Our dearly beloved Erma Lawrence passed away peacefully with her family by her side on February 21, 2011 in Seattle. Erma was born in Kasaan on August 2, 1912, and her Haida name was Áljuhl (Beautiful). She belonged to the Ts’eihl ’Láanaas Eagle clan. Her mother was Nellie Helen Scott Baronovich and her father was Nicholas Charles Baronovich. Áljuhl’s maternal grandparents were Edwin and Emma Alexander Scott. Her paternal grandparents were Charles Vincent and Mary-Ann Skáwaal-Baronovich, daughter of Chief Skáwaal of Kasaan. In addition to living in Kasaan and Hydaburg, Erma also lived in Haines, Ketchikan and Wrangell. She was a lifetime member and Camp Mother of the Alaska Native Sisterhood (ANS) Camp #14, and a devoted member of the Presbyterian Church.

Erma was an accomplished and generous woman. In the 1970s, she worked with other Haida elders to create a Haida language writing system which resulted in the publication of the first Alaskan Haida dictionary, and she was the first Haida language teacher at Ketchikan Community College. In 2004, she received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Alaska Southeast for her lifelong contributions to Haida language and literature. Erma dedicated her life to gathering, recording, documenting and teaching the Haida language, and was the author of numerous books, including The Gospel According to John in Haida (Kasaan dialect), a lifelong project she was pleased to have published in 2009.

Erma was known for her beautiful singing voice, and enjoyed translating gospel songs into Haida. In honor of her tremendous talents and immense contributions we have included a list of Kasaan Haida names she compiled, and also her handwritten Haida language version of the well-known and beloved Kasaan song, “A Wolf Sings to the Raven.” Please join us in singing this song in her memory at our annual fundraising dinner Saturday, November 5 at the Cape Fox Lodge in Ketchikan.

Ha’waa Áljuhl for your kind spirited and loving contributions. May we honor your memory by emulating you in all our actions and words.
A Wolf Sings to the Raven

Sám Saáhl giduu, dri sáa kinggang?
Kíl tt aa tt guúndang hlangaas gingaan.
Was k’yaan aam uu dang an hl kíl láa.
Asgáayst wáats’gwan díist
dang king áan daal saang.
I yaa, I yaa, káa, káa.

– A Haida song transcribed by Erma Lawrence 1993

Kasaan Haidas

1. Skilt’aasdlaas—Lydia’s mother, Mrs. Bill Banard
2. Jáat Kyáanggaas—Nellie Baronovich
3. Hánt’uu K’aa—Mrs. Joshua Banard
4. Sáandldanaay—Mrs. Jacob Thomas
5. St’aast—Mr. Louis Jones
6. Tlinkáa—Walter Young
7. Ishlaang—Joe Jones
8. Uljuuhl—Mary Baronovich
9. Giinaas Kiláas—Brown Jones
10. T’aaw Jáat—Mrs. Brown Jones
11. Gut Jawáay—Lydia Charles
12. Xáldaang Iljuutwaat—Louisa Peele
13. Kuhlwaats’- Mrs. Carrie Young (Paul)
15. K’ayáak—Jimmie Young
16. Skihilang—Jim Peele
17. Gáagat—Mrs. Billy Williams
18. Ga’aas—Pete Jones’ mother
19. Jatkyáal Xiigans—Mrs. Sam Davis
20. Jáatgu Sángaas—Margaret Jones Olsen
21. Táa Hlangéi—Pauline Jones
22. Waansdáa—Eddie Young
23. Gwaank’ii—Mrs. Gus Tuckle (also Wallace)
   - Agnes
24. Xajúu—(daughter) Lydia Young (Peele)
25. Tlaasguust—Mrs. Irving
26. Wiłaxaa—Healy Jones
27. Ts’ang Gáawáas—Wells Jones
28. Kaasgúut—Billy Williams
29. Guláa Jáat—Fanny Jones
30. Guusaaw Xiiláa—Pete Jones
31. Juunáang Kya’áast—Harriet Peele McAllister

– List compiled by Erma Lawrence
Kasaan Haida Heritage Foundation History
In Honor & Memory of Willard Lear Jones (Nástao) 1930-2007

Inspired by shareholders suggestions for Kavilco to address our cultural needs, John Campbell brought the idea of a heritage foundation, and in 1999, the Kavilco Board of Directors formed the Kasaan Haida Heritage Foundation (KHHF) a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization to create a vehicle to support worthy Kasaan Haida history, cultural, and language documentation projects. Because Kavilco is a registered investment company, it is legally obligated to generate profits for shareholders and cannot use its financial assets for cultural heritage activities. Yet Kavilco recognized the importance of documenting Kasaan’s unique history and culture, and so created KHHF, a separate organization dedicated to collecting and sharing information about Kasaan. KHHF relies solely on volunteers and donated funds.

