



# AG'WANERMUT

AFOGNAK  
PEOPLE'S  
NEWSLETTER

# KASITAQ

## Chair Letter

---

Cama'i Tribal Members,

NVA Council and staff hope this newsletter finds you happy and healthy for this upcoming holiday season. It's been an eventful year for NVA and with several of our major grants ending next year we are reevaluating programs and effectiveness in preparation for the upcoming grant writing season. As a result we will be mailing out surveys to all tribal members. We understand it can be cumbersome and intrusive to continue to fill out surveys, but hearing from our members is so important in our planning and integral in understanding your needs. Please take the time to complete and return the survey, it will also be available on-line and available via email if you'd like to complete it digitally. While all surveys can be anonymous, if you are comfortable sharing your name all completed surveys will be entered into a drawing.

NVA has been working diligently in coming up with fundraising and business



development ideas to increase our discretionary revenue to aid in keeping our most valuable programs. One way we have done this is to offer NVA clothing. We are completing a web shop that will be a new page on our website so folks can see photos of our clothing items, prices and even purchase through our web shop. We hope to have the new site up soon. If you can't wait for the website please stop by our office and see what we have or

call and we can email you photos.

We've also started selling our first line of Christmas cards. We have three designs taken from the original artwork we commissioned for our Alutiq language children's books. The cards are beautiful and are a very unique way to share the joy of the holiday season. We only have a limited amount this first year, so if you're interested get your orders in soon.

As always we appreciate all of the generosity we receive from our members and the community of Kodiak. The success of our programs depends on the generosity of others. As we plan for this coming Dig Afognak season, we ask for your assistance again. Completing the mess hall will be an important task this year and will save camp money in the long run. As you look towards end of year tax deductible donations, please keep your Tribe in mind.

Quyanaasinaq for the continued support and we look forward to hearing from you in the coming year.



Native Village of Afognak

# Mess Hall Capital

# Campaign



*Helping our youth realize  
success through embracing  
their cultural values.*



*Light the past...  
Spark the future.*

**NATIVE VILLAGE OF  
AFOGNAK**

**Attn: Mess Hall Capital Campaign  
323 Carolyn St  
Kodiak, AK 99615  
907-486-6357  
www.afognak.org**



Dig Afognak is a cultural education program for youth located near the traditional village of Afognak. Dig Afognak has been a successful camp program for nearly 20 years with great success in instilling pride in our youth for their Alutiiq culture while giving them tools necessary to thrive in today's society.

Over the past several years, we have been building camp's infrastructure to include: 2 Elder cabins, 2 dormitories, 6 staff cabins, 1 family cabin, 2 maqiwik (steam baths) and five nuus'hniks (outhouses). The final and largest facility to build is our new mess hall. For years Dig Afognak has used weatherport tents for our kitchen and eating areas, these have been less than ideal and do not meet our current needs. Having this facility would not only give us the large meeting space required for camp functions, but would also enable all camp participants to eat together. Being able to share meals, family style, further promotes our holistic approach to educating our youth on the Alutiiq traditional values.

We humbly ask for your assistance in helping us realize our dream of having a constructed Mess Hall for Dig Afognak by donating either cash or construction materials. For more information please contact: Melissa Borton at [Melissa@afognak.org](mailto:Melissa@afognak.org).

# Dig Afognak Update



We would like to thank the following for their donations to the Dig Afognak Camp Program and for the planned camp mess hall:

## Private

- Hans Olsen Jr.
- Bill and Tasha Zang,
  - Sarah Lukin
  - Jim Dunham
- Virginia (Ginger) Ward
  - Patricia Kozak
  - Victoria Stuart
  - Donna Roduta
  - Malia Villegas
  - Natasha Hayden
- Marit Carlson-VanDort
  - Clifford L. Selig
  - Loretta Nelson
  - Dusty Kaser
- Matthew W. Daggett
  - Amy Shimek
  - Mary Fearn
- Meagan Christiansen
  - Kenneth Nelson Jr.
  - Loren Andersen
  - Ruth Dawson
  - Jeffery Abate
- Sno Bruins (Taletha Gertz & Nina Gronn)
  - Glen & Thayo Brandal
  - Robert & Galena Nelson

## In-kind Donations

Juney Mullan, Guy Bartleson, Roger Malutin, Rick Borton, Pacific Freight Ways, Andy Christofferson, Alan Gertz, Carl & Burt Gronn, Local Electric- Charlie Jerling, Alutiiq LLC, Pat Holmes, Bobby & Galena Nelson



