



***Alaska Quarterly Review: “Piece of Cake”***  
***25<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration and Photo Exhibit***

**ANCHORAGE, AK** –The *Alaska Quarterly Review* (AQR), published by the University of Alaska Anchorage and edited by Professor Ronald Spatz, turns 25 this year. Founded in 1982, AQR has received widespread acclaim throughout Alaska and abroad.

A quarter-of-a-century of literary excellence will be celebrated at a free, public event on Sunday, February 3 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Loussac Library. Free birthday cake will be served at a cake cutting ceremony at 1:30 p.m. Music provided by Karl Wilhelmi. The Anchorage Public Library is a co-sponsor of this event.

Accompanying the birthday celebration and cake cutting ceremony is the opening of the month-long *Alaska Quarterly Review* 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Photographic Exhibition by some of Alaska’s best photographers and contributors to AQR. The exhibition will showcase the works of 15 photographers: James H. Barker, Heidi Bradner, Alissa Crandal, Hal Gage, Bob Hallinen, Bill Heubner, Marc Lester, Clark James Mishler, Richard J. Murphy, Peter Porco, Ann Raup, Benjamin J. Spatz, Rob Stapleton and Myron Wright. Also highlighted at the show will be photographs by the late Sam Kimura, courtesy of Joan Kimura and the Anchorage Museum of History and Art. Prior to his passing in 1994, Kimura was a UAA professor emeritus and a member of the art faculty at UAA. His photographic works regularly appeared on the covers of *Alaska Quarterly Review*.

Deemed by *The Washington Post Book World* as "one of the nation's best literary magazines," and most recently by the *Sunday New York Times Book Review* as "fresh treasure," *Alaska Quarterly Review* demonstrates that the University of Alaska Anchorage has an important place in the larger literary world. For the past 25 years, AQR has directed the nation's attention to the literary arts in Alaska.

In a recent letter to AQR Editor Spatz, Governor Sarah Palin wrote: "You have contributed to the success of this outstanding publication through hard work and dedication. On behalf of the State of Alaska, congratulations on 25 years of providing a forum for new and emerging writers."

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Works originally from AQR have been featured in Garrison Keillor's *Writer's Almanac*; *Poetry Daily*; *Prize Stories: O. Henry Awards*; *Pushcart Prize: Best of the Small Presses*; *Beacon Best*; *Best American Mystery Stories*; *Best American Essays*; *Best American Non-required Reading*; *Best American Fantasy*; *Best Creative Non-fiction*; and *Best American Poetry*.

"We have stayed true to our mission – to produce a national, front-line literary journal featuring new and emerging writers, poets, playwrights, essayists and photographers. We are honored that the *Alaska Quarterly Review* has helped put Alaska on the literary map," said Professor Ronald Spatz. "It has been an honor and a privilege to work on this project for 25 years." Professor Spatz also serves UAA as the dean of the University Honors College and director of the community outreach Web site, LitSite Alaska.

Several 25th anniversary events have already taken place in Anchorage to mark this important quarter-century milestone. Outside of Anchorage there have been *Alaska Quarterly Review* anniversary events in Homer, Fairbanks and Sitka, and an event is scheduled in Nome on Friday, February 22. Additional events are planned for Bethel, Palmer, Homer and Fairbanks.

For more information on the *Alaska Quarterly Review*, visit <http://aqr.uaa.alaska.edu>. Contact Ronald Spatz at (907) 786-4361 or [aqr@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:aqr@uaa.alaska.edu) with questions.

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