KHHF founding officers were Kenneth Gordon, President; John Campbell Vice President, and Jeane Breinig, Secretary/Treasurer. Laird Jones is the current president. KHHF recently added an Advisory Committee including Della Coburn, Juanita Smith Fisher, Eleanor Hadden, Mike Jones, Frederick Olsen, Jr., Richard Peterson, and Jonathan Wunrow.

Gá sa áan Xaadas Guu suu: Kasaan Haida Elders Speak & Surviving Sounds of Haida
Because of concern for elders, one of the first projects KHHF pursued was an Oral History Interview Project which resulted in a video project entitled Gá sa áan Xaadas Guu suu: Kasaan Haida Elders Speak (2002) available for purchase on the KHHF website http://kavilco.com/aboutkhhf.html.

This project was based on cultural revitalization activities spearheaded by Willard Jones (Nástao 1930-2007) a former Kavilco Board member who dedicated much time, energy, and personal resources to gathering and sharing information about Kasaan. The 2002 Kasaan Haida Elders Speak project was modeled on an earlier project Willard Jones initiated in 1997. He invited Kasaan elders Erma Lawrence, Norman Charles, David Peele, Harriet McAllister, Julie Coburn, and Catherine Kerstetter to a special lunch held at the Ketchikan Indian Center where they shared stories and memories about their life experiences in Kasaan. Frederick Olsen, Jr. was invited to videotape the event, and this project inspired many to do more towards documenting Kasaan Haida elders’ perspectives.

On behalf of KHHF, Jeane Breinig wrote a successfully funded proposal to the Alaska Humanities Forum (AHF). $11,554 was awarded to fund Gá sa áan Xaadas Guu suu: Kasaan Haida Elders Speak, which Kasaan people enthusiastically supported. Generous cash donations from Chris and Jeane Breinig, Hank Brouillette, Jr., John Campbell, Della Coburn, Julie and Perry Coburn, Audrey Escoffon, Dorothy Evener, Kenneth Gordon, Eleanor and Ronald Hadden, Caroline Hendrixson, Louis and Lathalia Jones, Catherine Kerstetter, Erma Lawrence, Alton McAllister, Organized Village of Kasaan, Elaine Privett, Sealaska Heritage Institute, Shelly Smith, Minnie Stevens, and Linda White contributed matching funds to financially support the project.

Willard Jones, Project Director and Executive Producer, provided overall direction and cultural guidance. He was responsible for developing the “seaweed gathering” documentation portion of the film and donated the use of his boat. Willard also donated his cash honorarium to KHHF. Others provided housing/interview space to elders and project participants. Willard and Mary Jones, Frederick Olsen, Sr., Inga Olsen, and Sharon Brooks provided housing to project participants, during the Ketchikan interviews. Julie, Perry, Della Coburn, Juanita Smith Fisher, and Marjorie Zeman provided Kasaan housing. Louis Thompson identified the houses in Kasaan during its peak population.

"We have to re-defined what it means to be Haida today... So what do we teach them? Teach the good things about being Haida: respect, identification of who you are. Not the fact that you’ve got the biggest totem pole, or the most wealth, but the fact that you’ve done it, or you were a part of it...”

— Willard Lear Jones (Nástao)
Táas Láanas, Raven, Brown Bear
Gá sa áan Xaadas Guu suu: Kasaan Haida Elders Speak
July 2001
A surveyor working for Sealaska Corporation stumbled across a surprise last winter while checking land the corporation owns near the community of Kasaan on Prince of Wales Island. He found an ancient partially-carved Haida canoe, almost 34-feet long, buried under a thick layer of moss.

After the spring snowmelt cleared way for easier access to the site, tribal members from Kasaan joined leaders from Sealaska to visit the canoe—the group discovered at least five cedar trees at the site had been hand-crafted with traditional, non-commercial tools.

“Other abandoned canoes have been found in Southeast Alaska, but it is rare to find canoes crafted with traditional tools,” said Rosita Worl, president of Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI). “We believe sites like this one will be better protected and preserved under Alaska Native ownership. The canoe symbolically unites past, present and future.”

