



# A G 'WA N E R M I U T K A S I T A Q

AFOGNAK  
PEOPLE'S  
NEWSLETTER

## NVA is Participating in Gen-I Youth Challenge!

"BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT  
TO SEE IN THE WORLD"

—MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.—



Don't talk about  
the problem. Be a  
part of the  
solution.

Chris Vonada

In February, NVA and our youth accepted the Generation Indigenous Native Youth Challenge (Gen-I Challenge). The White House and the Center for Native American Youth (CNAV) have challenged youth to make a difference in their community and to document themselves completing the Challenge for a chance to be represented in Washington, D.C. during the summer of 2015 at the first annual White House Tribal Youth Gathering.

We plan to use our already established Alutiiq Club at Kodiak Middle School combined with

several Alutiiq language learners from Kodiak High School in order to complete this challenge. We will record and air public service announcements on KMXT-100.1 FM (be sure to be listening for these!) during the months of April and May to recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month and Hunger Awareness Month as part of this project. To expand on the PSA's our youth will be putting action to their message by partnering with local organizations such as the Brother

Francis Shelter to complete service based projects for the people of Kodiak. Our main goal is that our youth establish pride in themselves by knowing that they are intelligent, kind individuals, and that

they are able to make a difference in their community.

NVA invites local tribal members in Kodiak

ages 11-18 to be a part of this opportunity! Youth Tribal Members living outside of Kodiak are also invited to send us photos or videos of positive activities they are involved in and we will feature your stories on NVA's Facebook page.

For more information about the Gen-I Challenge please contact Taletha Gertz or Sean Hales at (907) 486-6357 or by email [taletha@afognak.org](mailto:taletha@afognak.org)





## Chair Letter

Cama'i Tribal Members:



I hope Spring finds you all happy and your families healthy. Springtime at NVA finds us all very busy and getting excited about our summer festivities. 2015 marks a special year for us as we finally get to construct our mess hall for Dig Afognak. The building however is not completely financed yet and won't be finished until we raise enough money to complete it. In order to make the mess hall operational, we have phased the construction into three phases. Phase one will complete the kitchen and make the eating area and pantry usable although not finished. Finishing the eating and pantry area will be phase two. Phase three includes a front deck for outside eating and visiting. We ask that anyone interested please help us fundraise to finish our mess hall. We have also planned a special fundraising wall that will be located in the mess hall and will highlight all of our amazing donors. Please see the flyer later in the newsletter for the details.

Staff have also been busy advocating with the Alaska State legislature on issues that benefit Tribes. One of those items is a bill, SB75, sponsored by Kodiak's own, Senator Gary Stevens. SB75 would add federally recognized Tribes to the eligible organizations list for the Permanent Fund's Pick.Click.Give fundraising campaign. If the bill passes, Tribes could apply to the Department of Revenue to have their programs listed to receive charitable contributions from individuals as they complete their annual PFD applications. In 2014, \$2.8 million were donated through the Pick.Click.Give campaign. In 2015 that number has increased to \$3.3 million and so has the number of

people donating bringing that number up to 33,000 Alaskans. This would give tribes one more opportunity to fundraise for their programs and give statewide exposure to the importance of tribal programs. Please help support our bill by emailing Senator Steven's office and showing your support. ([doug.letch@akleg.gov](mailto:doug.letch@akleg.gov))

We have a full schedule planned for this year's Dig Afognak program, along with an open house for our new mess hall during the Annual Afognak Family Picnic scheduled for July 18th. Please sign up early to attend camp, space is always limited. We hope to see as many of you this summer as possible.

If you haven't yet "liked" our Facebook page, please do so.

