

Sealaska Heritage Institute Holds Tlingit Immersion Retreat in Hoonah



Immersion Retreat Participants visited the Bear Watching platforms at Spasski. L to R: Lillian Austin, Ruth Demmert, Nellie Lord, Paul Marks, Paul Marks II, Frances Krauss, Linda Belarde, Daphne Wright, Irene Lampe, Lisa Sarabia, Marsha Hotch, Edna Lamebull, Shirley Kendall, Helen Sarabia.

During the month of August, Sealaska Heritage Institute sponsored a ten-day Tlingit Immersion Retreat in Hoonah. Out-of-town retreat participants stayed at the Icy Strait Lodge, where daily classes in Intermediate and Conversational Tlingit were held. Some of the activities enjoyed by the participants were berry-picking trips, a day at the Icy Strait Point, a trip to the Bear Viewing trail at Spasski, hunting, and various crafts & cooking projects.

Each evening, two classes were offered for community members as well as retreat participants; Beginning Tlingit TPR and Tlingit Orthography (writing system) followed by an hour of story-telling and singing and dancing. Three different “Kids’ Activity Days” were held also. There was a good turn-out of community folks who took advantage of the free classes offered. There was also a welcoming dinner on the day the out-of-towners arrived, and a teaching demonstration and music night on the final evening.

Retreat Organizers would like to say a big Gunalchéesh to the following for their efforts in making this project a success:

Hoonah City Schools and Superintendent Howard Diamond		
Ed Phillips and the staff at Icy Strait Lodge		
Hoonah Community TV	Tony Mills	Bunny Lampe
Harry Sharclane	Sarah Lampe	Kathy Marvin
Lilly Hughes	Bob Hughes	John Marvin
Sam Wright	Arely Moreno	Sally Dybdahl

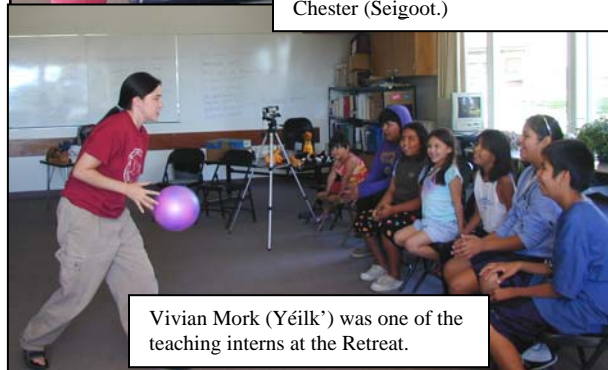
Gunalchéesh also to everyone who participated in the Retreat activities!

Dr. Rosita Worl, President of Sealaska Heritage Institute, sent this message to our newsletter:

“On behalf of the Sealaska Heritage Institute Board of Trustees and our staff, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the community of Hoonah for their warm welcome and support of the SHI language immersion retreat and the Arts Program. We are grateful to the community of Hoonah and its school district for taking a leadership role in our language and cultural restoration movement. Our ancestors are surely happy with these accomplishments. “



Sophia & Gayle Henry took part in a language-learning activity with teaching intern Jessica Chester (Seigoot.)



Vivian Mork (Yéilk’) was one of the teaching interns at the Retreat.