

## Raven's Circle



The art of the sale



The importance of your RSVP

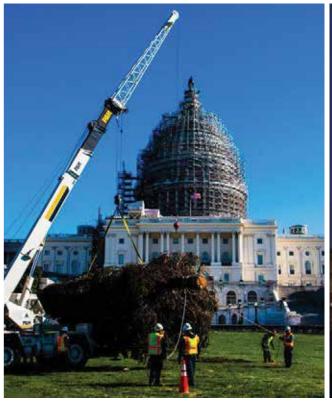




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#### A PIECE OF ALASKA ADORNS U.S. CAPITOL LAWN

#### Light it up

The view from the plush office of the U.S. Speaker of the House in the Capitol Building is, in a word, extraordinary. But when House Speaker Paul Ryan draws the drapes to gaze out over the Capitol Reflecting Pool and beyond to the Washington Monument this holiday season, the first thing he sees comes straight from the Kenai Peninsula.

Standing 74-feet tall, a Lutz spruce from the Chugach National Forest near Seward, Alaska, is this year's Capitol Christmas Tree. The 90-year-old tree was harvested in late October about five miles from the town of Seward, where it began a 4,000 mile journey to the nation's capital.

When it came time for the official tree-lighting ceremony, Speaker Ryan performed the honors. He was joined by several other members of Congress, including Alaska's congressional delegation. This is, after all, the first tree from Alaska selected to be the Capitol Christmas Tree.

"So to the Forest Service, the people of Alaska, to everyone here tonight, I just want to say on behalf of Congress, thank you," Speaker Ryan said before he invited Soldotna fifth grader Anna DeVolld to the podium to flip the switch and light the tree.

DeVolld had won an essay contest that earned her the trip to Washington, D.C., to participate in the ceremony. "After reading her essay, I wish Anna had written my speech," quipped Speaker Ryan. (Read Anna's essay on page 3)

#### A journey of 4,000 miles

The stalwart spruce officially began its journey Oct. 27, when the U.S. Forest Service orchestrated the ceremony to fell the giant. The Lutz Spruce, a hybrid of Sitka and white spruce, came from an area of the Chugach National Forest just outside of Seward and about 300 feet off the Seward Highway.

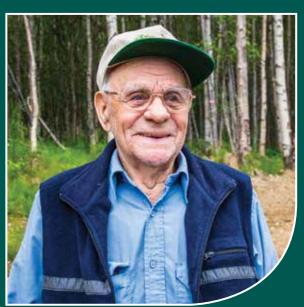
This was not your average tree-felling. There was no shout of "Timber!" before the 74-foot tree crashed to the ground. Instead, the area surrounding the tree was cleared and filled in with dirt. Then, two cranes plucked the 7,500-pound tree as if it were a candle being gently pulled from a birthday cake.

A contingent from the Kenaitze Indian Tribe participated in the felling ceremony, including Tribal member and CIRI shareholder Jon Ross, who performed a blessing that involved smudging the tree with sage and asking the tree's permission.

"It is an honor to have this tree from our area go to our nation's capital and be on display for the whole world and for our whole nation," Ross said at the event.

From Seward, the tree was loaded onto a truck and brought to Anchorage where its next stop was on a cargo ship heading south for Seattle. It is believed

A PIECE OF ALASKA, CONTINUED ON PAGE 03



> CIRI's oldest original shareholder, Charles Toloff.

#### Charles Peter Toloff

You see a lot over the course of 94 years. Children become adults, cities grow and sprawl. But as CIRI's oldest original shareholder can tell you, some things stay the same, too.

Work has been one constant in the life of CIRI and Salamatof shareholder Charles Toloff. He started working at the age of 15, helping to fell trees and clear rights of way for new roads in the burgeoning city of Anchorage.

"Anchorage was a small town then, only around 5,000 people," says Toloff.

Born at Fort Gibbon, near Tanana, where his father was posted in the army, Tolott grew up in Anchorage, the oldest of nine children. He did what he could to help put food on the table. "We didn't have much. We were some of the poorest people in town," he says. "We fed the kids off of whatever we could raise in our own yard, and then we'd go down to the river and catch all the fish we would need for the winter, hunt game all year. We lived off the country more or less. I look back, that was good—better than life is nowadays, I think."

He worked on the railroad as a young man, even herded dairy cattle for a local farmer. At 21, he ventured out of state for the first time and worked on tugboats in San Francisco. "Just a way to make a living, trying things out here and there to see what I wanted to do," he says.

SPOTLIGHT, CONTINUED ON PAGE 04

#### A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sophie Minich, CIRI president and chief executive officer

t's been an exciting year for CIRI—a year in which the company has seen a lot of change and growth. Last year at this time, I took the opportunity to reflect upon the business transactions and growth CIRI had achieved in 2014, another big year for the company. CIRI's business ventures are important because they generate the revenue that enables CIRI to distribute dividends to our shareholders.

But CIRI also has another important role: to be a responsible member of the community. To that end, the company originally created several affiliated nonprofits that offer important services to CIRI shareholders and descendants and other Alaska Native and American Indian people.

