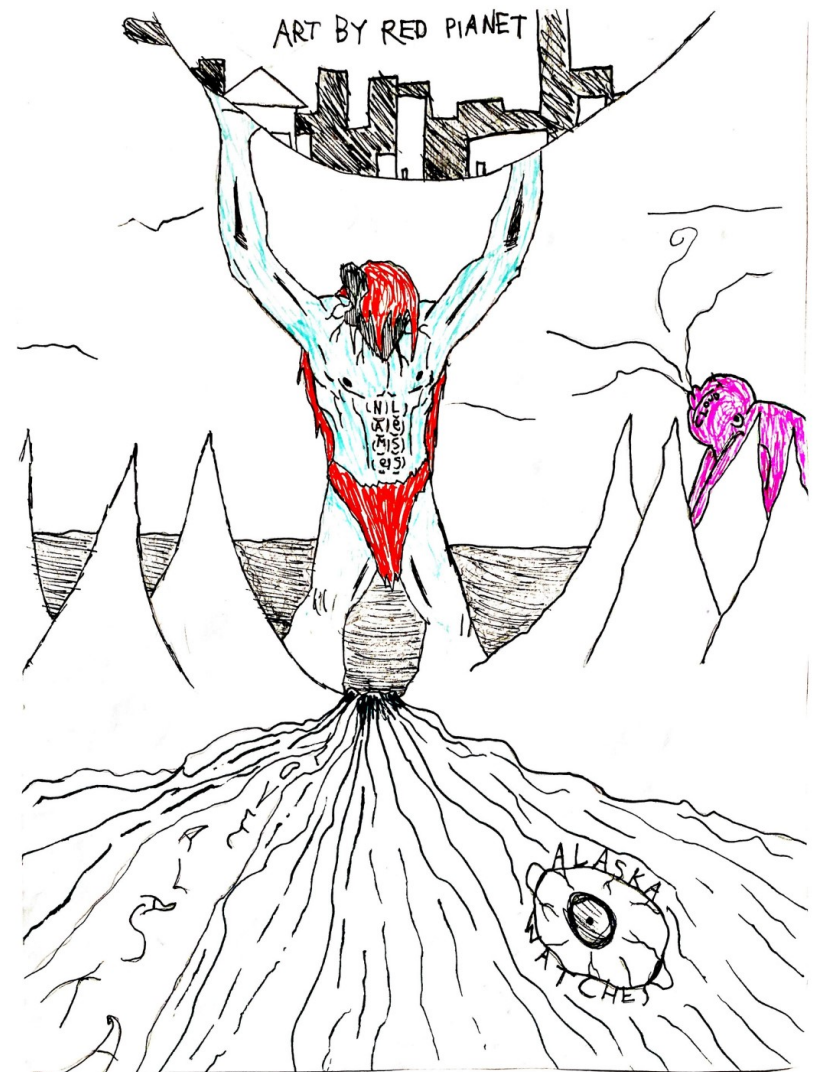
It was a cold day in September when I decided to go for a flight. I called my grandpa and told him to meet me at Lake Hood. We both arrived at his hanger around the same time and started to do our preflight on his Cessna 172 Taildragger. Everything was looking good so we got in, took our seats, put our headsets on, yelled, "Clear prop!" and started the engine. The engine roared to life like usual.

Once the plane was ready, we began to taxi to the runway to take off for a fun scenic flight around Anchorage. We finally made it to the runway, pushing full throttle, gaining speed down the runway. I thought to myself that it was pretty difficult to see over the dash of a taildragger, when suddenly we lifted off. We decided to cruise at about 6,000 feet, flying wherever our hearts desired.

It was about 30 minutes from taking off and I had the controls when all of a sudden my grandpa spotted something. "Birds!" He said in a calm manner. Birds were flying right toward the engine of the aircraft! We had to act quickly or a bird strike could be possible. My grandpa said, "My controls" I gave him the controls back and he pulled back on the yoke, bringing us to a higher altitude. He then turned the yoke to the right which started to bank the aircraft, turning away from the birds.

# Alaska Watches

Red Planet





# The Day I'll Never Forget

## Semilore K.

This is the big day, a scary day. Finally the first time ever snowboarding off a mountain. At first I woke up excited and ready to undertake this adventure. As we finally arrived at the mountain site we took this chair lift to the tippy top. As we got off I got blown away by this amazing view of Anchorage. I didn't know how beautiful Alaska really is, all the mountains around the place just adds to the absolute beauty and the ocean in the distance oh my. But as I get ready to go down I realize how high up we are and I get afraid not wanting to do this anymore, too scary for me. I love my life. But when you have an older brother you really can't be a wuss in front of him so you act like you're fine but you really aren't. John didn't give me an option when it was our turn to go down.

"Why are you taking so long Eric?" said John.

"You're Not scared right?"

"No," I said.

"Then Go!"

A Few seconds later I admit that I'm scared. John told me "sometimes in life you just gotta do instead of nothing". I didn't understand what he just said but I felt a wave of bravery course through my veins and I sped off down the mountain. As I went down I screamed A LOT scared for my life yelling out words that I didn't even know I knew. When I finally stopped at the button John was right behind me and congratulated me. I was happy with myself. Even though I scream like a little Girl.

