



# AG'WANERMUT

AFOGNAK  
PEOPLE'S  
NEWSLETTER

# KASITAQ

## Department of Justice - Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Grant

Native Village of Afognak was recently awarded a grant through the Department of Justice to obtain a portable low ropes course that will be used within the schools. We will also be purchasing and installing ropes course equipment at Dig Afognak.



The ropes courses are a method to build leadership skills, trust and teambuilding just to name a few. Along with the portable ropes course used at the schools and the ropes course used at Dig Afognak an evidence based substance abuse prevention program that was created specifically for American Indian and Alaska Native Youth will be utilized as well. NVA will be adapting the curriculum to fit the specific needs of our Kodiak youth. This curriculum aims to improve social



and emotional well-being, effective social interaction, improved decision making and problem-solving skills,

team building skills with a focus on being community service minded.

This program will require youth to participate in the courses and then discuss things such as how paying attention to the task or course was vital to the success; how

many people tend to focus on their own needs-but what if success meant paying attention to the needs of others; in life we often encounter unexpected events-while not always welcome they must be dealt with; and other discussion items.

We are very excited about this new grant it will require training for NVA staff and partners-I'm sure we will learn and grow greatly from it right along with the kids.

The answers to the last newsletter's old Afognak photo is Misha Mullan and her dog Bimbo



## ATTENTION!

Native Village of Afognak is looking for old Afognak photo's, if you would like to share your photos please email them to [taletha@afognak.org](mailto:taletha@afognak.org) or mail a copy to 323 Carolyn St. Kodiak, Alaska 99615. Please include names of who is in the photos. Thanks so much!



## Tribal Member Contact Information

**NVA needs updated addresses for the following people, give us a call if you have any information. Thank you!**



Michelle Louise Novotny  
 Roy Edward Skinner  
 Gilbert John Mathis  
 Jo Ann Palmer  
 Martin Ray Palmer  
 Nicole Roxanne Charters  
 Frederick John Malutin  
 Dorrie Lynn Wamser  
 Theresa Jo Etheridge  
 David William Schott  
 Lisa T. Rhodes  
 Kristjan J Olsen  
 Alexandra W. Leslie  
 Robert Alan Chouinard  
 Susan Ann Mathis  
 Viola Louise Skinner  
 Valerie Kansas Benson  
 Frederick Lee Chouinard  
 Lucille Rae Dulin  
 Myrtle Ann Kelley  
 Jodi Kay McDonald  
 Thomas Gordon Mathis  
 Ellsworth Alfred Warner  
 Robert J. Halmsteiner  
 Althea Denise Halmsteiner  
 Mary Jean Blankenship  
 Garret Lane Schmidt  
 Gordan Charles McCormick  
 Richard D. Frost  
 Izair Ronald Chute

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).



## Chair Letter

Cama'i Tribal Members: I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. NVA is busy closing out 2015 and preparing for 2016. We were awarded two new grants this year, one from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to digitize the remaining six children's books in our collection and the other from the Department of Justice to implement substance abuse prevention and leadership skills building with youth in town and at Dig Afognak.

In September we held our Annual Meeting and Elections and incumbents Jim Dunham and Malia Villegas were successful in being re-elected back into their seats on the Council.

Congratulations to Jim and Malia and Quyanaa to Roberta Blondin and Ray May for putting your names in for the election, we hope that folks continue to run for the Council and stay interested in what your tribal council is doing.



### Cinnamon Ornaments

#### *Ingredients*

1. 1 cup of Cinnamon
2. 3/4 cup of Applesauce  
*inexpensive applesauce works perfectly!*
3. 2 TBS Regular Elmer's School glue



#### *Directions*

1. Mix ingredients together — until its like a cookie dough. (If its too dry you can add more applesauce, if its too wet add more cinnamon.)
2. Mix in your school glue. (sprinkle cinnamon on the counters -(like you would flour) and roll out with a rolling pin.)
3. You'll want your 'dough' sort of thick but not too too thick.
4. Cut out with your favorite cookie cutter. — also make a small whole at the top — so you can run ribbon or a ornament hanger through to hang on your tree.
5. Place on a cooling rack and dry about 48 hours — then paint them (if you'd like!) or leave them plain. You can also dry them in a food dehydrator for about 8 hours if you have one -to cut down on drying time.