The company, and its employees, also contribute to the health and welfare of our community by supporting a variety of non-affiliated nonprofit organizations. In last month's newsletter, you may have read about CIRI's participation in United Way's Workplace Campaign. This is an annual event through which CIRI employees raise funds for United Way, which in turn supports a large number of community-oriented organizations and programs that deliver health, education, anti-homelessness and other social services to those in need. This year, participation from CIRI employees increased by 40 percent, with more than \$68,000 pledged—an amount that CIRI will match at 50 cents on the dollar.

But CIRI giving doesn't come around just once a year. The company and its employees engage in a number of opportunities to give their time and money to great causes.

For example, you may remember that CIRI employees recently gathered 3,580 pounds of food for donation to the Food Bank of Alaska, and that this year's CIRI Golf Tournament raised over \$110,000 for local youth and educational organizations.

In November, I had the privilege of once again contributing to Covenant House Alaska's (CHA) Sleep Out event, while CIRI Senior Vice President of Land and Energy Development Ethan Schutt, who has served on the CHA Board of Directors since 2002, participated in the Sleep Out. Each year, participants sleep outside to raise awareness and funds for homeless youth. These funds are put to work immediately, maintaining a safe refuge for homeless kids in Anchorage and in communities across the country. This is a cause close to my heart, given CHA's positive impact upon homeless and at-risk youth, and the fact that some of our own CIRI shareholders or descendants have benefited from the services of this organization. It is an honor to continue to support the important work of CHA.

CIRI staff serve without compensation on a large number of non-affiliated nonprofit boards, donating countless hours of personal time annually. To encourage employees to give back to the community, CIRI implemented a volunteer policy that offers two hours of paid time off per month for employees to volunteer. Employees may work with any nonprofit organization of their choice during these volunteer hours.

In addition, CIRI continues to organize volunteers to serve lunch each month at Bean's Café, a facility in Anchorage that serves hot meals to those who are hungry. Bean's Café's services are particularly important during the cold winter months, and it is gratifying for CIRI employees to help those in need.

CIRI employees also volunteer at Muldoon Elementary School. CIRI partnered with the school in 2006, and since that time employees have regularly visited the school to help students with their homework. And CIRI employees continue to volunteer for the Children's Lunchbox, a Bean's Café program that supplies healthy snacks and meals for kids who would not otherwise have food after school or over the weekend.



Giving back to the community is important enough to the CIRI family that when employees revised the company's corporate values, they included the idea of volunteerism and charitable giving under the Respect value: CIRI and its employees can demonstrate respect by treating people with dignity, showing empathy and acting as a champion for others.

This holiday season is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with our families and reflect upon what we have. But as you celebrate the passing of another year and the beginning of a new one, I hope you'll also consider sharing with others, whether it's by donating money or items to a charity close to your heart or giving your time to a worthy cause.

Happy holidays!

Sophie Minich

#### **CIRI ALASKA TOURISM HIRING FOR 2016 SEASON**

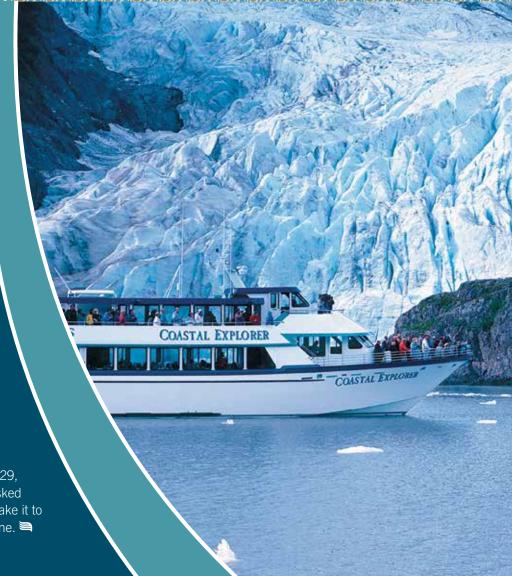
"It's not like picking up a job at the pizza place down the street in a big city," Lauren Fidati says of landing a job with CIRI Alaska Tourism Corporation (CATC).

Fidati is the assistant food and beverage manager for the Foraker Restaurant and Base Camp Bistro at CATC's Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge. When she conducts interviews for potential restaurant staff, she lets them know that working in a small, out-of-the-way Alaskan town isn't for everyone. "It's important to have the right expectations," she says. "But it's also a great way to network and make connections. Getting to know people in the industry is a lot of fun, and continuing to have the opportunity to be promoted through the company has been great."

CATC is now accepting applications for its 2016 tourism season. The company has a variety of seasonal job openings at its lodge and restaurant operations in Talkeetna, Seward and Fox Island, as well as in the Anchorage office and aboard Kenai Fjords Tours' sightseeing vessels.

"Working for CATC has allowed me to explore new adventures and areas around the country," Fidati says. "And the opportunities that go with that are really nice."

CATC will host a booth at the upcoming CIRI Job and Resource Fair, Friday, Jan. 29, 2016. The event is open to CIRI shareholders and descendants (attendees are asked to bring their CIRI shareholder or descendant identification cards). If you can't make it to the job fair, visit www.ciritourism.com to view current job openings and apply online.