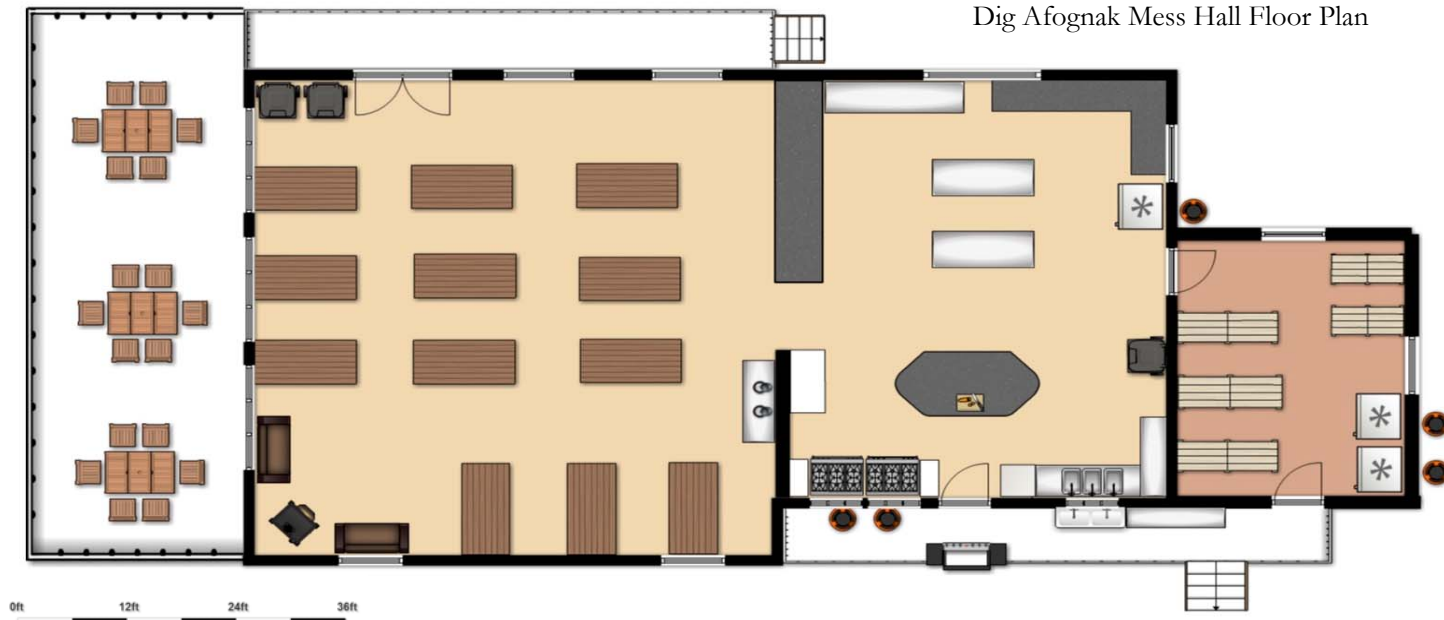
NVA is always promoting our programs, the programs of our colleagues and providing information for various promotions throughout the year, this is a great way to stay informed.

We hope you all have a great summer, tang'rciqamci (see you all later).



Like Us On  
facebook 

Dig Afognak Mess Hall Floor Plan





## Dig Afognak Update



Camp construction of the Mess Hall has begun. The first camp is scheduled for June 26th with Traditional Harvesting & Adventure Earth camp and will end with Cauyaq "Music" /Language Immersion camp on August 3rd (see schedule on page 11). Camp applications are on the NVA website; if you have not registered for camp we recommend you do so as we have already started receiving applications.

We continue to fundraise for the permanent Mess Hall and operation of camp. NVA's Development Director, Stacey Simmons has been working hard to get us the funding we need for both camp and the Mess Hall. We are extremely hopeful we will raise enough with the fundraising events she is planning. Several grants have been written, however, we have a few months before we hear back from them. Our Mess Hall will have a commemorative beach glass inspired tile walls with everyone's name that donates \$500.00 or more to camp and the Mess Hall. You can donate for the Mess Hall/ Dig Afognak from our website [www.afognak.org](http://www.afognak.org) or call the office at (907) 486-6357, we now accept credit cards.