## Tribal Nations Conference



and the United States Federal Government.

On Thursday, the day of the Conference, the morning began with a plenary session with high level personnel from the Obama Administration and Indian Country. The panel included a Senior Advisor to President Barack Obama, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, a Chairman of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe, a member of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma and the Deputy Secretary of the Department of State. Throughout the day there were several Cabinet Town Halls with high level administrators from the Department of the Interior, the

office. I had an opportunity to present our concerns about the Joint Military training conducted in the Gulf of Alaska, our right to co-manage our natural resources, and to encourage his administration to work with newly elected Bill Walker and Byron Mallot from the State of Alaska. Others brought up issues relevant to all of Alaskan Natives and American Indians such as suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, and the lack of education and economic opportunities.

Council Member Natasha Hayden recently attended the 2015 White House Tribal Nations Conference as a representative of NVA's Tribal Council. It was held in the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington D.C. on November 5, 2015. There were several events and opportunities to participate in the day before the conference, Natasha was fortunate enough to attend some of these preliminary discussions as well. The morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) hosted a Tribal Leaders Preparatory Meeting. The meeting included a discussion of top priorities, updates on key issues and a regional strategy session. NCAI printed a Tribal Nations Briefing Book that contains relevant information on all topic discussed. It can be found at the following web address:

[http://www.ncai.org/conferences-events/ncai-events/2015\\_WHTNC\\_Briefing\\_Book\\_Final.pdf](http://www.ncai.org/conferences-events/ncai-events/2015_WHTNC_Briefing_Book_Final.pdf)

Later that evening, NCAI along with the National Museum of the American Indians hosted the Tribal Leader Reception which brought together leaders from Indian Country



Youth Delegate Panel & President Obama.

Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Health and Human services, the Department of Justice, the Department of Education, the Department of Labor, the Department of Energy, the Office of Personnel Management, the Small Business Administration and the Office of Science & Technology Policy.

The town halls gave tribal representatives an opportunity to speak to the Obama Administration about issues we are facing at home with the intention to influence National Policy during Obama's remaining time in

The day wrapped up with the introduction of a Youth Delegate Panel and Moderator followed by the introduction of President Barack Obama. After he gave brief remarks he sat down with the panel and fielded questions from each of the four youth. Their concerns were very similar to those expressed by the tribal representatives throughout the day. One of the panelists was a young lady named Tatiana who was of Yupik, Dena'ina and Tlingit decent. Tatiana posed questions about racism, suicide, culturally relevant education and land management to Obama who in return gave thoughtful responses about what his administration has done and will



Council Member Natasha Hayden and Lee Juan Tyler of the Shoshone-Pannock Tribes, Idaho

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## Staff Spotlight



Cama'! I am Nancy Nelson, Program Administrator for our Tribe. I am the daughter of the late Willis and Martha Nelson, granddaughter of Pete and Matrona Gundersen and Alfred and Irene Nelson of Afognak and Port Lions. I grew up in Afognak and Port Lions, moved to Kodiak in 1989 for employment purposes and have been here since. I feel so blessed to still be able to go home to Port Lions on a regular basis and with my job at Native Village of Afognak, spend several weeks every year in Afognak and visit the old village; both places hold a special place in my heart!

After serving on the Council for eight years and receiving my bachelors in Social Work with a minor in Human Services I resigned from the Council and came to work for Native Village of Afognak in May 2010. I started out managing the Healthy Marriage Initiative Grant (HMI), Assisting our Administrator with oversight of all programs, and supervising the Dig Afognak Staff and HMI program. In 2012 when the HMI grant was over and to today I manage the Dig Afognak Camp Program and the IGAP Environmental Grant.

