

# Kasaan Haida Heritage Foundation Newsletter F A L L 2 0 0 4

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## **Erma Lawrence Awarded Honorary Doctorate**

On Saturday May 1, 2004 Erma Lawrence received an Honorary Doctorate in Humanities from the University of Alaska for her lifelong contributions to Haida language and literature. As one of the few remaining fluent speakers, and one of the founding members of The Society for Haida Language and Literature, Erma has devoted her life to gathering, recording, and documenting the Haida language. A Haida language specialist, Erma has worked with linguists at the Alaska Native Language Center, and Sealaska Heritage Institute. She has also written, edited or participated in publishing many Haida language books. Erma has also conducted language workshops, taught elementary and college classes, and wrote the first Haida poem. Erma assisted in the KHHF video "Elder's Interview Project". She remains actively involved with language work. Erma is currently a Master Consultant to Sealaska Heritage Institute assisting in implement their Department of Education K-2 Semi-immersion Curriculum Project.



In addition to Erma's scholarly contributions, she has served the community in numerous ways. She is Camp Mother for the Alaska Native Sisterhood Camp 14, Ketchikan and has been an ANS member for 62 years. Because of her beautiful singing voice, Erma has been often called upon to sing at community events, including graduations and weddings. "How Great Thou Art" sung in Haida is an all time favorite of her family and friends.

To recognize Erma's contributions, Ketchikan Indian Community Tribe, and Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska honored Erma at a special celebration held on April 30 at the Cape Fox Lodge. Surrounded by family and friends, Erma graciously accepted this prestigious and well-deserved award. Ha'waa Erma! You deserve this honor, and we are all so proud of you.

# A New Staff Addition

## Media Specialist and Fundraising

Fred Olsen Jr. is now designated Kasaan Haida Heritage Foundation's official "Media Specialist" and will be assisting KHHF with fundraising to support our cultural heritage projects. In addition to hosting fundraisers, searching for potential grants, and soliciting donations, Olsen hopes to raise enough funds to create an archive of historical material that could be made available on the KHHF website. If you would like to support this important work, please earmark your donation for our new "Media Specialist" on the contribution form.



## Donations



Thanks to all who have contributed funds to support the Kasaan Haida Heritage Foundation. We have launched a major new fundraiser to support new projects we'd like to develop including: clan house restoration, elders' interviews, and language revitalization. We will begin a new list contribution list.

*Our Current Donation Tree is Empty!*

*Please help us fill it up again .*

*K'áang*

Hemlock (Up to \$100)

*Ts'ahl*

Pine (\$101 - \$499)

*Ts'úu*

Red Cedar (\$500 - \$999)

*Sgahláang*

Yellow Cedar (\$1,000 or more)

Please send your tax deductible donations to:

Make your check payable to: <b>Kasaan Haida Heritage Foundation</b>	
and mail it to:	<b>Kasaan Haida Heritage Foundation</b> <b>c/o Kavalco, Inc.</b> <b>600 University St., Ste 3010</b> <b>Seattle WA 98101</b>
IRS code 501( c ) (3), EIN 92-0169568	

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL IT WITH YOUR DONATION

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Please print your name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of donation \_\_\_\_\_

Designate to Media Specialist:      Check Here \_\_\_\_\_

In memory/honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Milestones



### Remembering Pauline and Bill Blackstad

Kasaan's eldest elder, Pauline Blackstad passed away on January 8, 2004, soon after her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. One week later, her husband Bill, passed away. In honor of their lives, several people contributed to these special memories of them.



"They loved to go up the bay and dig clams. I remember the clams they brought back, were always the sweetest tasting." Julie Coburn.