> Top: Alaska's first Capitol Christmas tree traveled more than 4,000 miles before arriving in Washington, D.C., where it will remain on display until Jan. 1, 2016. Left: The 74-foot tall Sitka spruce traveled by truck and boat to get to Capitol Hill. Below: The tree adorns the lawn outside the Capitol Building and is decorated with 4,000 ornaments designed by Alaskan artists. Courtesy of the White House.

#### A PIECE OF ALASKA, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 01

to be the first Capitol Christmas Tree to spend time on a boat. From Seattle, it toured through Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota and a collection of other states as it trucked across the upper Midwest. It arrived at its final stop, on Capitol Hill, Nov. 20.

#### O, Christmas Tree

The tradition of erecting an official Capitol Christmas Tree began in 1964. By 1970, the U.S. Forest Service got in on the act and began delivering trees from the national forests. It wasn't until 1986 that a tree was finally selected from the west. That year, it came from California.

But never had one come from Alaska. Never had one come from a non-contiguous U.S. state. Never had it traveled on a boat. This old spruce from Seward delivered a lot of "firsts."

"When you look at the tree that has traveled 4,000 miles to grace this capitol, grace this mall, maybe, just maybe, you can get a sense of the majesty, the grandeur and the awe that is Alaska," said Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski at the lighting ceremony. Murkowski worked hard to help make the first Alaskan Capitol Christmas Tree a reality.

A misty rain couldn't dampen the spirit on the West Lawn of the Capitol. "A symbol of Alaska—tall, proud and beautiful," Alaska Rep. Don Young said of the tree, while Alaska Senator Dan Sullivan said, "Like my state, this tree is a beauty! And it will help spread the Christmas spirit throughout the Capitol."

The tree is adorned with more than 4,000 ornaments. The ornaments' designs were inspired by ten Alaska

artists selected by the Alaska State Council on the Arts and Alaska Geographic.

The Capitol Christmas Tree will be lit from dusk until 11 p.m. each evening until Jan. 1, 2016.

To watch House Speaker Paul Ryan light the tree with Soldotna fifth grader Anna DeVolld, visit www.speaker. gov/press-release/heres-2015-capitol-christmas-tree.

#### Anna DeVolld's Capitol Christmas Tree **Lighting Contest Essay**

Soldotna fifth-grader Anna Devolld's winning essay answers the question: Why is it special to have a Christmas tree from Alaska?

"A Christmas tree from the Chugach National Forest is a special symbol of Alaska to the nation. The tree lights display the Aurora Borealis, shimmering across the heavens. Tinsel resembles the Alaskan glaciers that sparkle day and night. Ornaments represent the wild Alaskan creatures that dot the forests, sky and seas. A tall, colorful Christmas tree mirrors the towering Alaskan mountains. Evergreen needles symbolize the Alaskan's adventurous spirit that never fades. Strong spruce branches stand for Alaskans' freedom that survives despite troubles. Alaskan Christmas trees are special because they are a symbol of Alaskan pride."



### **COMING SOON:**

**Fourth Annual** Job and Resource Fair on Friday, Jan. 29

It's that time of year again: Time for CIRI's Fourth Annual Job and Resource Fair!

The job fair will be held Friday, Jan. 29, 2016, on the First Floor of the Fireweed Business Center, located at 725 E. Fireweed Lane, and is open to CIRI shareholders and descendants (attendees are asked to bring their CIRI shareholder or descendant identification cards).

The event will focus on employment opportunities with CIRI, its subsidiaries and affiliated nonprofits, along with other Alaska Native corporations and private employers in the Cook Inlet region. There will also be booths featuring other CIRI opportunities and programs, like the Summer Internship Program. As usual, CIRI Alaska Tourism Corporation will attend the job fair seeking shareholders and descendants interested in seasonal work for the 2016 tourism season. Other participating employers and resources include: Alaska Job Corps; Alaska Native Heritage Center; CIRI Services Corp.; The CIRI Foundation; Cook Inlet Housing Authority; Cook Inlet Tribal Council; Davis Constructors & Engineers, Inc.; First National Bank; GCI; and Southcentral Foundation.

Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) staff will be onhand at the job fair to offer resume advice, answer questions and assist attendees with updating and printing out their resumes.

The professional clothing corner will be available again, featuring a selection of new and gently used professional clothes for men and women, donated by CIRI employees. Attendees can take advantage of this amenity to be sure they're dressed for success.

CIRI strives to continuously enhance the Job Fair's relevance to attendees. In an effort to do so, we have created an online survey to find out if there are other types of employment opportunities and industries shareholders and descendants would like to see at the 2016 Fair. To complete the survey, please visit: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ shareholderjobfair.

Additional information, as well as a current list of vendors and other requirements, can be found at www.ciri.com/jobfair . Please contact CIRI's Human Resources department at hrreplies@ciri.com or (907) 274-8638 with questions. ≒



#### SPOTLIGHT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 01

Tugboats weren't for him, so he returned to Anchorage where he worked for the teamsters and eventually met his wife, June. They and their three children were living in a house Toloff was building himself when the 1964 Good Friday earthquake struck.