### *Quyanaasinaq to the following for their 2015 donations:*

#### **Individuals:**

N Michelle Mullan,  
Richard Borton,  
Charlie Mahle,  
Knagin Family Estate in Memory of Dennis and Julie Knagin,  
Hans Olsen Jr.,  
Janice Stiller,  
Virginia Ward,  
Cheryl Sutter,  
Ken & Carol Henson,  
April Laktonen,  
Nancy Nelson,  
Darrell & Joanna Brewer,  
Anonymous in Memory of Nadia and Patty Mullan

#### **Council Members:**

Loretta Nelson,  
Meagan Christiansen,  
Natasha Hayden,  
Loren Anderson,  
James Dunham,  
Kenneth Nelson Jr.,  
Malia Villegas

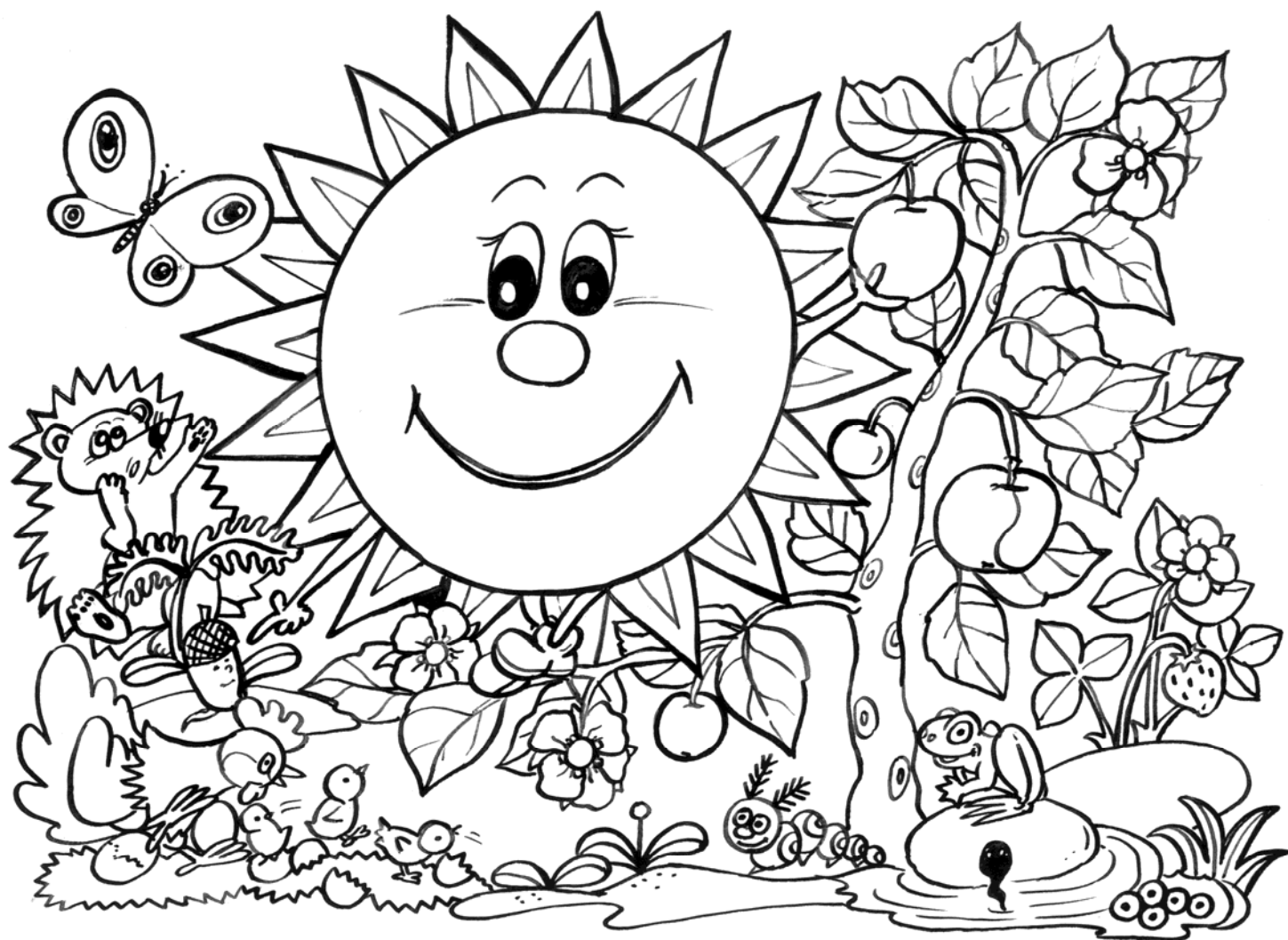
#### **Organizations:**

Whale Pass Lodge  
(Bob & Denise May),  
Rasmuson Foundation,  
KONIAG,  
KANA,  
AT&T