## Memorial Donations

### In Memory of Julie Knagin

Denise Burger, Marty & Andrea Shuravloff, Pat Branson

### In Memory of Helen Simeonoff

N. Michelle (Misha) Mullan

### In Memory of Louise Monette

## Organization

- Ouzinkie Native Corporation
- Native Village of Port Lions
- Afognak Native Corporation
  - Sno Bruins
- American Seafood Company
- Rasmuson Foundation (Melissa Borton)
  - Kodiak Area Native Association
  - Native Village of Afognak Tribal Council
- Alaska Humanities Forum
- Healthy Tomorrows
  - Koniag Inc.
  - United Way of Anchorage (Rick Borton)

“We the following Olsen family members would like to make a contribution to the Native Village of Afognak/Dig Afognak Program in memory of our Aunt Louise who recently passed on at the age of 95. Aunt Louise loved to tell us stories of family life growing up in Afognak where she mostly spoke Russian until she went to school, and being able to mention other family names that are long gone. We feel that the Dig Afognak Program is continuing to keep our young family members connected to our roots and heritage as well as giving them the chance to live it in a natural setting. We want to designate this contribution to the building of the future New Mess Hall that is being planned at the Dig Afognak site.”

The Olsen Families: Thorvold and Constance, Eric, and Daria Horne, Han's Jr. & Tina, Leland & Charyl, Marius & Andi, Arthur & Carol, Rodney & Nancy, Arnold & Judy, Gladys L and James Allen.

We have not yet reached our goal for the new mess hall and would appreciate any financial donation. We thank all of you and the youth, teachers, and adults that attend camp! May you have a blessed Holiday Season.





# Activities to do with Youth to Help Develop Leadership Qualities

## Stand For a Cause

Sit down with your young person and choose an organization that stands for a cause, and work for it. The cause could be feeding the homeless, it could be cleaning up the roadsides or beaches in your community or village, helping an elder with chores, or walking dogs at the animal shelter. Be sure and choose something you believe in. Pick a Saturday or a day after school and go help them. Take a stand with them. Do something that communicates you believe in putting feet to your values. Talk over what it really means to believe in something.



AFN 2014— Our youth listening intently to the elders.

## Memory Lane

Take out some old photos of you when you were growing up, and look them over with your young person. You might even want to get some hot chocolate and sit down with a photo album for an entire evening. Talk about some fun memories you had growing up. Talk about what was happening when the pictures were taken, years ago. Try to remember the pivotal moments when your life was shaped as a young person.

Next, talk about the values your parents passed on to you. Discuss the ones you wish they would have given you, if you feel you didn't receive a strong foundation of values. Whenever possible, talk about what your parents did right, as they raised you.

Next, choose six core values that you and your young person believe would be good ones to embrace today. You may choose words as simple as honesty, service, or generosity. Practice them in your daily life.



Alutiiq Club picking salmon berries. **Lost and Found**

Go to the store or on a walk or hike with your youth. As you walk, secretly drop a \$10 dollar bill on the floor, where they will see it. Make sure they do not know you are the source of the money. When either of you spot it, don't offer any suggestions to them on what to do. Allow them to reveal their heart. Will they keep it? Will they find a way to return it to the owner? Is it even possible to find the owner? Wouldn't everybody claim that it was their money? Within a few minutes, you and your young person will be ready to discuss what to do with your find. Once he or she draws a conclusion, talk about how it reflects the personal values they've embraced. What kind of values have you both chosen to live by?

## Choose a Crisis

Sit down and watch the news on television together, with a notepad in hand. Before the telecast, ask your young person to choose one crisis or problem reported in the news. If you prefer, read through the newspaper together. (There will be several stories in every newspaper or broadcast!) Once they choose the crisis, have them write down all the details you both can remember from the report. Then, ask this question to them: If you were in charge of this problem, what would you do to solve it? Ask them to assume leadership in their imagination, and jot down what steps they would take to remedy the crisis, from start to finish. Evaluate their steps when they are finished. Did they leave anything out? Is their solution realistic? How expensive would it be? Did they diagnose the problem accurately? Are there any steps your young person could actually take to implement their solution?



Origami at Alutiiq Club



Alutiiq club students positively comment on their fellow peers

52 Leadership Ideas You Can Use With Students- Developing Leadership Qualities in Students from Kindergarten to College, by Tim Elmore

# Language Update



A movement is pumping our language back through the veins of Kodiak revitalizing the heart of our culture, family and our community.

### In Progress:

A documentary in the making about the Alutiiq language movement, called *Keep Talking: Immersion in the Alaskan Wild*. This is being produced and filmed by Ten Trees Productions who have also partnered with Kartemquin films based in Chicago. You can learn more by visiting [keeptalkingthefilm.com](http://keeptalkingthefilm.com) or [kartemquin.com](http://kartemquin.com).



