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Calling All Generous Haidas to Donate!

We’d like to once again call upon our generous Kasaan Haida people to contribute to the Annual Meeting Dinner/Raffle. Last year’s prizes went over well and we are looking for our favorite Haida foods: hard smoked fish, smoked sockeye, deer meat, soap berries, jams, jellies, asparagus, or anything delicious you can add. We also welcome donations of any kind for other baskets: children’s Christmas gifts, sweets, towels, kitchen items or anything you imagine someone would enjoy winning. Donations will be assembled on Thursday, November 2. If you need your items picked up, leave a message for Jeane Breinig at the Cape Fox Lodge and she will get them. We also need empty baskets to be filled with raffle items. Please donate your empty baskets so we can fill them again. Háw’aa in advance for your Haida generosity!

Kasaan Haida Heritage Foundation

Catherine Kerstetter—In Loving Memory

Catherine Neely Kerstetter (Raven-Brown Bear, Táas Láanaas clan) was born April 9, 1914 in Kasaan and died in Renton, Washington January 9, 2006. She was the second oldest daughter of Louis Lear Jones and Anna Frank Jones. Catherine attended the Kasaan territorial school through 7th grade, and then completed her high school education at Sheldon Jackson School in Sitka in 1934. She was married briefly to Joe Johnson of Angoon, son of Sam and Minnie Johnson.

In 1944, she married James B. Kerstetter. Jim was an Army Sergeant Major and they lived in Ketchikan, Anchorage, Wrangell, Spokane, Ellensburg and Wenatchee, eventually settling in Ballard for a number of years prior to their last move to Federal Way, Washington, where they were living when Jim died in 1989.

Catherine loved spending time with her family and traveling to Fayetteville, North Carolina for Thanksgiving to spend time with her son Bob and his wife Roberta, and grandchildren Christopher and Peter. For Christmas, she would travel to Richland, Washington to be with her daughter Linda, husband Bill White, and grandchildren James and William (Chips). She also regularly traveled to Kasaan and Ketchikan in the summers when her children were growing up. In her later years she enjoyed cruise travel to Alaska with Linda and her family.

Catherine was known for her delicious jams, jellies, fruit preserves and sweetbreads, as well as her beautiful crocheted and knitted handiwork, and was generous with gifts to friends and family. She regularly contributed to the KHHF raffles and loved attending Kavilco annual meetings. She is greatly missed.

Aang, haws dang hi kingsaang. (Yes, I will see you again). Photo courtesy of KHHF website.
Replica to Fill in for Historic Yaadaas Crest Pole

A 40-foot Yaadaas Crest Pole replica was manually raised at Sitka National Historical Park on September 30. Visitors from around Southeast Alaska joined together to erect the pole on the 100-year anniversary of the arrival of the park’s original collection of totem poles. Willard and Mary Jones and Erma Lawrence represented the Yaadaas Clan courtesy of the Sitka Tribe.

The pole is a replica of one carved in the late 1800s at the village of Old Kasaan on Prince of Wales Island. It stood in front of a village house before clan leader John Baronovich donated the pole to Territorial Governor John Brady for a totem pole exhibit at the 1904 World’s Fair in St. Louis. In 1905, the pole was exhibited at the Lewis and Clark Centennial Expedition in Portland, Oregon before being brought to Sitka in 1906. The replica is the first addition to the park’s extensive totem pole collection since the K’alyaan pole was raised at the Kik’adi fort site in 1999.

A common feature in Haida totem poles, two watchmen sit atop the replica. Joe Young, who carved the pole with his brother T. J., explained that traditionally the watchmen were intended to provide security to a Haida village or burial area. Joe and T. J. are Kaigani Haida and are descendants of the family that had the original pole carved in Kasaan.

Although the story of the original Yaadaas Crest Pole has been lost, SNHP historian Kristen Griffin said it is thought to commemorate the crest of the Yaadaas family or clan.

An otter is carved at the bottom of the pole. Above that, a woman is depicted holding a seal. A bear is holding the woman, and an eagle is depicted with human hands above the bear. A human with feathers sits above the eagle, and the two Haida watchmen sit above the human figure at the very top of the 40-foot red cedar pole.

The pole carving was a collaboration. The Sitka Tribe of Alaska oversaw the project. The log was donated by Sitka’s Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center. The pole was raised on traditional Kik’adi land in a park managed by the National Park Service.