"We didn't see our oldest daughter, Linda, for a couple of days after the earthquake," Toloff recalls. Linda had gone to the movies that day; Toloff's other daughter was at a friend's, and his son was at home, watching the television set roll back and forth on its casters as the ground shook. Meanwhile, Toloff and his wife dodged falling concrete blocks at a paint store. After the quake, they wound their way around detours to get home again. "The roads were pretty tore up. We had a hard time getting home. Linda finally showed up after a bunch of phone calls, once the phones got fixed up. She couldn't get home, so she'd gone to a friend's."

In 1970, Toloff followed several of his siblings south, to Kenai. Once again, he encountered a do-what-you-can situation. "There wasn't a lot going on down here then, except for work in the oilfield," says Toloff, who became a longshoreman, loading supplies onto boats headed for the oil platforms.

His willingness to do whatever he had to in order to make ends meet reflects his father's determination to make it in a new world. Toloff's father immigrated when his parents scraped together just enough money to send one of their children to the U.S. after the 1917 Russian revolution. The young man eked out a living on the West Coast doing whatever he needed to before joining the U.S. Army at age 18 and coming to Alaska. Toloff's mother was an Athabascan from the Yukon River area.

Today, Toloff lives in Nikiski. At 94, he's spry, eager to get out and be active. But his wife's poor health keeps him at home.

"We have an awful time finding any help down here," he says. Once a week, a young woman comes to the couple's home to sit with June while Toloff runs errands. "Otherwise, I'm stuck at the house."

In other words, still doing what he has to. And a little of what he wants to, from time to time. "I still like to get out and fish and hunt if I can get away," he says. "I'm raring to go. Ninety-four is pretty old, but I still do stuff."

## INTOUCH



#### **GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENT**

CIRI shareholder Melanie Munson, recipient of two scholarships from The CIRI Foundation and Cook Inlet Tribal Council, graduated from Alaska Career College on October 27 with an Associate degree in Applied Science in Business Administration and Accounting Technology. She achieved an overall GPA of 3.57 and was named to the President's Honor Roll. Melanie is the daughter of original CIRI shareholders David Munson of Birchwood, Alaska, and Helen Stephan of Montana Creek, Alaska. Melanie is the first in her family to earn a college degree, and her family is very proud. Congratulations, Melanie!

#### 2016 SHAREHOLDER DISTRIBUTIONS

#### **Dividend Payments**

CIRI's dividend policy states that the total CIRI dividend payment to shareholders in any given year is equal to 3.5 percent of total shareholders' equity, calculated as of Dec. 31 of the prior year. The CIRI Board has approved the distribution dates shown in the table below for 2016. Dividend amounts will be calculated shortly before the date of record for the 2016 first quarter dividend distribution, which generally falls within the last two weeks of March.

As the first step in the process, the company's 2015 accounting books must be "closed" (i.e., all 2015 expenses and income must be received and either paid or properly accounted for). Next, the Finance and Accounting Department prepares CIRI's 2015 financial statements, after which an independent accounting retained by CIRI reviews its financial statements and confirms their accuracy. This process will determine CIRI's total shareholder equity upon which the 2016 dividends will be based.

When the Board declares a dividend, shareholders are notified via the newsletter, CIRI's website and the dividend hotline, which can be accessed by dialing (907) 263-5100 in Anchorage or toll-free outside of Anchorage by dialing (800) 764-2435 (CHEK).

Once calculated, a table containing the dates and amounts for each type of payment CIRI expects to issue to shareholders in 2016 will be posted on CIRI's website. Information on CIRI's dividend policy may also be found online at www.ciri.com.

#### Elders' Payments

CIRI's irrevocable Elders' Settlement Trust was established in 2003 with \$16 million. The trustees of the CIRI Elders' Settlement Trust have approved the 2016 distribution schedule for Elders' payments. As reflected in the table below, the payments will once again occur in the same months as CIRI's quarterly distributions in order to reduce the number of months that some Elders lose their social security income payments because their monthly income exceeds limitations set by the Social Security Administration.

The trust mandates quarterly payments of \$450 per eligible Elder for as long as the trust has assets available to make the distributions. Original shareholders who are 65 years of age or older and who own at least one share of CIRI stock as of these dates are eligible to receive payments. CIRI shareholders who are turning 65 and want to receive the payments do not need to do anything other than to keep a current mailing address with CIRI's Shareholder Relations department.

#### 2016 Distribution Dates and Deadline

Payment type	Direct deposit sign-up deadline – 3 p.m.	Address change and cancel direct deposit deadline – 3 p.m.	Distribution date
First Quarter Elders' Settlement Trust	Feb. 29	March 3	March 11
First Quarter Dividend	March 14	March 22	March 31
Resource Revenue, or 7(j), Payment	March 14	March 22	April 1
Second Quarter Elders' Settlement Trust	May 31	May 31	June 10
Second Quarter Dividend	June 13	June 22	June 30
Third Quarter Elders' Settlement Trust	Aug. 29	Sept. 1	Sept. 9
Third Quarter Dividend	Sept. 12	Sept. 22	Sept. 30
Fourth Quarter Elders' Settlement Trust	Nov. 21	Nov. 30	Dec. 8
Fourth Quarter Dividend	Nov. 21	Nov. 30	Dec. 9

## MISSINGSHAREHOLDERS

The following CIRI shareholders do not have a current mailing address on record. When CIRI mail is returned as undeliverable, the distributions are held and the shareholder does not qualify to participate in any prize drawings until the address is updated. Shareholders can fill out the change of address form at CIRI's offices, download it from the CIRI website or send a signed and dated letter that includes the new address, telephone number, birth date and the last four digits of their social security number.