### For Sale:

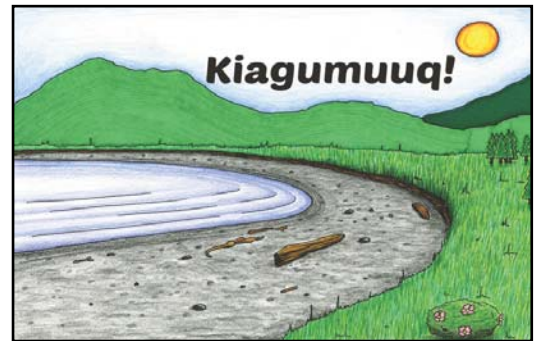
The language program has Holiday, Birthday and Thank You cards for sale as well as 10 original children's books created by our local Elders, teachers, learners and artists.

Download free interactive books from the App Store. To find these books, go to the App Store on your iPad and search "Native Village of Afognak."

We have sweatshirts for sale that in Alutiiq say, "Keep Talking Alutiiq," which comes from an original song gifted back to us. When purchased through NVA all proceeds go back into supporting the language program.



To learn more about the Language program, hear songs, find more resources or language learning opportunities, visit our website at [www.alutiiqlanguage.org](http://www.alutiiqlanguage.org). Quyanaa!!



### Events:

Join us every Tuesday from 12 noon -1pm for an immersion potluck lunch. No language experience is necessary to participate. We would like to encourage time with Elders, staff and tribal members to learn the language while sharing a good meal together.

Wamlita (Lets play) Every Thursday morning from 8:30-9:30, parents with children age 0-3 years are welcome to NVA for an opportunity to gather for games, songs, and other Alutiiq language activities.



"The promise tribal language revitalization offers is reconciliation; a renegotiation of reality and a restoration of an intellectual beauty possible in the ocean of tomorrows. We must work to regain what never should have been taken away without permission by providing an opportunity for children to learn their tribal language in nurturing learning environments." ... "After years of studying history and language I realize they are not the same. Our languages, unlike our histories are dynamic and adaptive. Our tribal languages represent who we are. They are our interior essence of tribal reality and our spiritual blueprints. They are alive within us; we are alive within them. Our languages are adaptive, incorporating all we know since the beginning of our time." - Darryl Kipp; *Encouragement, Guidance and Lessons Learned: 21 Years in the Trenches of Indigenous Language Revitalization*.





# Alutiiq Language Holiday Word Search

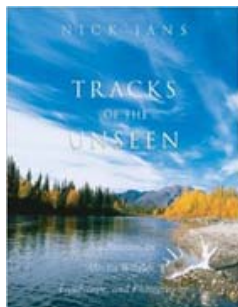


## WORD BANK

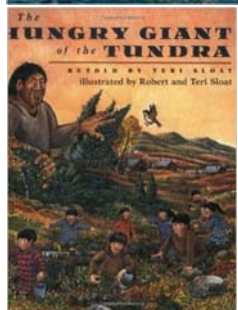
- aniuq – snow
- aqllaq – wind
- aRapak – boots
- aritek – gloves
- atkuk – jacket / coat
- cikuq – ice
- ilat – family
- KRiismaq – American Christmas
- napaq – tree
- qiteq – rain
- Rausistuaq – Russian Christmas
- saaniik – sled
- saapek – hat
- uksuq - winter

Q L V I A Q B A B Q X D  
 Y U L A E F R M A A Q A  
 H A S T Q I L M R U N B  
 T J I K T L S G C T Z E  
 K Q C E U I L S A S I Y  
 V T K I I C W A R I Q Q  
 R T J R K S D A Q S U A  
 M C K C P U W P F U I T  
 K A P A R A Q E G A N K  
 S S X W G T V K Z R A U  
 S A A N I I K P Y B E K  
 N A P A Q O U M E W B K

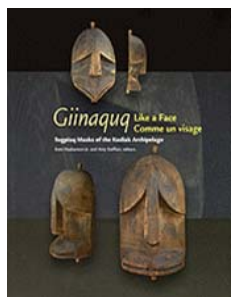
## Nadia Mullan Alutiiq Heritage Library Features



In *Tracks of the Unseen*, Nick Jans brings light to the edges of nature’s mysteries. When he first arrived in Alaska, Nick Jans was twenty-four and searching for adventure. Seven hundred miles of river travel through the arctic wild opened his senses to a strange and exciting place that would become home. Twenty years later- Jans shares his extraordinary observations of a place forever unfolding.