Park Superintendent Greg Dudgeon said the decision to have the replica carved was made to honor the original intentions of the pole. Based on historical photographs of Old Kasaan, the original Yaadaas Crest Pole was carved between 1885 and 1893. At that time the village was at the center of the totem pole carving culture on Prince of Wales Island.

“When you go back 100 years to the donation from (Haida chief) Son-I-Hat to Brady, he said he wanted it to remain as a memorial to the Haida people,” Dudgeon said. “(The re-carving) was a way to keep that promise.”

The park received funding from the NPS’s special project budget and STA hired the Young brothers, who have been carving since they were in middle school in Hydaburg. They began with a detailed study of the original pole to get it as close to the original as possible, including only red and black coloring.

(Thanks to the Sitka Daily Sentinel for allowing us to re-phrase their original article.)
What’s Up with the Younger Generation

Justin Laird Jones, son of Laird and Francine Jones, graduated from high school this past summer with a 4.0 GPA and valedictorian honors. Born and raised in Juneau, Alaska, Justin is Eagle/Wolf of the Yanyeidi Clan of the Taku Tlingit People.

Justin’s honors and accomplishments are many and varied: National Honor Society; Outstanding Student Award from the U.S. Public Health Service and Department of Health and Human Services; varsity letterman in cross-country and track and field; All-Academic Team for Outstanding Grade Point Achievement; Lyndon B. Ellerson Spirit Award. He also involved himself in community service as a peer volunteer counselor/mentor for the U.S. Forest Service and Tropical Reforestation Ecosystems Education (T.R.E.E.) Hawaii-Alaska cultural exchange program; was a volunteer tutor for kindergarten and first grade Tlingit children in his aunts’ classrooms; and served as a volunteer indoor soccer coach for Juneau Parks and Recreation. Justin has been a member of the Alaska Native Brotherhood Camp for 18 years.

Justin is currently attending Colby College, in Waterville, Maine where he has been selected as a Ralph J. Bunche, Jr. Scholar. He received scholarships from the Shee Atikà Benefits Trust (SABT), Sitka Alaska Urban Corporation, Sealaska Heritage Institute; and nominated by Shee Atikà Board for the Alaska Federation of Natives 2006 Roger Lang Youth Leadership Award. Congratulations Justin!

Henry George Jones, Esq. (Attorney at Law), son of Louis Jones, Sr. and Lathalia Jones, was admitted to the Alaska State Bar Association, April 2006, and is now eligible to practice law in the State of Alaska. He holds a Bachelors Degree from New Mexico State University (2001), a Doctorate of Juris Prudence from State University of New York at Buffalo (2004), and LLM (Master of Tax Law) from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. (2005). Henry is currently living in Vienna, Virginia with wife CJ and two children, Peyton (age 6) and Drake (age 2); and working for various law firms pending his admittance to the Washington, D.C. Bar Association. He is currently working on anti-trust litigation.

Anna Raven Lathen, daughter of Della Coburn, granddaughter of Julie and Perry Coburn, graduated from the University of Washington in 2002 with a BA in Visual Arts. She is currently employed by Warner Brothers Studios in Los Angeles as a Creative Arts Coordinator.

“My philosophy of life is to obtain a quality education, live a healthy, active lifestyle free of alcohol and drugs, and to always strive to do my best in whatever I set out to do...I will find my niche and make a meaningful contribution back to the Native community.”

— Justin Jones

Eighty-two years young and still going strong—that’s Louis Jones from Kasaan Bay; father of six children, boat builder and fisherman. One of a diminishing, self-reliant group of individualists, Louis possesses the spirit, initiative and courage (handed down to him, no doubt, from his forefathers) that enabled him to live in this Alaskan wilderness before the advent of the white man.

Louis left for Seattle last Wednesday for an eye operation.

BACK TO WORK. When he gets back home, he and his boys plan to begin repairs to the Uranus, which sank this winter in a howling “Southeaster.” They have raised the Uranus and put a soft patch on her until such time as they are able to manhandle the seiner ashore and make permanent repairs.

Henry Jones, one of Louis’ four sons, tells me that his brother George, who lives with his dad at Kasaan, will do most of the work and that “Dad will just supervise the job.” They expect to replace a number of ribs and planks; but as most boat owners know, the extent of the needed repairs can only be determined after the vessel has been hauled out of the water and a few planks have been removed, exposing the ribs.

REBUILT ENGINE. The White Motor Co. has rebuilt the engine from the Uranus and painted it a fire engine red. It is now on display at the store and ready to re-install.