Dig Afognak, our cultural immersion camp for the Kodiak Island youth on Afognak Island has always been a passion of mine. I believe it is important to give our youth an opportunity to learn our traditional way of life through the help of our elders, share our heritage with others, know the land their ancestors came from, and be able to live from the land while taking care of our environment for future generations, and learning our endangered language. Taking our youth away from modern distractions and having them in a wilderness setting allows them to focus on their surroundings and enriches their learning about our culture and values. Dig Afognak has come a long way over the years; it has grown from sleeping and eating in tents to almost all permanent structures; all this would not be possible without the grants we received and more importantly from the generous donations we see receive from individuals who know how valuable this program is for our youth. Thank you all for your generosity.

### Afognak Old Photo



Can you identify the people featured in this photo? 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.

### 2015/2016 NVA Council



Left to Right: Jim Dunham, Loretta Nelson, Natasha Hayden, Malia Villegas, Meagan Christiansen, Ken Nelson Jr. & Loren Anderson



Royal Blue Ladies  
Scoop Neck Henley  
\$30.00



Plum Ladies Hoodie  
(also available in blue)  
\$35.00



Tropic Blue  
Ladies V-neck  
\$25.00



Dig Afognak  
Navy Unisex T-shirt  
\$25.00



Black Men's/Women's  
Fleece Jacket  
\$40.00



Black Fleece  
Ladies Pullover  
\$38.00



Youth Dig Afognak  
T-shirts  
\$15.00



Keep Talking Alutiik  
Sweatshirts  
\$20.00



NVA Yoga Pants  
\$45.00



NVA Sweat Pants  
\$40.00



Dig Afognak  
Sweatshirts  
\$30.00

**\*\*Not all sizes available  
in all items,  
please call or email  
for details.**

**NVA Enrolled  
Tribal Members get a  
\$5.00 discount.**

**Shipping & Handling not  
included in price**

**All proceeds go to support  
NVA's Program's**





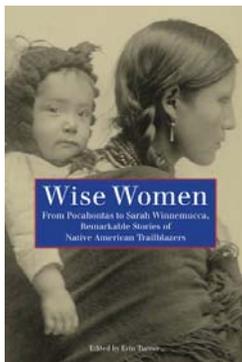
## Dig Afognak Tentative Dates for 2016

				June	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	July 1	2
Harvesting	Harvesting	Harvesting	Harvesting	No camp	No camp	No camp
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
No camp	Holiday	No camp	Survivor	Survivor	Survivor	Survivor
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Survivor	Survivor	No camp	No camp	No camp	Shareholder	Picnic
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Shareholder	Shareholder	Shareholder	No camp	No camp	No camp	Lang/music
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Lang/music	Lang/music	Lang/music	Lang/music	Lang/music	Clean up	

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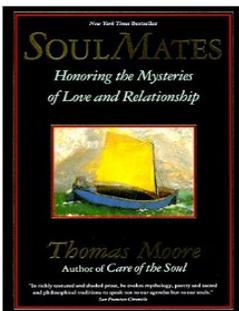
## Nadia Mullan Alutiig Heritage Library Features

Here are a few books featured in our library. Visit our website at [www.afognak.org](http://www.afognak.org) to find more books!



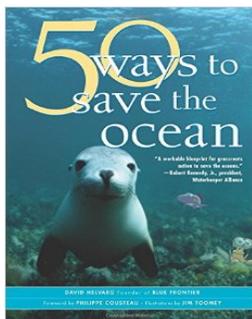
### Wise Women

The Story of Pocahontas saving John Smith is justly famous, as is the cross-country journey of Sacajawea with the Corps of Discovery, and Sarah Winnemucca earned fame by being a champion of her people as the old ways of life were disappearing. But there are lesser known stories of the Native American women who shaped their cultures and changed the course of American history—stories that have all too often been overlooked. Under the extreme circumstance that faced indigenous peoples over the centuries, brave and intelligent Native American women often put their safety and the lives of their families at risk by taking on the roles of peacemakers, diplomats, and spokeswomen for their people. *Wise Women* brings together their amazing stories. Encompassing states from Florida to Alaska and many different tribes, it preserves the legacies of wise women who were caught between two cultures, and yet worked tenaciously to preserve the traditions of their tribe and to teach others.