*The Hungry Giant of the Tundra* by Teri Sloat (Dutton Children's Books 1993) (fiction) is a picture and story book of a Yupik Eskimo tale about a mean giant and the consequences that await kids who don't come home for dinner when they are called. In this delightful retelling of an old Yupik Eskimo tale, captured children outwit the enemy in a classic story of “little” triumphing over “big.”



Masks are an ancient tradition of the Alutiiq people on the Southern coast of Alaska. Alutiiq artists carved the masks from wood or bark into images of ancestors, animal spirits, and other mythological forces; these extraordinary creations have been an essential tool for communicating with the spirit world and have played an important role in dances and hunting festivities for centuries. *Giinaquq-Like a Face* presents thirty-three full color images of these fantastic and eye-catching masks, which have been preserved for more than a century as part of the Pinart Collection at the Chateau-Mussee de Boulogne-sur-mer in France. This captivating and revealing book will be an essential resource for anyone interested in indigenous art and culture.



## Managing Your Indoor Air Quality: Keeping it Simple

- Use your ventilation fan(s) to eliminate excess moisture and stale air. Keep bathroom fan on for 45 minutes after showering.
- To avoid mold, try to keep your homes humidity below 35% and the temperature about 70°F.
  - Put a lid on steaming pots to keep home humidity low.
- Open windows when possible, to remove moisture for fresh, clean air.
- Store food, clothing and belongings off the floor, to discourage dust mites and mold.
  - Dust often, using a damp microfiber cleaning cloth.
- Wipe up spills right away to keep your home dry and mold-free.
- Vacuum carpet often and clean with a damp cloth to discourage dust mites and other critters.
  - Repair all damages to your home, to keep out pests, cold and moisture.
- Wipe your feet on a door mat to keep dirt and water outdoors.
  - Make your home toxin-free. Store gasoline, paints, and other poisons in locked outdoor areas.



## Afognak Old Photo



Can you identify the people featured in the photo above? If you can, email your answer to [taletha@afognak.org](mailto:taletha@afognak.org). If you are the first to answer correctly, you will receive a prize.



The answers to the last newsletter's old Afognak photo is L to R Irene Gundersen Dora Palmer & Nanny Ponchene winner with correct answer was Lester Lukin Sr.

# Attention:

We are looking for current mailing addresses for the following:



- |           |         |             |
|-----------|---------|-------------|
| Mary      | Jean    | Blankenship |
| Frederick | Lee     | Chouinard   |
| Izair     | Ronald  | Chute       |
| Lucille   | Rae     | Dulin       |
| Richard   | D.      | Frost       |
| Robert    | J.      | Halmsteiner |
| Althea    | Denise  | Halmsteiner |
| Myrtle    | Ann     | Kelley      |
| Gilbert   | John    | Mathis      |
| Susan     | Ann     | Mathis      |
| Thomas    | Gordon  | Mathis      |
| Gordan    | Charles | McCormick   |
| Jodi      | Kay     | McDonald    |
| Michelle  | Louise  | Novotny     |
| Martin    | Ray     | Palmer      |
| Jo Ann    |         | Palmer      |
| Barbara   | Ellen   | Palmer      |
| Garret    | Lane    | Schmidt     |
| Roy       | Edward  | Skinner     |
| Viola     | Louise  | Skinner     |
| Ellsworth | Alfred  | Warner      |



Please give us a call at 907-486-6357





Susie coordinated our staff and Elders during Tuesday's luncheons in the month of December to make over 30 fleece hats for the Kodiak Women's Resource and Crisis Center (KWRCC).

# ALUTIIQ CLUB



Have fun learning about the Alutiiq Culture and make new friends!

Alutiiq Club will take place at the Kodiak Middle School in Mrs. Schneider's class room-#217.

Grades 6th-8th

Tuesdays and Thursday 3:30-4:30pm

Activities Include: talking about education planning and careers, Beach glass jewelry making, Alutiiq language, crafts, field trips, and other fun activities

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!**

For more information please contact

Taletha Gertz

E-mail: [taletha@afognak.org](mailto:taletha@afognak.org)

Phone: 907-486-6357

## New Staff



Anastasia Skonberg is the new office intern at NVA. Anastasia was born and raised in Kodiak. Her parents are Jessica and Darren Skonberg, and her grandparents are Art and Nancy Skonberg. Anastasia hopes to gain office experience throughout the winter and looks forward to having a fun experience working at NVA.