#### (As of 12/17/2015)

Edgar Ailak David Allowan Bennett Elliott Alto Ecko Anderson Cherise Anne Armstrong Carla M. Arshen Ernest Dale Baker Jr. Steven Lawrence Bartels Michael Wallace Batt Timothy Vern Bell Jesse Cameron Boger Joel Allen-Christiansen Boucher Kenneth Lawrence Boyle Chase Lynn Brewer Richard Kenneth Bright Steven Patrick Bright James Patrick Brown Seth Thomas Bryant Diana Marie Call Joseph Allan Canfield Autumn Richardson Card Rosalind Clara Carteeti Florence Vera Caskev Lisa Gale Cass Benjamin Conan-James Charles Stormi Joann Chudocken Cynthia Lorene Conley Salina Lynn Cooper Louise Ann Copeland Tamra Lee Cox Dominik Kai Dalton Tammie Outwater Day Juan Eugene Delacruz Jr. Lucy Demantle

Christy Lynn Downs Danny Dreamkowski Shirley Bessie Ekstrom John Joseph Evan Jr. Etta Jean Faris Maribeth Forrest Audriana Bonnie Foss Norma Jean Francis **David Lee Frost** Lee David Frost John Harvey Fullenwider III William Joseph Fuller Susan Helene Gonzalez Rita Marie Green Vera Ann Gregory Mary Ellan Guerrero Donna Rae Hamlin Sheila Lynn Helline Deena Lynn Hendrickson Randy Mitchel Hinchcliffe Annie Hochmuth Christopher Arthur-Warren Hook James Vincent Hughes Laverne Darlene Isaac Christophor Allan Ivanoff Nicole Irene Jackson **Christopher Marion-Stone** Jacobsson Edward Charles Ayak Johnson Alyssa J. Kashevaroff Agapia Susie Kozeroff Tony Calvin Kruger Onika Analeigh Kuhn

Jimmie Paul Laird Jr.

Michael Gene Larsen Anthony Quentin Lieb Michael Lee Lonewolf Brian Kurt Long William Dean Luttrell Jr. Maidie Beth Maillelle **David Bryant Mainord Anthony James Malburg** Tawni Janeen Martin Melissa Emily McCord Patricia Lee McGee **Barry Elton McIntosh** Jack Joseph Milligan Shaun Michael Moore Alma Mullins Frank Spoon Nanooruk Diane Lea Nappier Charles Benjamin Barnes Oborn Anisha Lee Oksoktaruk-Lumiansky Tony Donald Oktollik Denice Ann Oliva Shanda Michelle O'Neill Bryan Lee Outwater Traci Christine Owens-Felton Melonie Leone Perrenoud Dawn Poggas Quick Kenneth David Quijance Jerid Francis Rednall Joseph Fondahn Rednall Sidra Danielle Rednall Daniel David Reel Carolyn O Reifsnyder Karina Lynne Reynolds

Shaylene Katy Reynolds Kenneth Warren Rice III Danielle Lee Ritter Carolyn Rae Sarren Cheryl Ann Schwarz Roberta Marie Senecal Nicole Rebecca Sherman Valorie Jean Shore-Jones Brittany Vera Ann Showalter Don Foster Simmonds Gloria O Simpson Jeremy Jay Singley Christopher Edward Strachan Veronica Ann Takeuchi **Peggy Sue Taylor** Jasmine Elizabeth-Lois Temple Rebekah Anne Theriot Renae Alice Thompson Rosemary Lee Tootkaylok Myrna Rose Torgramsen Sr Gerald Turner Jr. Chrystal Rose-Marion Vansky Jessie Christopher-Sukena Voyles Martin Wassili **Anthony Wayne Waterbury** Celestia O. Whitehead **Darrel Walter Whitley** Steven John Whitley Jarred J. Wilson Peggy Sue Wilson Rodney Allen Wionowsky Jackie Lee Yates









# The art of the sale

#### CRAFT BAZAAR SHOWCASES ALASKA NATIVE HANDIWORK

For the second year in a row, Alaska Native artists and crafters sold their handmade wares at CIRI's Annual Holiday Craft Bazaar, held on Friday, Dec. 4. And, for the second year, the event was a smashing success.

"I learned a lot from last year's bazaar, and things went very smoothly this year," said CIRI shareholder and employee Carolyn Bickley, who originally conceived the idea for the bazaar and organized the event again this year. "The new location at the Fireweed Business Center really created a nice flow from table to table."

Thirty-six participants hosted tables this year, selling everything from beautiful ivory carvings and masks to kuspuks and ornaments, just in time for the holidays. Tables were reserved on a first-come, first-served basis, with preference given to CIRI shareholders and descendants. The event was open to the public.

Artists showcased a wide variety of offerings. Leon Misak Kinneeveauk of Anchorage, a self-described "struggling artist," sold prints of stippled ink drawings depicting Inupiaq hunters and polar bears. "It's hard to part with the original drawings because I spend so much time on each one," said Kinneeveauk, who can work on a drawing for up to a month and a half. "I see drawing as a kind of meditation."