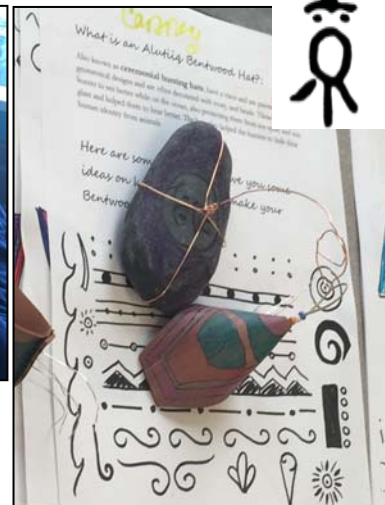
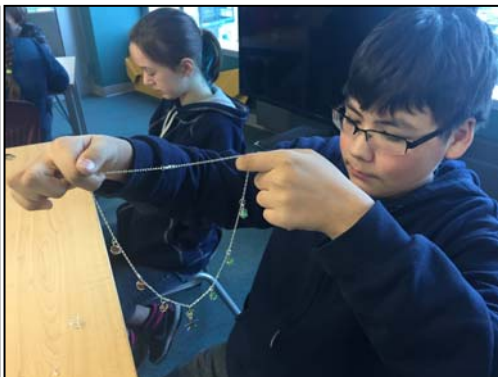




# Think Spring







During the week of March 16-20<sup>th</sup>, The Alutiiq Museum, Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak, KIBSD, The CIRI Foundation, Native Village of Afognak, KANA and Kodiak College collaborated to host an Alutiiq week in Kodiak. While the villages around the island host their own Alutiiq Week each spring, it has been several years since one was held in Kodiak.

Over 80 students of all ages participated in a variety of Alutiiq cultural arts activities such as language studies, storytelling, traditional food preparation, games and more. Lynda Lorenson and Sean Hales led the Alutiiq language activities for the youngest group of 48: kindergarten, first, second and third graders. The children were excited to learn the Alutiiq language and played several games and learned four songs. Parents commented to staff that their children came home eager to share the language and what they learned that day.



## 2015 Kartemquin Spring Showcase: *Keep Talking*, the film

We are proud to announce that *Keep Talking* has been chosen by Kartemquin Films to be featured at the Spring Showcase, May 1st, in Chicago to provide viewers and financial supporters an exclusive sneak peek of the film.



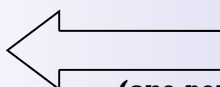
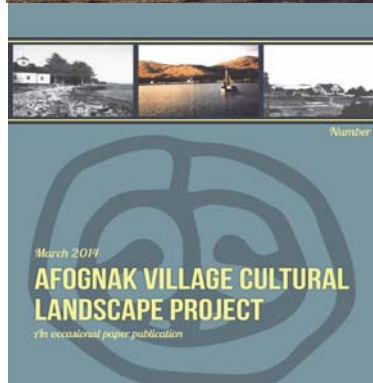
*Keep Talking* is a documentary filmed over the course of a year about the language revitalization efforts of the Kodiak Alutiiq community. Kodiak Alutiiq is a severely endangered language; the film crew captures the strength and heart of a few of the remarkable Elders, teachers and learners involved. The film includes stunning scenes from the remarkable Dig Afognak language camp, which is ran by NVA's Alutiiq Language Program.

Native Village of Afognak's Alutiiq Language Program Manager and co-producer of the *Keep Talking* film, Kari Sherod has been working with Ten Trees Productions Director and Producer Karen Weinberg and with Kartemquin Films, a documentary powerhouse based in Chicago. Kartemquin Films has been making documentaries for over 45 years; Gordon Quinn, the executive producer and founding member of Kartemquin

Films has also received honors that include the Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival, The Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award, Chicago Film Critics Award-Best Picture, Los Angeles Film Critics Association-Best Documentary and an Academy Award Nomination.