"When they traveled to Seattle, they stayed in an apartment hotel downtown where they could prepare their meals. They always brought a special flat rock from Kasaan beach to crush their the fresh garlic cloves for cooking." Jeane Breinig

"They lived in their Kasaan home for 60 years together and enjoyed every minute. I've saved a calendar they kept on their wall. On it, they kept track of important events, like on what date they caught a 35# King Salmon, or who they got a letter from." Juanita Smith

"I remember Uncle Bill used to like to tell stories about Charlie Wong. Charlie Wong was a Chinese man who lived up at Salt Chuck and was one of the early cannery workers before the Filipino crews moved in. Charlie was a heavy gambler, and rumor had it he was hiding from the Chinese Mafia. Uncle Bill liked to tell about the time he fixed up an old radio for Charlie Wong. Bill fashioned a long antennae to go on top, and the radio had an old fashioned tuning eye, and it looked just like a real eyeball. After getting the radio running, Bill left Salt Chuck and told Charlie to be sure and turn the radio off when he left, or the battery would run down. Next time Bill saw Charlie, Charlie told him he had thrown the radio down on the beach. It turns out that when Charlie was just getting ready to leave, he reached over to turn the radio off and Arthur Godfrey announced loudly, "Don't touch that dial!" and scared the beegesus out of old Charlie. Charlie told Uncle Bill, that he didn't like to be bossed around by a big eye." Louis Jones, Sr.



### **Henry Jones graduates from Law School**

On May 15, 2004, Henry G Jones, son of Louis and Paige Jones, received his Juris Doctorate from State University of New York in Buffalo.

At the Graduation Ceremony Henry was awarded "The Birson Prize in Clinical Legal Studies". The award recognizes a member of the graduating class who has demonstrated excellence in the Law School's clinical and trial advocacy program.

Following this, on July 28, 2004, Henry traveled to Anchorage, Alaska to take the Alaska State Bar. In September Henry started classes at Georgetown University. He is working for an LLM of Tax Law, which is a master's degree in Tax Law. The LLM course at Georgetown is a one-year program. Graduation at the University will be on May 22, 2005.

### **Kenneth Gordon Awarded Associate of Arts Degree**

Kenneth Gordon received his Associate of Arts Degree, Chemical Dependency Profession, from Spokane Falls Community College on June 15, 2003. He was on the Honor Roll and maintained a 3.87 Grade Point Average. As a student, he was President of KISS (Keep it Simple Student) a social service organization that often arranged to bring in speakers to address issues in the Chemical Dependency field. As President, Kenneth's organization brought in a speaker who discussed amphetamine abuse in the community. Kenneth is continuing his education at Whitworth College in Spokane working towards a BA in Social Services.



## Queen for a Day! Catherine Kerstetter Celebrates 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

On April 7, 2004 Catherine Kerstetter turned 90. The special event was marked by a birthday celebration on Saturday April 17, hosted by Catherine's daughter Linda White at her home in West Richland, Washington. About 20 guests attended the party, including out of town family. Catherine's son, Robert, daughter-in-law Roberta, and grandsons Christopher and Peter traveled from Fayetteville, North Carolina. Catherine's sister Julie and her husband Perry Coburn traveled from Kasaan. Other out-of town guests included Catherine's nephew Brian Coburn from Portland Oregon, niece Ramona Hamar from Anchorage, and two great-nieces Anna Lathen and Marcia Coburn from Seattle, Washington. Catherine's daughter Linda invited guests to contribute to a special "memory book." This included a 1934 edition of the Sheldon Jackson School newspaper, "The Vestovian," with Catherine's high school graduation announced. Another contribution was a crochet instruction book complete with pictures of women dressed in 1920s style "flapper" clothing. In addition to the traditional birthday cake, Linda prepared and served Beef Wellington, Julie Coburn contributed fresh, Kasaan shrimp, and Ramona Hamar provided herring eggs and smoked fish. Lost and found from the party: long sleeved woman's purple sweatshirt. Contact Linda if you think it might be yours.




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## A Big Háw'aa to Last Year's Raffle Donors!

Last year's raffle brought in approximately \$1270, nearly double for the previous year's raffle. Last year's raffle funds were later earmarked to provide financial support for a Grant Applications to restore the Whale House. Thanks for all your generous contributions! Our challenge this year is to once again double the amount.