Discovery of the canoe coincides with Sealaska’s decision to include historic and sacred sites as part of its land legislation (H.R. 1408 and S.730) that has been presented to Congress by Senators Mark Begich and Lisa Murkowski.

“With 40 years of hindsight, we can see that a number of restrictions placed on Sealaska’s ability to select lands both increase the likelihood of community conflict and restrict their ability to engage in more sustainable economic development for the region,” Begich said on October 8, 2010, during his testimony introducing the bill. “[S.730] is an attempt by the Sealaska Corporation to achieve a balance in their remaining land selections.”

— News release courtesy of Alaska Dispatch
Photo courtesy of Sarah Dybahl of SHI
Mary Jones Birthday Celebrations

Happy Birthday to Mary Jones (Nex’adi of the Tongass tribe) who celebrated her 80th birthday on April 7, 2011, honored with three birthday parties.

Granddaughter Jennifer Hadden and great-granddaughter Melissa Hunter hosted the first party in Anchorage on March 25, 2011. Daughter Eleanor Hadden hosted a brunch in Anchorage on March 27, 2011, attended by members of the Hadden, Hunter, Jones and Baines families. Ketchikan ANB/ANS Camp #14 and friends in Ketchikan treated Mary to lunch at the Ketchikan Indian Center on April 10, 2011. Also in attendance were nieces and nephews from Metlakatla. Photo courtesy of Eleanor Hadden.

Julie Coburn Celebrates 90th Birthday

Julie Coburn (Wahligidouk) celebrated her 90th birthday on August 13, 2011, at the home of her daughter, Jeane Breinig, in Anchorage. Approximately 50 family members and friends attended a Hawaiian-themed luau, including a whole roast pig and seafood paella with prawns from Kasaan Bay. Granddaughter Anna Lathen designed the invitations. Family traveled from across the country to help with the festivities: granddaughters Anna Lathen, New York, New York and Marcia Coburn, Portland, Oregon; daughter Della Coburn, Kasaan; Mary Jones, sister-in-law, Ketchikan; niece Linda White (Kerstetter), Richland, Washington; and nephew Bob Kerstetter, Fayetteville, North Carolina, joined with local nieces, nephews, cousins and friends to create a special day for Julie. The Organized Village of Kasaan (OVK) presented her with a handcrafted Haida hat by noted artist Judy Helgesen. The Kasaan community also honored Julie with a separate celebration.
Education Corner

High School Graduation. Congratulations to Sydney Locklear, who graduated May 22, 2011, from Ketchikan High School. She traveled to Ireland for two months a week after graduation. Sydney will be attending Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado where she plans to get a degree in business. Sydney is the daughter of Melanie Young and Stephen Locklear. Photo courtesy of Melanie Young.

Anna Lathen Awarded Scholarship. Anna Lathen, daughter of Della Coburn, was awarded a 2011 $2,000 Tribal Scholarship from the Organized Village of Kasaan (OVK). Ms. Lathen lives in New York where she works for Bloomingdale’s and pursues a career in advertising art direction and creative strategy. A University of Washington graduate, she is currently enrolled in the Fashion Institute of Technology working towards an Associate of Applied Science in Communication Design, scheduled to graduate in 2012. Ms. Lathen has also generously donated her artistic talents towards creating DVD labels for “Surrounding Sounds of Haida” and “Gá sa ãan Xaadas Guu suu: Kasaan Haida Elders Speak.”

OVK encourages all eligible Kasaan residents or descendants to apply for their annual scholarship competition. See http://www.kasaan.org/scholarships.html for information and application.

Scholarship Opportunities

Students interested in pursuing college degrees might also consider two institutions which offer free tuition for tribally enrolled applicants.

Haskell Indian Nations University (Lawrence, Kansas)
http://www.haskell.edu/catalog/haskell_general_catalog.pdf

Fort Lewis College (Durango, Colorado)
http://explore.fortlewis.edu/

Other scholarship possibilities include:

Sealaska Heritage Institute
http://www.sealaskaheritage.org/programs/scholarships.html

Tlingit and Haida Central Council
http://www.ccthita.org/services/education/higher/index.html
Donations

Thanks to all who have contributed funds to support the Kasaan Haida Heritage Foundation. A special thank you to Kavlco 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.