Holiday Coloring Page





# AFOGNAK SEA OTTER HUNTERS

Submitted by Virginia Ward



In 1902 at Malina Bay, a bear hunter named James Kidder guided by Fedor Derenoff observed the following:

“While I was having tea in one of the barabaras I heard shooting outside, which announced the return of a sea otter party that had been hunting for two months at Cape Douglas. It was a beautiful sight, this fleet of twenty-odd bidarkas, the paddles all rising and falling in perfect time and changing sides without a break. There is nothing more graceful than one of these canoes when handled by expert Aleuts. These natives had already come forty miles that day, and were now going to stop only long enough for tea, and then push on to the little settlement of Afognak Place, some twenty-five miles away, where most of them lived. In one of the canoes I saw a small chap of thirteen years. He was the chief’s son, and already an expert in hunting and handling the bidarka. So the Aleut hunter is trained.

As it had been a warm day I feared that the large skin might spoil, therefore I concluded to continue to Afognak Place without camping for the night, and so we paddled on and on. As darkness came the mountains seemed to rise grander and more majestic from the water on either side of us. At midnight we again stopped for tea, and while we sat by the fire the host of bidarkas of the sea otter party silently glided by like shadows. We joined them for my guides had much to tell them of the four months with the white hunter, and many questions were asked on both sides.

Some miles from Afognak the bidarkas drew up side by side in a long even line, our bidarka joining in. “Drasti” and “chemi” came to me from all sides, for I had from time to time met most of the native hunters from these islands, and they seemed to regard me as quite one of them. When all the straggling bidarkas had caught up and taken their places in line the chief gave the word “kedar” (come on) and we all paddled forward, and just as the sun was rising above the hills we reached our journey’s end.”

Used from *Tales from Alaska and the Yukon* with permission from Quarto Publishing Group USA.

**GET THIS BOOK FOR FREE!**  
**(one per household)**

The BIA, in collaboration with the Native Village of Afognak and SWCA Environmental Consultants, published a book about the Village of Afognak. This publication is part of their “Occasional Papers” Series. Much of the information that is contained in this book is also being used by NVA in our pursuit to have the old village of Afognak placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The 165 page book, documents Afognak Village’s amazing history from pre-Russian contact to the village and the homes and structures as it is currently. The book is also a great source of family history and shows the strength and resiliency of the people that lived there. It is full of great old and new pictures, quotes from tribal members, and maps.

Contact Taletha at  
(907) 486-6357 or email  
Taletha@afognak.org to order  
one free copy of this book per  
household!



# *Native Village of Afognak*

323 CAROLYN STREET, KODIAK, AK 99615

Place  
Stamp  
Here

## TRIBAL COUNCIL

Loretta Nelson, Chairman  
Meagan Christiansen, Vice Chairman  
Natasha Hayden, Secretary  
Loren Anderson, Member  
Jim Dunham, Member  
Kenny Nelson Jr., Member  
Malia Villegas, Member

## STAFF

Melissa Borton, Tribal Administrator  
Nancy Nelson, Program Administrator  
Shurina Skonberg, Finance Manager  
Denise Malutin, Cultural Programs Coordinator  
Kari Sherod, Language Program Manager  
Taletha Gertz, Program Manager  
Nina Gronn, Office Coordinator  
Lynda Lorensen, Alutiiq Language Education Coordinator  
Bessie Lea Weston, Environmental Program Assistant  
Sean Hales, Alutiiq Language Program Assistant  
Stacey Simmons, Development Director  
Anastasia Skonberg, Office Intern

907-486-6357  
907-486-6529 FAX  
WWW.AFOGNAK.ORG

*Stay connected with us by liking our Facebook page "Native Village of Afognak" and keep up to date with events and Dig Afognak Camp!*



## *Special Announcements*



If you have a special announcements that you would like to share in our newsletter please email Nina at [nina@afognak.org](mailto:nina@afognak.org).





## CAMP DONATION

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt No \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Title (Mr., Mrs., Ms., Dr. etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Telephone (opt.) (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax (opt.) (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Telephone (opt.) (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email (opt.) \_\_\_\_\_

## MY GIFT INFORMATION

I would like to make a gift of: [A tax receipt will be issued for gifts of \\$10.00 or more](#)

\$20     \$50     \$100     \$500     \$1,000     I prefer to give \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check or money order payable to: **Native Village of Afognak/Dig Afognak Camp**

To show our appreciation we feature a list of those that contribute to our youth Dig Afognak Camp Program in AG'WANERMIUT KASITAQ (Afognak People's Newsletter). If you would not like us to use your name and list the donation as anonymous please check this box

Please send your donation to:

**Native Village of Afognak/Dig Afognak Program  
323 Carolyn St.  
Kodiak, AK 99615**

**Thank you so much for your support!**