



Chiilulix: The Long Journey Home Community Curation Project

"I remember having that feeling of yearning and wishing that I could go to Attu that I could see that island, and where the village was, and see where, you know, that part of my family came from".

-Crystal Dushkin, Attu Descendant and Lost Villages Project Participant.

The Museum of the Aleutians, KUCB/Channel 8, and the National Park Service are developing an exhibition *Chiilulix: The Long Journey Home* focusing on the 10 years Lost Villages project, the lasting impacts of Aleutian evacuation and internment during WWII and the resiliency of communities scattered to the winds. The exhibition, on view from June 2019-March of 2020) will tell the stories of Biorka, Makushin, Kashega, and Attu villages, the impacts that internment and evacuation had on the people of these villages, and the lasting effects still occurring today.

To briefly discuss the history of the Lost Villages Project, in the mid 2000's the National Park Service, USFW and a group of Unangan individuals, some survivors of the internment camps and descendants of those interred, planned a series of trips to the communities unable to resettle after the forceful evacuation during WWII. Descendants, reporters, and the crew of the Tiglax journeyed to Makushin, Biorka, Kashega, and most recently to Attu, performing ceremonies, singing songs, sharing memories, and most importantly visiting their homelands. Rachel Mason, of the National Park Service, and Ray Hudson, Aleutian historian, recounted these trips and the difficult history of the Aleutian Islands and its peoples in a 2014 book. Now, KUCB/Channel 8 with funding from the Alaska Humanities Forum of the Ounalashka Corporation are producing a documentary about the legacy of the trips with footage from each and interviews with descendants.

The Museum of the Aleutians seeks your help in assisting us in our part of this project. We are commencing a "Community Curation" Project with the help of the Aleutian Pribiloff Island Community Development Association (APICDA) to speak with ancestral descendants from Biorka, Makushin, Kashega, and Attu and record their stories and memories of these villages and the role they play in people's identity. We are also inviting people to share actual items with the museum for the exhibition. These "pieces of memory" can be anything from a button, photograph or even a book that have significance to the history of these villages. These pieces along with the memories attached will serve as the through line for our exhibition, so it is crucial that we get the word out as soon as possible! We'd love for you to share this information with anyone you know who may be interested. Attached is a form they can fill out with contact information that people can use to schedule a time to talk. Sharing stories is the greatest gift we can give those who came before, and we look forward to hearing yours.

For questions regarding the project or how you can get involved, call Lauren Snyder at 907-581-5150 or email Education@aleutians.org.

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