Two more of Henry’s brothers as yet unmentioned, are Willard and Raymond, who live here in Ketchikan. Henry tells me Willard is going south to Oakland, California to take a two-year course in diesel mechanics; a wise choice of alternate trade for a fisherman.

Raymond has the Invictus, a well-known seiner in this area. So with Henry and his Lou Ann, and George with his father’s Uranus, the Jones boys contribute in no small measure to this area’s economy. The boys have a sister living north of town near the Mecca; she is Mrs. Julia Coburn.

BROKEN SHAFT. Henry and Willard had a hair-raising experience a few weeks ago on the Lou Ann. They were on their way to Ketchikan from Kasaan and just as they started across Clarence Straits, the Lou Ann’s tail shaft broke.

There they were adrift and powerless just as nightfall was approaching. To make matters worse, the wind was picking up out of the southeast and so was the sea. Their distress call was put in to the U. S. Coast Guard and a 90-footer was dispatched to their rescue.

It takes time for even a 90-footer to travel from Ketchikan out past Guard Island and across the straits to Grindall. By the time the Coast Guard arrived, Henry tells me the Lou Ann had drifted to within only a few hundred feet of Street Island (which is more of a rock pile than an island).

SIGN OF RELIEF. It was pitch dark by then and the wind continued to increase in velocity. Henry said they both heaved a sigh of relief when they finally got a line from the Coast Guard boat to the Lou Ann; he also says he will long remember the wild ride they had to safety at the end of that nylon tow rope, with spray flying clear over the wheel house. The skipper of the Coast Guard vessel proceeded slowly and with caution, but the wind kept increasing and before they reached their destination, their ride was indeed a wild one.

DO-IT-YOURSELF COURSE. Over 60 years ago the boys’ father, Louis Jones, learned how to be a regular carpenter at the Sheldon Jackson School in Sitka. His instructor was Rev. George J. Beck, father of former Mayor George Beck of Ketchikan.

To learn the carpenter’s trade was a fine
thing, but a man with a dream finds it difficult to settle for less than what his conscience and courage dictates. So, Louis wrote to some organization in Michigan that, even in those days, provided a do-it-yourself course for would-be ship carpenters. From them he received blueprints, patterns, templates, pamphlets and so forth. Hours of diligent study were spent learning how to spiral planking, steam and bend the frames and planks, and a host of techniques that are peculiar only to boat building.

According to both Raymond and Henry, their father was a self-taught boat builder, and I would defy a good many college graduates to top that one.

The first large boat Louis built was the Active, a seiner about 50 feet in length. It was one of the first power seiners in this area and in its first season from June ‘til October, the Active brought in a total of 380,000 fish, according to Raymond.

The senior Jones built the Noble, a little 38-foot seiner, for Paddy Henry, his father-in-law from Kasaan. He built the Review and went to Wrangell and built the Diamond C for Cash Cole, and according to Raymond, he built the Uranus in 1927, Invictus in 1937, and his last new boat, about six or seven years ago, was the Lou Ann.
**Háw’aa to All Our Donors!**

Due to the generosity of those who contributed donations to fill the baskets, and to those of you who bid at our raffle, we raised over $2,000 last year. The funds will be used to help support the restoration of the Whale House.

**Valborg Braz:** 2 hand-crocheted afghans.

**Jeane Breinig:** Wrapping materials, ribbons, plastic wrap.

**Julie Coburn:** 2 cases of wild Alaskan specialty jams and jellies, including blueberry, huckleberry, red currant, and blue/red huckleberry mix.

**Diane Demmert:** Hand-crocheted dishcloths, potholders, towels and Hudson Bay tea.

**Eleanor Hadden:** Paco moose salsa and 3 potholders.

**Ramona Hamar:** One gallon and one quart bag of smoked hard King salmon strips.

**Caroline Hendrixson:** Handcrafted Haida drum, three cases of Alaska specialty huckleberry, blueberry, galvanized salal berry jams and jellies, 4 pints of smoked sockeye, 6 pints of wild asparagus, and 6 quarts of handpicked Grindall seaweed.

**Laird A. Jones:** Candy Santa.

**Louis and Paige Jones:** 8 empty raffle baskets for filling, three pounds reindeer sausage, 2 packages of hunter sticks, plus $100 for change.

**Willard and Mary Jones:** 4 empty raffle baskets for filling, blanket, 6 dish towels, 4 dishcloths, 4 washcloths, 3 coffee mugs, 2 thermal cups, pocket calendar, Christmas cards.