### Soul Mates

The need to love and connect with others creates intimacy, but it also creates many difficulties, even failure. But Thomas Moore emphasizes that if you are willing to live through these difficulties, your life is enriched and the souls thrive. “Soul-intimacy” can be cultivated in many ways, even in letter writing and conversations. It can be deepened through sexuality and jealousy, relationships that have gone stale, and even the pain of endings.



### 50 ways to save the ocean

Whether you play in the waves, work in its waters, are nourished by its bounty, or are refreshed by its beauty the oceans need us—now. Written by ocean advocate David Helvarg and illustrated by Jim Toomey, *50 Ways to Save the Ocean* addresses daily choices we can make to restore, preserve, and ultimately respect the great seas including: what fish you should and shouldn't eat, and which are endangered or could impact your health. How saving energy can help save the sea, proper diving, surfing and tide pool etiquette, supporting local marine education and keeping an ocean friendly aquarium.

# ENVIRONMENTAL



## Climate Change: Alaska on the Front Lines

Alaska, as well as the rest of the Arctic Circle, in the most recent years have suffered sooner and more severe than the rest of the world. Examples are:

- Increased average temperature, resulting in: drier seasons, resulting in rampant wildfires, melting glaciers, thawing permafrost, seal level rise, coastline erosion, and re-location of villages.
- Change in Weather Patterns, resulting in earlier, later, smaller, or less traditional food sources.

### JUST TO NAME A FEW

**Qik'rtaq/Sun'aq/Ag'waneq on the Front lines:**

**What have you noticed in recent years?**

**MORE** or **Less** Insects?

Early or late flora and fauna?

Erosion?

Survival of non-native species?

**Fish die off?**

Fewer or smaller berries?

**ChAnGe** in marine life?

Dryer seasons?

**Weather changes?**

You are welcome to provide any input regarding climate change to Nancy or Bessie at 907-486-6357, or by e-mail at [nancy@afognak.org](mailto:nancy@afognak.org) or [bessie@afognak.org](mailto:bessie@afognak.org). Quyanaa!



# Quyanaa!

The world of Dig Afognak is much brighter because of amazing, generous people like you!  
A BIG quyanaasinaq to the following 2015 Dig Afognak donors & mess hall tile donations:

Many of the tiles purchased for the  
Dennis and Julie Knagin Mess Hall  
have been made in Memory  
of the following:

Julie Knagin  
Louise Gregoriouff Monette  
Helen Simeonoff  
Enola Mullan  
Irene Parker  
Bertha Teuber  
Willis Nelson  
William R. Berestoff

Dennis and Julie Knagin  
Martha Nelson  
Ed Sargent  
Tina Larsen  
Olga Naumoff Larsen  
Trisha Pruitt  
Iver Malutin  
Marie Skonberg  
Nadia Mullan  
OST All Captains  
Johnny Nelson  
Alice Tamke

Charlie Mahle  
Cheryl Sutter  
Ken and Carol Henson  
April Laktonen-Councillor  
United Way  
Chris Abell  
Molly Thompson  
Rural Cap  
ANTHC  
Alaska Humanities Forum  
AT&T  
Diane Cooper  
Native Village of Port Lions  
Nenana Native Council  
Lukin-White Family  
Sno-Bruins  
American Seafood's

## KANA

Native Village of Port Lions  
Virginia Ward  
Victoria Stuart  
Bill & Tasha Zang  
Jim Dunham  
Rasmuson Foundation  
Ouzinkie Native Corporation  
Denise Burger  
Afognak Native Corporation  
Olsen Family  
Misha Mullan

Richard & Melissa Borton  
Dee Vinberg  
Loretta Nelson  
Knagin Family Estate  
Kodiak Island Housing Authority  
Meagan Christiansen  
Malia Villegas  
Loren Andersen  
Ken Nelson Jr.  
Natasha Hayden  
Whale Pass Lodge  
Janice Stiller  
Nancy Nelson

Darrell & Joanna Brewer  
Olga Rowland  
Scott Pillans/ Scott's Plumbing and  
Heating  
Charlie Jerling/ Local Electric  
Dave Hilty  
Marius & Andi Olsen  
Sitkinak Inc.  
Kodiak Island Storage LLC  
Alutiiq Museum  
Brian & Dawn Kewan Family  
Perry Eaton  
Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak  
James Skonberg  
Betty & Jerry Bongen  
Wayne & Pat Kozak  
Michael Mullan