We are honored that *Keep Talking* has been chosen to be featured at the showcase, and that our story and efforts are forever captured to be shared with our community, to future generations and viewer's worldwide.

For more information about the 2015 Kartemquin Spring Showcase please visit [www.kartemquin.com/event/2015-kartemquin-spring-showcase](http://www.kartemquin.com/event/2015-kartemquin-spring-showcase). To learn more about the film in progress please visit [www.keeptalkingthefilm.com/](http://www.keeptalkingthefilm.com/) Quyanasinaq!



**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.

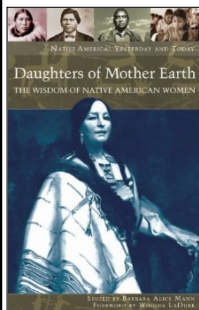
The 165 page book, documents Afognak Village's amazing history from pre-Russian contact to the village and the homes and structures as it is currently. The book is also a great source of family history and shows the strength and resiliency of the people that lived there. It is full of great old and new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

Contact Taletha at

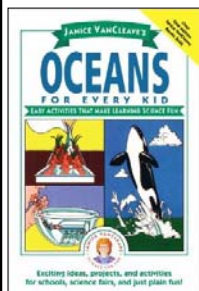
(907) 486-6357 or email

Taletha@afognak.org to order one free copy of this book per household!

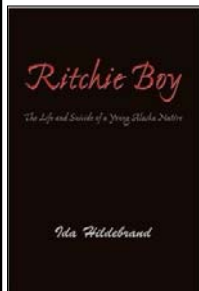
## Nadia Mullan Alutiig Heritage Library Features



*Daughters of Mother Earth* is nothing less than a new way of looking at history—or more correctly, the reestablishment of a very old way. It holds that for too long, elements unnatural to Native American ways of knowing have been imposed on the study of Native America. Euro-American discourse styles, emphasizing elite male privilege and conceptual linearity, have drowned out the democratic and woman-centered Native approaches. Even when the damage of western linearity is understood to occur, analysis of Native American history, society, and culture has still been relentlessly placed in male custody, following the western assumption that Euro-American men speakably for all. This book seeks to redress that balance, allowing, as editor Barbara Alice Mann writes, the Daughters of Mother Earth to reclaim their ancient responsibility to speak in council, to tell the truth, to guide the rising generations through spirit-spoken wisdom.



*Oceans for Every Kid* makes learning about the ocean and its inhabitants an intriguing adventure. Use a bottle, pennies, a straw, and clay to demonstrate how submarines rise. Make your own wave holder with index cards and a plastic folder. Through these and other activities you'll find out how fish move up and down in water, how pollutants move into the ocean, how to navigate without a compass, how to map the surface of the ocean floor, and much more. Each of the activities begins with a statement of purpose followed by a list of materials, step-by-step instructions, expected results, and an easy- to-understand explanation. Every activity has been pretested and can be performed safely and inexpensively at home or in the classroom.



On August 6, 1987, author Ida Hildebrand's brother, Richard Vernon Hildebrand, committed suicide. *Ritchie Boy* is the vivid description of her personal experience during this heartbreaking ordeal. The motivation behind Ritchie Boy is Hildebrand's hope that those struggling with life's pressures will be moved to make positive changes in their lives, or to help others seek a path to a happier life. By embracing pain, letting it wash over you, and feeling it in every cell of your being, you will be ready to let it go. Everyone knows that there is tremendous pain when a loved one is lost-but there is also great joy in having known and shared your life with that special person.



# ENVIRONMENTAL



## Facts about Plastic Relative to the Ocean



- Americans use more than 300 bags per person per year.
- Plastic bags are used for an average of 12 minutes, but has a life expectancy of up to 1,000 years.
- Plastics break down to plankton-sized microplastics that outnumber plankton by 6 times. They may contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's), dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT's), phthalates, flame retardants and bisphenol-A (BPA's).
- Marine life like whales and seals may mistake plastic bags for food, blocking their breathing passages.
- About 100 cities in the United States have banned plastic bags. This includes tribal villages such as Hooper Bay Alaska.
- 80 percent of marine debris comes from land-based waste.