K’aang–Hemlock (Up to $100)
   - Jeane Breinig
   - Brian Coburn – In Memory of Christian Coburn
   - Eleanor Hadden
   - Ramona Hamar
   - Louis Jones

Ts’ahl–Pine ($101–$499)
   - Jeane Breinig – In Honor/Memory of all Kasaan Haida Elders from Gá saán Xaadás Guusuu – Pauline Blackstad, Willard Jones, Catherine Kerstetter, Erma Lawrence, & those still with us – Julie Coburn, Mae Leask
   - Julie Coburn – In Memory of Perry Coburn

Ts’uú–Red Cedar ($500–$999)
   - Julie Coburn – In Memory of Anna Frank and Louis L. Jones
   - Caroline L. Young Hendrixson – In Memory of Roberta M. Young Campbell, Eliza M. Young McAlpin and Robert P. Young
   - Louis & Paige Jones
   - Frederick O. Olsen, Jr.– In Memory of Margaret Jones Irvine Olsen

Sgahláang–Yellow Cedar ($1000 or more)
   - Caroline Hendrixson – In Memory of Robert P. Young and Eliza M. Young McAlpin

Please send your tax-deductible donations via check, money order or PayPal (www.KasaanHaida.org/HowtoGive). IRS code 501(c)(3), EIN 92-0169568
Make your check or money order payable to: Kasaan Haida Heritage Foundation

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PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL IT WITH YOUR DONATION

Please print your name ________________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________

City __________________________ State ________ Zip Code _______________

Amount of Donation _________________________________________________

In memory/honor of ________________________________________________

Designate to Media Specialist: Check Here ________
Due to the generosity of those who contributed donations to fill the baskets, and to those of you who bid at our auction, we raised over $5,667 in 2010. The funds will be used to help support the restoration of Naay 'Iwaans/Whale House.

Linda & Bill Auger: Homemade chocolate cake, halibut & parmesan fish seasoning, Alaskan cranberry vinegar, (9) baskets for filling, (3) insulated frozen seafood bags.

Valborg Braz: (2) crocheted afghans, (4) crocheted adult hats.

Jean Breinig: (3) 1/2 gallon containers mixed nuts, (2) boxes chocolate truffles, (1) box Godiva chocolates, Mexican vanilla, (9) pint bags hard smoked King salmon, "The Alaskan Phrase Book" by Erma Lawrence, Dictionary of Alaskan Haida by Jordan Lachler with Erma Lawrence & other Haida elders, (3) rolls raffle tickets, plastic wrap for baskets, bows, basket ties, (3) bags mixed candy, $250 raffle change.

Della Coburn: (3) pints huckleberry jam, (3) silk shawls, (2) pot holders.

Julie Coburn: (3) pints huckleberry jam, bath bomb ravensong, tie-dyed scarf, wool scarf.

Diane Demmert: frozen seafood & berries, (5) pounds each smoked black cod, Coho, sockeye, venison burger & stew meat, (5) pints Dungeness crab meat, (5) quart bags blueberries, (5) quart bags huckleberries.

Eleanor Hadden: (6) gallon bags frozen ooligans, quesadilla maker, crock pot, (4) potholders, (4) dishcloths, candy.

Jennifer Hadden and Melissa Hunter: tea light candle, tea light set, large candle bowl.

Ramona Hamar: (8) Haida design button regalia bags, turquoise Haida design bag, (4) bags Kaladi Brothers coffee, (4) turquoise tea towels, (4) Haida design coffee mugs, (2) insulated Haida design coffee cups, (2) "Remember Alaska" bags, (12) pints smoked Kenai red salmon.

Caroline Hendrixson: (3) willow baskets.

Norman Jackson: silver beaver earrings by Masset artist Marcel Russ.

Laird & Francine Jones: Ravenstail Pendleton blanket from Sitka, (2) bags sea salt caramels, (2) jars Amish jam from Pennsylvania, Penn State pasta, Hershey Bliss Chocolate from Hershey, Pennsylvania, Dunkin’ Donuts decaf & regular coffee.

Louis Jones, Sr. and Paige Jones: (2) Christmas ornaments, (4) small bags coffee beans, (2) large bags coffee beans, (5) insulated coffee mugs, (1) filled kitchen basket, (5) hand crocheted slippers, popcorn tin from Maryland, lighthouse, (3) hand woven pin baskets by Judy Helgesen (Hydaburg).

Mary Jones: filled Potpourri Basket, Ketchikan video tape, silk scarf, crocheted scarf, (2) glass mugs, votive candle, small candle with hanky, covered bowl, trivet, framed Native artwork.

Lorraine Kahle: crocheted winter hats, gloves, headbands, scarves, hand warmers: (4) adults, (3) children.

Kavilco Board of Directors & CFO: $200 personal donations towards the 50/50 raffle.

Ketchikan Indian Community: (4) pink bags to hold raffle items.