The bazaar allowed Kinneeveauk to host his first vendor table since launching his own business as a way to get back on his feet after several years in prison. He used services from Cook Inlet Tribal Council to help reintegrate into society.

At the next table, Kenaitze artist and CIRI descendant Rob Johnson's "up-cycled junkyard" designs offered something a little different: metal fish and other sea creatures made from junked cars. "I've always seen treasure in trash," Johnson explained. It's hard to believe art can come from junk, but he finds inspiration in his materials. "I keep the original color of the source. That fish there—the car it came from was yellow, so the fish is yellow."

In addition to the art and crafts for sale, Bickley also organized a silent auction of donated items to benefit the Alaska Native Heritage Center (ANHC). The auction raised over \$4,300—100 percent of which will fund ANHC's education and arts programming.

"I love doing crafts myself, and I love helping shareholders, too," Bickley says of her enthusiasm for the annual event.





Alaska Native artists and crafters sold everything from ivory carvings and masks, to kuspuks and ornaments, to fish art made from junked cars.

#### WITH SINCERE APPRECIATION

Thank you to the following donors and volunteers for their support:

Alaska Aces Alaska Billiard Palace Alaska Native Heritage Center Alaska Railroad Allure Day Spa Bear Tooth Theatrepub & Grill Bristol Bay Native Corporation Browman Development Co. CIRI Alaska Tourism Corporation Cook Inlet Tribal Council Cruz Construction, Inc. Cruz Energy Services LLC Cruz Marine LLC Davis Constructors and Engineers Inc. Pfeffer Development The Quilt Tree Snow City Café Bryon Amos Jenny Arnold

Rachel Batres Carolyn Bickley Roxanne Burdette Michael Clark Cynthia Darosett Barbara Donatelli Tanisha Gleason Sheila Hague Charlene Juliussen Marilyn Kuzuguk Charles and Lance Lane Karen Lane Shampagne Magee Lisa McKinney Neva Metinzger betsy Peratrovich Angie Richards Bonnie Rud Tammy Schuldt Lester Stephan Lucy Untiet

#### SHAREHOLDER 101: THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR RSVP



Whether you're fluent in French or only know enough to say "bonjour," you're likely familiar with the phrase *répondez*, *s'il vous plait*—or, more commonly, "RSVP." If you read this newsletter, you've seen requests for your RSVP for events like CIRI's Information Meetings or the CIRI and The CIRI Foundation Friendship Potlatches.

Originally derived from the French phrase meaning "reply if you please," RSVP is a request for a response to an invitation. When CIRI's Shareholder Relations department asks individuals to RSVP for an event, it's because knowing how many people to plan for is crucial to maintaining costs and making sure there's enough food for everyone. The opposite is also true: When a shareholder or

SHAREHOLDER 101, CONTINUED ON PAGE 08

#### **2016 BOARD ELECTION**

#### Seeking applicants for Board slate

The CIRI Nominating Committee seeks CIRI shareholders interested in nomination to the 2016 CIRI Board of Directors' candidate slate. To be considered, all Board slate applicants, including incumbents, must complete and return a candidate nominee application to CIRI by 3 p.m. Alaska Standard Time on Monday, Jan. 18, 2016. Additional information can be found online at www.ciri.com/election or by contacting CIRI's Shareholder Relations department.

The Nominating Committee will review all timely applications, conduct selected interviews and recommend candidates to CIRI's Board of Directors. Based on the Nominating Committee's recommendations and the Board's subsequent evaluation, the CIRI Board will name five candidates to the Board-recommended slate.

#### Board write-in candidates

As in the past, shareholders interested in running for the CIRI Board of Directors as a write-in candidate, including those individuals not selected for the Board-recommended slate, will have an opportunity to submit information for inclusion in CIRI's election materials.

Write-in candidate information packets will be available from CIRI Shareholder Relations and posted on CIRI's website no later than Friday, Jan. 29. Completed write-in candidate information packets must be received by CIRI by 3 p.m. Alaska Standard Time on Thursday, Feb. 18, 2016.

In accordance with CIRI's By-Laws and election policies and procedures, the names, photographs and accurate and appropriate personal statements of all eligible write-in candidates will appear in CIRI's

election materials. There is no charge to a write-in candidate to have his or her accurate and appropriate information included. This process enables any eligible CIRI shareholder to run for election to the CIRI Board of Directors with minimal effort and expense and reduces the number of mailings and materials shareholders receive.

#### Director responsibilities and experience

CIRI Directors are responsible for initiating and developing the policies that further the goals of the company, while addressing the economic, social and cultural needs of the shareholders. All applicants should be well-rounded and possess a strong understanding of business. In selecting a Board-recommended slate, the CIRI Board looks for demonstrated decision-making, leadership and communication skills, as well as honesty and integrity. Knowledge of business operations, involvement with Alaska Native issues and a college degree or equivalent business experience are also desired.

#### **Director Eligibility**

Pursuant to CIRI's by-laws, no person shall be qualified to serve as a CIRI Director who:

- (1) is not at least 18 years of age;
- (2) is not a voting CIRI shareholder;
- (3) has been convicted, as determined by a court of competent jurisdiction, of a felony within five years before election;
- (4) has been found, as determined by a court of competent jurisdiction, to have engaged in fraud or illegal business practices; and
- (5) has been found, as determined by a court of competent jurisdiction, to have breached a confidentiality agreement with the corporation.