Closer to home: This picture was taken at the “make-shift shooting range” on Monashka Bay Road between the fish hatchery and White Sands Beach, just above a culvert that directs run-off to the ocean. (Picture taken on March 26, 2015.)





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).



## Afognak Old Photo

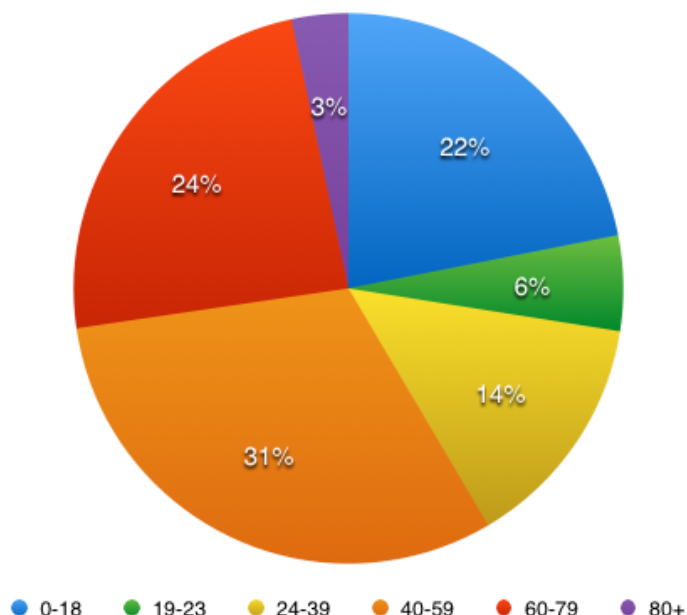


Can you identify the people featured in the photo above?  
Email your answer to [taletha@afognak.org](mailto:taletha@afognak.org).  
If you are the first to answer correctly, you will receive a prize.

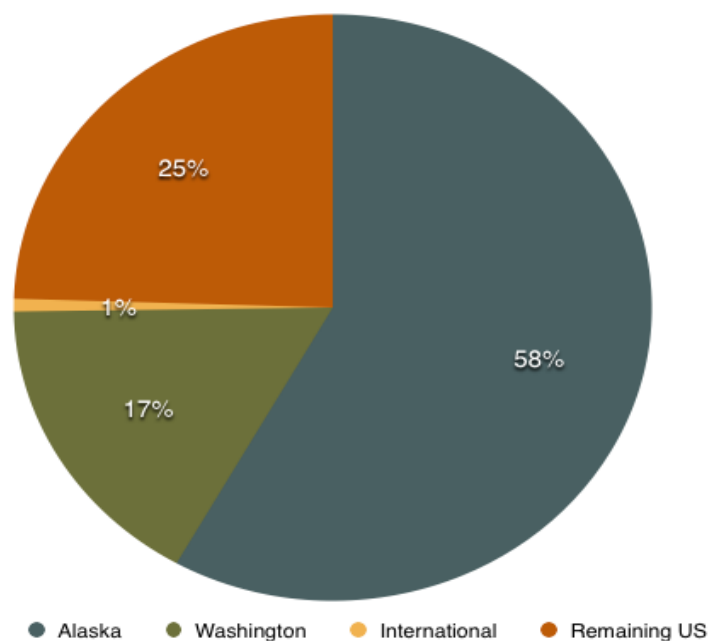
## NVA's Demographic

NVA's enrollment has steadily grown over the last several years. As a result our membership has grown by 56% since 2002. Our highest year to date was 2014 with 59 enrollments, we think we'll beat that number in 2015. As of February 5, 2015 we were already at 38 new enrollments. Attached are two charts that show you how our membership looks by age and geographic location.

Tribal Members By Age



Tribal Members by Location







# QUESTIONS ABOUT THE APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FOR AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES?