Ron Unger  
Mitch & Sasha Keplinger  
Ali Sorenson,  
Macks Sports Shop/Big Ray's  
Dan & Barb Behm  
Brennan Cain  
Dusty Kaser  
Jeff Abate  
Seamus & Natasha Hayden  
F/V Clyde  
BDO USA LLC  
Donna Roduta  
Dimond Center  
Carol Ashlock  
Andrew Miller/Miller Construction  
Marci Orth  
Shelikof Lodge  
Lu Young Foundation  
Suzy Villegas  
RC Enterprises  
Tom Panamarioff & Asta Keller  
Kodiak Island Borough  
Dale Pruitt

Words cannot express our gratitude to make our Mess Hall a reality! Although we have the interior to complete, we have a warm, dry facility to share our meals as a big family and also use as a space for activities. Thank you Stacey Simmon's for coming up with this fundraiser idea and for your all your work in soliciting the donations! A special thank you to ANC and Native Village of Port Lions for supporting the Language/Music Camp, this camp would not have happened without your help!

# A Message From The Secretary of State



## Commemoration of the 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Attack on Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941 – December 7, 2015

Few dates stand out in our history more than December 7, 1941. On that fateful Sunday, over 2,400 American Service members and civilians lost their lives, and our air and naval forces in the Pacific suffered a devastating blow, forcing the United States into the bloodiest war the world has ever known.

It was, as President Roosevelt predicted, “a date which will live in infamy,” but it was also the beginning of the end for the evil powers threatening the peace and prosperity of the world. For on that day, this great Nation awoke to the worldwide danger and a new generation of Americans—disciplined by the hardships of the Great Depression and inspired by the heritage of their freedom-loving forbearers—rose up to meet and defeat the enemies of freedom on three continents.

Today the Department of Veterans Affairs honors the Veterans of that great conflict—those who gave their lives in the attack on Pearl Harbor, those who fought and survived the attack, and those who rallied to the cause of freedom, took the fight to the enemy, and came back home victorious. They still defend this Nation by the example they set for the Veterans of our current conflicts.

To all of the Veterans of the Second War World, we offer our respect and our gratitude. God blessed us to have you as our forbearers. May God continue to bless you and yours and this great Nation of ours.

Robert A. McDonald



### CONFERENCE

Continued from Page 3

continue to do but also challenging the young people to be the change they want to see.

I am extremely grateful for being elected to the Council and my colleagues for allowing me to travel such a great distance to represent us. I am encouraged to see so many committed Alaska Native and American Indian peoples working for us by engaging and challenging the Obama and his administration to continue to honor the United States responsibilities to our people. Quyanaa!!



### DATES

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Our tentative dates for the 2016 camp season are June 24-29 Harvest/Earth, July 6-11 Survivor, July 15-19 Afognak Shareholder with Picnic on the 16<sup>th</sup>, July 23-28 Language/Music, this is all pending while we secure the funding. We have been fundraising throughout the year, we held a Haunted House in October, had split the pot at our Annual Meeting & Election in September, continue to rent out the photo booth, in February we will have a Dinner/Auction event, and will have a booth at the Crab Festival. Congratulations to Nina Gronn who wrote her first grant and secured us some funding to teach skin sewing and beading! We will continue to write grants and fundraise; any donation you can make to support the 2016 Dig Afognak Youth Camp will be greatly appreciate, We wish you all the peace and blessings of Christmas. And we hope 2016 brings you much happiness and great success!

# *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  
Ken Nelson Jr., Member  
Malia Villegas, Member

## **STAFF**

Melissa Borton, Tribal Administrator  
Nancy Nelson, Program Administrator  
Shurina Skonberg, Accounting Manager  
Denise Malutin, Cultural Programs Coordinator  
Taletha Gertz, Program Manager  
Nina Gronn, Office Coordinator  
Bessie Lea Weston, Environmental Program Assistant

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

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



## *Special Announcements*



We will be closed for the following dates:

-December 24 & 25, 2015 for  
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

-January 1, 2016 for  
New Year's Day