Melanie Locklear: (2) beaded medicine pouch bags by Stacy Williams.

Steve Locklear: salmon design cribbage board, Sign Pro gift certificate for boat lettering ($250 value), gift certificate for “Game Wrap” ($50 value).

Organized Village of Kasaan: large basket of traditional foods: (9) pints of sockeye, quart bag dry fish, gallon bag Hawaiian style strips, (3) pints of Alaskan wild berry jam;, (2) OVK shirts, (10) “Save the Whale House” t-shirts, (6) knitted hats.

Ardath Peterson: hand crafted Haida Bear Drum.

Leo Peterson: (12) pints sockeye, (2) pints deer meat, pint hard smoked fish, bag Hawaiian style strips, (2) pints Alaska berry jam.

Richard Peterson: filled basket: deer meat jerky, seaweed, nettle tea, dried halibut with kelp, hard smoked salmon strips, yarrow tea, kelp relish, fish relish, crab meat, (2) pints smoked sockeye, (2) pints fresh pack sockeye, powdered rosehips, rosehip sauce, crab apple
And the lucky winners were...

**Norman Jackson**: Grand Prize Basket.

**Richard Peterson for Powtec**: Haida Bear Drum by Ardath Peterson (winning bid $450)

**Amanda Hendrixson**: 50/50 raffle ($450).

**Volunteers and Suggestion Contributors**


Calling All Generous Xáadas to Donate!

We’d like to once again call upon our generous Kasaan people and other generous friends 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 Friday evening, November 4th. If you need your items picked up, leave a message for Jeane Breinig at Cape Fox Lodge (225-8001) and she will pick them up. 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 Xáadas generosity!

Mary Jones attended the Grand Camp ANB-ANS Convention in held in Klawock on Prince of Wales Island where the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Sisterhood, longtime separate Southeast advocacy groups, voted to work under the same, updated constitution. This year’s convention was the Brotherhood’s 99th; the Alaska Native Sisterhood was formed a few years later. They will continue as separate organizations, but will have a single mission. Next year’s 100th convention will be held in Sitka. Photo courtesy of CCTHITA.
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

continued from page 3... Eleanor Hadden, with her Anthropology education and oral history training, was the project’s “lead” interviewer. She developed interview questions and invited community input before finalizing them. She also transcribed the audio tapes which are now stored at the Elmer Rasmuson Oral History Depository in Fairbanks. Jeane Breinig assisted with interviews, and in collaboration with Charisse Dwyer, former Kavilco Corporate Secretary, handled administrative functions including ensuring compliance with AHF grant requirements. Frederick Olsen Jr., the project’s “Media Specialist,” filmed, edited, and created the final video.

The project ended with $1500 remaining funds. AHF allowed the funds to be used towards a second video, “Surviving Sounds of Haida” (2007) based on portions of the first project and new footage. This film received a “Best in Documentary” award in 2008 from the 2nd Annual Indie Short Film Competition.

Elders interviews included in the films were Pauline Blackstad, Julie Coburn, Willard Jones, Erma Lawrence, Mae Leask, and Harriet McAllister. Portions of Willard’s interview, quoted on page 3 of this article, highlight the community effort needed to successfully complete KHHF projects. Many, many people donated food, transportation, and contributed in numerous small and large ways to the two films’ success. We honor Willard’s memory and all the other dearly beloved elders no longer with us by working together with respect and gratitude for each person’s unique contributions.

In addition to these projects and films, KHHF has worked with Kavilco’s current Corporate Secretary, Deanna Kaulay, to develop the linked KHHF website which includes a large Kasaan Haida photo collection. As well, Louis Thompson’s Kasaan historical documents have been scanned and stored.

Looking Forward: Naay 'Iwaans/Whale House

KHHF’s current priority is the restoration of Naay 'Iwaans/Whale House. In 2008, through the efforts of Louis Thompson, Deanna Kaulay, MRV Architects, KHHF and OVK, the Foundation was awarded a $36,124 National Park Service grant to be used in the planning phase of Naay 'Iwaans/Whale House restoration. Several fundraising dinners have garnered approximately $26,000 in donated funds which will be used towards matching grant funds we hope to secure. In 2009, Kavilco and KHHF partnered with OVK by signing a Memorandum of Understanding establishing the roles and responsibilities towards the restoration and upkeep of Naay 'Iwaans/Whale House.

Please join us November 5, at the Cape Fox Lodge for the annual dinner and auction to help us keep up the group momentum for making our restoration project a success.