As many of you already know the application for the medical exemption started in 2014, every person needs to have health coverage, but some are exempt from the health insurance coverage that meets minimum essential coverage standards, also known as the health insurance mandate.

If you do not have health insurance, you may have to pay a tax penalty, known as “shared responsibility payment” unless you qualify for an exemption. Members of federally recognized tribes and individuals who are eligible to receive services through an Indian Health Service provider are exempt from the mandate to have health insurance coverage.

However, you must apply for this exemption through the Marketplace or when filing your federal income tax return.

**You can get the application at Healthcare.gov, or call the Health Insurance Marketplace at 1-800-318-2596 and request an exemption application. You can use an application to apply for the exemption for more than one person in your tax household.**

What you'll need to apply:

- Documents showing tribal membership or eligibility for services from Indian Health Services,
- Social Security numbers
- Information about the people in your tax household

All of this information will be kept private and secure as required by law.

Once the information and the completed application is received someone from the Health Insurance Marketplace will follow up with you. If you receive the exemption, you will receive a Exemption Certificate Number that you will put on your federal income tax return.

If you have more questions or need help with the application:

Online: [Healthcare.gov](http://Healthcare.gov)

Phone: 1-800-318-2596





## Staff Spotlight: Kari Sherod

It has been a blessing to work for Native Village of Afognak for five and a half years as the Alutiiq Language Program Manager. I was raised in Port Lions, my parents are Abner and Marilyn Nelson and grand parents, Abner Sr. and Betty Nelson and Norman and Donna Ursin. I'm married to Robert Sherod of 15 years; together we have three girls, Jacquelyn, Emmy, and Sienna.

Growing up in Port Lions, I heard some Aleut spoken, but it wasn't until I was in college in Seattle that I realized some words were actually Aleut. I remember walking the shore in Edmonds with some of my college friends and seeing a jumper, I naturally said "Aq'alarai"! They looked at me strange. I honestly thought it was a fishing term used on the coast. I had my first conscious moment that the word was unique to my home and a part of me.

Working in the Alutiiq Language Program everyday I am reminded of my roots and I'm driven to make sure my own kids or potential grandkids someday will have the opportunity to speak and think in



our language. I am very thankful to have this time with our Elders and hear the beautiful words and learn about the culture. Each one of the Elders has touched my heart in a very special way and forever shapes the program and me. The Elders, staff and people involved become your family and for that I am

truly grateful!

Growing up and being surrounded by my Grandpa Abner, Great Grandpa Johnny Larsen, John Pestrikoff, Oscar Peterson, Sergay Sheratine, Thayo Brandal, I've been so fortunate to had time with Dennis and Julie Knagin; and the opportunity to hear recording of others who have passed away speak the language. I am sad that I didn't spend more time as a child learning, but we are so blessed today that their footsteps built the foundation for us all so it will not be lost or forgotten.

Watching our youth participate in the many language programs offered, such as the Immersion/Music Dig Afognak camp and discover their own ties is priceless. Hearing the Alutiiq dancers sing with pride, children speaking Aleut in the After School Program, in the school district classes, and in Walmart greeting their Elders and teachers with a smile so proudly, makes me feel honored to be a part of this revitalization process.



The answers to the last newsletter's old Afognak photo is L to R Julia Pestrikoff, Nina Olsen, Christina Lukin winner with correct answer was Ginger Ward.

# Attention:

*NVA needs updated addresses for the following people, give us a call or email Denise at [denise@afognak.org](mailto:denise@afognak.org) if you have any information.*

Valerie K. Benson

Mary Jean Blankenship

Frederick L. Chouinard

Lucille R. Dulin

Althea D. Halmsteiner

Robert J. Halmsteiner

Myrtle A. Kelly

Gilbert J. Mathis

Susan A. Mathis



Thomas G. Mathis



Gordan C. McCormick

Jodi K. McDonald



Michelle L. Novotny

Garret L. Schmidt



Roy E. Skinner III

Viola L. Skinner



Ellsworth A. Warner





## NVA'S DIG AFOGNAK

### 2015 CAMP SCHEDULE

...an Alutiiq cultural experience

Native Village of Afognak's (NVA's) camps offer different themes for the four camps listed below. Each camp offers Alutiiq cultural activities such as the Alutiiq language, art activities, subsistence, traditional beading or skin sewing, spending time with respected Elders, nature walks, healthy friendships, and banyas!