**Jordan Lachler** (Sealaska Heritage Institute): 2-volume Haida dictionary.

**Erma Lawrence:** Crocheted hat, 2 potholders, jar of wild asparagus.

**Opal Olsen:** Handcrafted Haida spruce needle basket, woven mini-plaited card holder, 2 sets of trade bead necklaces and earring sets, hematite earrings and bracelet set.

**Nettie Ralph:** Handcrafted baby moccasins.

**Annette Thompson:** Bentwood box filled with smoked salmon.

**George and Diane Demmert:** Thank you for opening your home to the KHHF “basket fillers” so work could get done.

**Sara and Kris Hadden:** Thank you for helping to sell and collect tickets.

**And the lucky winners were…!**

**Door Prize Winners** (Mystery Bags)
- Perry Coburn
- Kay Davis
- Sara Hadden
- Willard Jones
- Erma Lawrence
- Freddie Olsen, Jr.

**Auction** (Bid)
- Basket (Opal Olsen): Marie Miller
- Tiger earrings (Opal Olsen): Sara Hadden
- Basket (Opal Olsen): Paige Jones
- Basket (Opal Olsen): Paige Jones

**Chinese Auction** ($1 bids)
- Basket: Peterson
- Basket: Sharon Brooks’ granddaughter (Kaylin)
- Basket: Kaylin

**Basket:** Scott Burns
- Basket: Karen Carter
- Moccasins: Carol Church
- Basket: Opal Olsen
- Afghan: Melanie Locklear
- Basket: Kristopher Hadden
- Basket (blanket): Carol Church
- Basket: Carol Church

**Raffle-Grand Prize Drawing** ($1 ticket)
- Haida drum: Kristopher Hadden
- Basket: Ramona Hamar
- Basket: Diane Demmert
- Basket: Sara Hadden
- Basket: Carol Church
- Afghan: Jordan Lachler
- Salmon strips: Karen

“Due to the generosity of those who bid at our raffle, we raised over $2,000 last year.”

[Haida drum donated by Caroline Hendrixson. Photo courtesy of Laird A. Jones.]

[Louis Jones, Sr. and Jeane Breinig. Photo courtesy of Laird A. Jones.]
Donations

Thanks to all who have contributed funds to support the Kasaan Haida Heritage Foundation. A special thank you to Kavilco for financial assistance with publishing this newsletter and Deanna Kaulay’s time dedicated to this and other KHHF projects. 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. This Donation Tree recognizes donations made since November 2005. Please help us keep it full.

Donation Tree

K’áang-Hemlock (Up to $100)

- Jeane Breinig
- Eleanor Hadden
- Ramona Hamar
- Louis Jones

Ts’ahl-Pine ($101-$499)

- Julie Coburn

Ts’úu-Red Cedar ($500-$999)

- Louis & Paige Jones

Sgahláang-Yellow Cedar ($1000 or more)

Please send your tax-deductible donations via check, money order or PayPal (www.KasaanHaida.org/HowtoGive).

Make your check or money order payable to: Kasaan Haida Heritage Foundation

Mail to: Kasaan Haida Heritage Foundation
c/o Kavilco Inc.
600 University Street, Suite 3010
Seattle, WA 98101-1129

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PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL IT WITH YOUR DONATION

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In memory/honor of ____________________________

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In 1996, Kavilco Incorporated started the process to establish the Kasaan Haida Heritage Foundation (KHHF) as a non-profit corporation in the State of Alaska. In 1999, KHHF became incorporated, with three members of Kavilco’s Board of Directors serving as officers — Kenneth Gordon, President; John Campbell, Vice President; and Jeane Breinig, Secretary/Treasurer.

The concern was clear that an effort should be made to document and preserve our culture. The projects important to the cultural heritage of the Kasaan Haida people include clan house and totem pole restorations, Haida language perpetuation, repatriation of Kasaan artifacts, videotaping and interviewing our elders, and cleaning up the creeks near Kasaan for the return of salmon runs.

Our mission is to honor the vision and unselfish actions of our Kasaan Haida ancestors and elders. Kasaan Haida Heritage Foundation aims to document, preserve and promote those things that make the Kasaan Haidas unique.

See the KHHF Newsletter in full color on our website!

KasaanHaida.org

Chief Son-I-Hat totem pole, circa 1939. Photo courtesy of USDA Forest Service Archives.

Chief Son-I-Hat’s Whale House 1938. Photo courtesy of USDA Forest Service Archives.