## INMEMORY



Courtesy of Anita Johnson

#### Ellen Marie Clark, 77

Ellen Marie Clark passed away
Nov. 4 at home in Wasilla, Alaska.
Ms. Clark was born Jan. 25,
1938, in Rampart, Alaska, and
raised in Chicken, Alaska, by
Anne Purdy, author of the book
Tisha. Ms. Clark enjoyed canning,
baking, smoking fish and making
jelly. She is survived by her
husband, Ken Clark; children, Terri

Williams, Ross Halsted, Mike Sofoulis, Bryan Johnson and Anita Johnson; stepchild, Jeff Clark; sister, Lynn Purdy; grandchildren, Nicole Corona, Roxanna Halsted, Roselinda Halsted, Michelle Johnson and Brooke Johnson; and many great-grandchildren.

#### Olga Roseanne English-Goodman, 60

Olga Roseanne English-Goodman passed away on Oct. 8 at home in Boardman, Ore. Ms. English-Goodman was born April 11, 1955, in Anchorage. She is survived by her husband, Otto J. Goodman.

#### **Desiree Marie Lamont, 23**

Desiree Marie Lamont passed away March 27 in Anchorage. Ms. Lamont was born Nov. 15, 1991, in Anchorage. She is survived by her children, Trudy, Tristan and Gregory; brother, William Jack Lamont III; and father, William Lamont Jr.

#### William B. Nicoli, 83

William B. Nicoli passed away Oct. 18 at Mat-Su Regional Medical Center in Palmer, Alaska. Mr. Nicoli was born March 8, 1932, in Talkeetna, Alaska. He is survived by his sister, Donna Schweitzer; niece, Bonnie Nicoli; and great-niece Geraldine Nicoli.



Courtoey of Madia Ockolkof

Paul James Oskolkoff, 73

Paul James Oskolkoff passed away Nov. 9 at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. Mr Oskolkoff was born Aug. 6, 1942, in Ninilchik, Alaska. He is survived by Auntie Mae; children, Nadia Oskolkoff, James Canoose, Anthony Oskolkoff, Aaron Oskolkoff; sisters,

granddaughters, Shelbi, Kaslyn, Katerina, Mackenzi, Alexandra, Savannah, Anastasia and Natasha Oskolkoff; and many-many extended Ninilchik family members.



Courtesy of Doris Whitle

Tina Marie Shelby, 59

Tina Marie Shelby passed away Sept. 11 at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. Ms. Shelby was born May 8, 1956, at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage. She loved to cook, sew, can fish and garden, and was a talented singer who led a local band, First Choice. Ms. Shelby put her

singing career on hold to raise seven children, three of whom were triplets, but she dedicated herself to sharing her love of music with her children. She is the granddaughter of the late Rika Mann (Murphy) and daughter of the late George Hunter, both of whom were very influential in ANCSA. She is survived by her children, Jamie Robar (Cye R.), Brittney Johnson, Nicole Manson, Hunter Hogan, and triplet sons, Trakkor, Tanner and Harley Hogan; seven grandchildren, JayDen, Jordynn, Shelby, Cyanne, Rayah, LaVeeya and Delayni; mother, Judith Maness; sisters, Rika Blumhorst and Doris Hunter-Whitley; brothers, George and Neil Hunter (Chrissy H.); and the love of her life, Gregory Stevens.

#### William "Willy" Sumner, 65

General Hospital in Tacoma, Wash. Mr. Sumner was born Nov. 10, 1949, in Ketchikan, Alaska. He is survived by his sister, Donna May Sumner Roberts.



Courtesy of Sherri Teresin

Mary E. Teresin, 77 Mary E. Teresin passed a

Nov. 3 at St. Bernadines Hospital in San Bernardino, Calif.
Ms. Teresin was born Oct.
18, 1938, in New York. She is survived by her children, Kelli Nodurfth, Charlotte Wright, Leilani Valdepena, Marty Teresin and Mark Teresin.

#### Paul Gilbert Wilson Jr., 70

Paul Gilbert Wilson Jr. passed away Oct. 30 at home in Kenai, Alaska. Mr. Wilson was born June 20, 1945, in Kenai, Alaska. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Diane Wilson; children, Christopher Wilson, Heather Connick and Rachael Wilson; brother, Robert Wilson; and sisters, Julia Wilson, Katherine Horning and Dorothy Lecceardone.

#### **Condolences**

James J. Adams, 50 Veronica Ellanna, 55 Denzel Louis King, 58 Elizabeth Madrona Segura, 43 Isaac Paul Shadura, 96



#### **KBC'S 2016 ALASKA NATIVE ART AUCTION**

Donations sought to support Native programming

Koahnic Broadcast Corporation's Alaska Native Art Auction will be held Feb. 18, 2016, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center. This annual fundraising event and celebration of Alaska Native culture features artwork by Alaska Native artists from throughout the state. The proceeds from the auction support the Native programming heard on KNBA 90.3 FM, including National Native News, Native American Calling and Earthsongs.