#### Traditional Harvesting & Adventure E.A.R.T.H. Camp

**\*\*Registration deadline June 19th**

**June 26 - July 1**

Participants will take part in Alutiiq subsistence activities with local Elders and adult mentors, harvesting, preparing, and preserving traditional foods. The harvesting and recycling activities are designed to teach youth to preserve and keep our lands clean for future generations. Youth will also learn about the environmental risks we face today and the importance of protecting our environment that can harm our natural resources. **Youth ages 9 through 14 are invited.** \$100 for Native Village of Afognak Tribal Members and Descendants/\$200 for non-members

#### Dig Afognak's "Survivor Camp"

**\*\*Registration deadline July 1st**

**July 08 - July 13**

During Survivor Camp the youth will learn important wilderness survival techniques through fun outdoor activities, games and competitions. Some of what the participants may learn this week will be about gun safety and have the opportunity to shoot a rifle, practice archery, learn to read a compass and a GPS, administer emergency first aid, practice using survival suits, use kayaks, experience eating MRE's, learn what sea creatures, seaweeds and plants are edible, build shelters and fires. **Youth ages 10 through 14 are invited.** \$100 for Native Village of Afognak Tribal Members and Descendants/\$200 for non-members.

#### ANC Shareholder Camp

**\*\*Registration deadline July 9th**

**July 17 - July 21**

Afognak Native Corporation (ANC) is sponsoring this camp for ANC Shareholders. Participants are invited to take part in cultural activities such as skin sewing, Alutiiq language, visit with long lost friends, and reminisce while touring the old village of Afognak, if weather permits. Shareholders will have an opportunity to do their subsistence fishing. (There is no fee to attend this camp). Shareholder Camp eligibility requirements: Afognak Native Corporation Shareholders plus one guest (guest is defined as an immediate family member); Lineal Descendants of shareholders are allowed to attend as space is available. No Shareholder or Descendant under the age of 15 is able to attend without a responsible adult present at camp, the responsible adult still needs to meet the basic eligibility requirements. We will be holding the Shareholder Picnic on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> at Dig Afognak camp.

#### Cauyaq "Music" /Language Immersion Camp

**\*\*Registration deadline July 17th**

**July 29 - August 3**

Youth participants will engage with Elders, Language Learners, and culture bearers to learn traditional Alutiiq dance, music, songs, and more. Campers will have the opportunity to play traditional and other instruments. The youth will spend time immersed in Alutiiq Language through different learning techniques. They will learn the importance of understanding cultures and personal identity; will gain self-confidence and become comfortable in decision making for their future endeavors. **Youth ages 9 through 14 are invited.** \$100 for Native Village of Afognak Tribal Members/ and Descendants/\$200 for non-members

The Native Village of Afognak (NVA) is a native tribal organization but registration is open to all native and non-native youth. Registration preference is offered to tribal membership and descendants prior to registration deadline. For more information regarding Dig Afognak Camps, please call the Native Village of Afognak at 486-6357 or email [nancy@afognak.org](mailto:nancy@afognak.org).

**\*\*Due to the high participation requests please prioritize the camps you want to attend. Notice of cancellation must be received prior to the registration deadline in order to receive a registration refund.**

## *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, Accounting Manager  
Denise Malutin, Cultural Programs Coordinator  
Kari Sherod, Alutiiq Language Program Manager  
Taletha Gertz, Program Manager  
Nina Gronn, Office Coordinator  
Lynda Lorenson, Alutiiq Language Education Coordinator  
Bessie Lea Weston, Environmental Program Assistant  
Sean Hales, 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!*



Follow us on  
**Twitter**

## *Special Announcements*



### SAVE THE DATE

*Native Village of Afognak's  
Annual Meeting & Tribal Election*

Saturday  
September 26, 2015

Location: Afognak Native Corporation  
300 Alimaq Drive