We managed to avoid the birds while we were going about 140 miles per hour. My grandpa went onto the radio and called in about the birds letting others around us know to be cautious. We decided to call it good after that, and diverted back to Lake Hood.

There was little wind that day so it was fairly easy to land the plane smoothly. We taxied the plane back to the hangar and put it away. After that close call we decided that the only way to deal with it was to get some delicious Taco King to end the day.



# Top 5 Sights

Devin D.

- Denali National Park and Reserve has amazing scenery and wildlife.
- Kenai Fjords National Park has beautiful mountain ranges, fjords and coves, and waterfalls.
- Matanuska Glacier is a 27 mile long valley glacier.
- Portage Glacier is the crown jewel in a valley studded with alpine glaciers
- Trans-Alaska Pipeline Viewpoint is a fantastic vantage point to view the pipeline.

# Top 5 Hikes

Devin D.

- Flattop Mountain Trail is an awesome hike with incredible views of Anchorage.
- Little O'malley Peak Trail is a hard and long hike but very enjoyable that is stunning throughout.
- Mount Baldy Loop is a trail that loops around and is an amusing hike.
- Rabbit Lake Trail is a hike up an old road bed that eventually turns into a single track.
- McHugh Peak is a ridge walk with great views of Anchorage.

# My Mother's Garden

Lia M.

The pink peonies of May have begun to bloom  
It's time to grow the garden  
We bid farewell to winter's bitter gloom  
As the sun becomes quite ardent  
The smell of marigolds in late June and July  
Their fumes present untouched stories through the roots below  
And the placid sunset on August night skies  
Reminding us of delightful memories passed from long ago

Fires pollute the air, the rains fade to clear  
The peonies wilt, the marigolds tilt  
Yet mother nature feels no guilt  
For even in drought, the summer's doom  
Roses will still find a way to bloom

# **Book Review:**

## **Eagle Drums by Nasugraq Rainey Hopson**

**Kira E.**

The book Eagle Drums by Nunamiut Inupiaq author Nasugraq Rainey Hopson is a written description of how the annual Alaskan Inupiat annual Messenger Feast came to be. Hopson, originally from Pt. Hope, Alaska, now lives and writes in Anaktuvuk Pass, the home of the inland Inupiaq, or Nunamiut.

The Messenger Feast, also known as Kivgiq, is a yearly mid-winter festival in Utqiagvik, Alaska for the North Slope Borough communities. Anyone is welcome to join, but the feast is an Inupiat tradition. Rainey's book, Eagle Drums, ultimately teaches why being together is important.

It describes the tale of a boy who goes out to the mountains and gets taken to learn about life and death and community from a group of giant, mythical golden eagles. He had gone to hunt and was gone for what seemed like years. After years and years of absence, and his family long thinking he had died, the boy returns with the teachings and wisdom of the eagles. He shares his knowledge with his community, which leads to the first messenger feast, uniting all the Inupiat villages in an annual celebration of culture.

If readers like storytelling or books about Alaska Native culture, this is a great book to add to the reading list.

# **Top 5 Activities to do in Alaska**

**Chad O.**

The first and number one thing that you should do in Alaska is go downhill skiing. Do not go cross country skiing because you will not like it at all. The second best thing in my opinion, that you should do in Alaska is go on a hike through many of the beautiful mountains of Alaska. There are many amazing sites to see in Alaska, but bring bear spray. The next thing that you should do in Alaska is go fishing. Preferably, you should try deep sea fishing rather than freshwater because the fish taste better and there is a lot more scenery and cool looking fish. The second to last thing you should do while in Alaska is eat salmon. You should do this because it is extremely good for you, tastes great and is legal to buy at restaurants unlike moose. The last thing that you should do in Alaska is go to a moose's tooth. If you go to Alaska, you have to go to Moose's Tooth because it is the best pizza place you will ever go to.

# Beyond the Forest

## Violet W.

When a young 14 year old girl named Arden lived in a big city, she and her family didn't get outside very much and hadn't seen very many trees before. So when they moved to Canada they swore to start getting outside more. Arden made excuses to her parents to save her from the outside. But after another week her parents ignored her excuses and made her go into the forest for a walk.

Arden was furious and told her parents "No I don't want to go for a walk, please don't make me go", but they didn't listen to her and threw her out the door.

Without another argument she could throw at them she gave up and started walking towards the wall of trees. As Arden continued on towards the forest she wouldn't stop telling herself "this is stupid, why can't I just stay inside".

But little did Arden know this was the famous Autumn Forest that was very beautiful. When she made it to the trees she was in such a bad mood that she wasn't paying attention and just trudged along through the woods. But eventually she made it to a place where she found that there weren't many trees around her and she looked up and found herself in a gorgeous open meadow.

She was in absolute awe of what was around her. The beautiful assortment of flowers swaying in the wind. The sight of bumbling bees and colorful butterflies all around. There was a little babbling brook going under the small oak wood bridge. Arden walked over to the bridge and sat down on it and let her feet dangle over the edge. She found it to be so peaceful that she came back every day.

# Mud Flats

## Mac B.



““Mud Flats” Is my favorite Alaskan photo because of how it is a different perspective on a common Alaskan landscape. Taken on my drone outside of the Carr-Gottstein park.”