### Last Year's Generous Donors:

Caroline Hendrixson: Hand crafted Haida drum; 1 case jarred fresh pack salmon; 2 cases wild asparagus; 2 cases wild Alaska specialty jams and jellies.

Opal Olsen: Haida Specialty Creations. Cedar woven clam basket; miniature bottle covered with hand woven cedar design.

Ramona Hamar: 3 cases smoked sockeye; 1 case fresh pack sockeye.

Diane Demmert & Janelle Hyatt: 3 cases smoked sockeye; 1 case fresh pack sockeye; handmade dishcloths.

Julie Coburn: 2 cases specialty wild Alaskan jams and jellies.

Della Coburn: 3 jars smoked King Salmon.

Eleanor Hadden: Wild game; jarred salmon spread; specialty Alaskan Jams.

Paige Jones: Handcrafted Afghan, handcrafted Kleenex box covers; dishcloths.

Harriet McAllister: Handcrafted beaded change purse; handcrafted beaded headband.

Linda White: Several jars of Homemade “Chow Chow”; variety pack specialty jarred fruits from Eastern Washington.

Catherine Kerstetter: Several hand crocheted dishcloths and dishtowels.

Jeane Breinig: Homemade chocolate chip cookies; Christmas dishtowels; miscellaneous candy and sweet treats.

Laird Jones: Chocolate candy assortment Santa Clause.

Mary and Willard Jones: A basket filled with an assortment of items, including “Indian Love Tea”; several empty baskets, which were filled with the donated items; wrapping material, and ribbons.

Willard and Mary Jones’ generously opened their home to the “worker bees” who filled the baskets. Háaw’aa!

#### **Raffle Donations Needed For This Year!**

We are seeking donations for a “traditional native food” basket. Seeking special native foods (hooligan oil, seaweed, hard smoked fish, smoked sockeye, soap berries, wild asparagus, wild berry jams/jellies, deer meat), or anything else you’d like to share. We would also like to create some other specialty baskets: “Chocolate Delight” “Mexican Fiesta” “Luxury Bath,” so even if your cupboards is not stocked with Native foods, everyone can have the opportunity to contribute. Eleanor Hadden and Jeane Breinig will assemble the donations Thursday, November 4 prior to the Saturday meeting. Leave a message at the Cape Fox hotel, if you have a contribution and would like someone to pick it up.

## Haida Word of the Week

Here are words still used by our Elders. For pronunciation, we encourage you to ask an Elder.

### Haida - English Word Translation

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**dúus - cat**

**gúuts - wolf**

**yáahl - raven**

**ts'áng - beaver**  
(also "tooth")

**gúut - eagle**

**xakw - halibut**

**xa - dog**

**chíin - fish**

**táan - black bear**

**xúuts - brown bear**

*To hear these sounds and practice more Haida words go to:*

<http://www.interglacial.com/d/rogo/haida/>

### Haida Language Classes in Kasaan

Julie Coburn has been offering Haida language classes in Kasaan as part of the Sealaska Heritage's three year Haida language DOE Semi-immersion Curriculum Development Project. This summer Julie held an hour long class 3 times a week for Kasaan people who return to the village in the summer. Students attending included Juanita Smith and her granddaughters, Dorothy and Amy, along with other out of town visiting family. This fall, Julie is providing Haida language lessons in the Kasaan school. Pictured here are [students] Juanita Smith and granddaughter Dorothy.



This Newsletter by:

Kasaan Haida Heritage Foundation  
c/o Kivilco Incorporated  
600 University Street, Suite 3010  
Seattle, WA 98101  
Phone (206) 624-6166  
Fax (206) 624-8953  
e-mail: cd\_kivilco@hotmail.com

President:  
Laird Jones

Vice President:  
John Campbell

Secretary/Treasurer:  
Jeane Breinig

Newsletter printing, layout  
and mailing:

Charisse Dwyer, Corporate Secretary  
Kivilco Incorporated

Articles written by Jeane Breinig

Editors: Jeane Breinig, Laird Jones and John Campbell