Koahnic is accepting donations of Alaska Native artwork for auction items. For more information about donating artwork or reserving seats at the auction, contact Cindy Hector at (907) 793-3528. ■

"Dad's Stacked Salmon" watercolor print by CIRI descendant Danielle Larsen, Courtesy of Koahnic Broadcast Corporation.



#### **REMINDER TO APPLY BY JAN. 8, 2016**

Take the Next Generation to Work Day, Jan. 18

Ever wondered how long it takes to put the Raven's Circle Newsletter together? Or maybe you're curious about why CIRI invests in renewable energy. Hey, what exactly does CIRI's IT department do, anyway?

Find the answers to these questions and more by participating in Take the Next Generation to Work Day!

For the second year, CIRI invites young shareholders and descendants to spend a day at CIRI on Monday, Jan. 18, 2015 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day, an Anchorage School District holiday). This year, participants will be able to select a specific CIRI department, based on their interests, where they'll get an up-close look at the duties of that department.

This year's participants will also lunch with former CIRI interns to learn more about the Summer Internship Program and will hear from a speaker from the Alaska Native Heritage Center about Alaska's diverse Native cultures.

Participants must have parental or legal guardian permission, be between 10 years old through high school age and be a CIRI shareholder or confirmed descendant. The parent or guardian must arrange for the minor's transportation to CIRI's corporate office in Anchorage.

Interested young people must complete an application. Applications are available on the CIRI website at www.ciri.com/nextgen and from CIRI's Shareholder Relations department. Completed forms must be received by Human Resources no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 8, 2016. Email hrreplies@ciri.com or call 907-263-5562 with questions about the program or application process.

This is a great opportunity for young people to learn about CIRI and explore career possibilities. Please encourage the kids in your life to apply. And be sure to check out www.ciri.com/shareholders/descendants/youth-programs to read about CIRI's other youth opportunities.

#### **CIRI COMPLETES SALE OF PTP**

CIRI has sold its property management company, Pacific Tower Properties Inc. (PTP), to the Alaska real estate development company Pfeffer Development, LLC, owned by Mark Pfeffer.

Until recently, PTP was a wholly owned subsidiary of CIRI Land Development Company and provided commercial real estate management and brokerage services. PTP will continue to provide brokerage services and management of more than 4.5 million square feet of commercial and institutional real estate at more than 55 sites statewide. Although PTP will no longer be a member of the CIRI family of businesses, the management company will remain CIRI's property manager.

Pfeffer Development is a well-known development group in the Anchorage community that has expanded its business line into property management through the acquisition of PTP. Shea Niebur has been named president and brings extensive experience in real estate, finance and client relations to PTP.

PTP's long-standing relationships in the community, its dedicated employees and its impressive brand make it a great company that CIRI is proud to have owned. CIRI looks forward to watching PTP continue its growth.

The sale of PTP is characteristic of CIRI's investment philosophy: CIRI grows its investments, harvests the value that it helped to create, then redeploys the proceeds in new opportunities that deliver long-term growth and value for our shareholders.



#### TIKAHTNU FORUM HELD

The Tikahtnu Forum gathered for its quarterly meeting on Monday, Nov. 30, at CIRI's Fireweed Business Center. Participants discussed the problem of alcohol and drug use in Alaska, particularly among young people, and brainstormed ideas to address the problem. A panel on substance abuse treatment and prevention strategies led the discussion, after which Forum participants moved to develop a committee to help unite individuals to tackle alcohol and substance abuse issues. The panel discussion was followed by updates on the 2015 Tribal Nations Conference and a discussion of the Forum's goals and priorities for 2016.

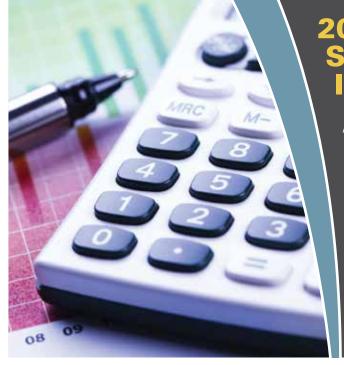
descendant RSVPs to an event, then decides not to come, CIRI's Logistics and Events department is basing its food order on an inaccurate number of attendees—which translates to too much money being spent on too much food.

A great example is the CIRI Shareholder Open House at the Fireweed Business Center that was held in August this year. Nearly 750 shareholders and descendants sent in RSVPs for that event, which was thrilling. But in the end, fewer than 300 actually attended. And while CIRI employees enjoyed snacking on leftovers, as a company whose goal it is to generate dividends for our shareholders, we'd much rather spend every dollar wisely.

And it's not just about keeping food costs low.

"We try to be good stewards of CIRI's resources, and part of that is making sure we don't rent a space that's too large," says Shareholder Relations Senior Director betsy Peratrovich. "When individuals RSVP in a timely manner, it allows us to arrange for an appropriate number of daycare providers, if that service is available, and for an American Sign Language interpreter, if requested. On top of that, RSVPs ensure an appropriate number of staff members are scheduled to work an event, including CIRI staff, janitorial staff, catering staff—all of which costs money."

How can you help? If you plan to attend an event, please RSVP by the published deadline. (You may also consider adding a reminder about the event to your personal calendar.) Then, if your plans change and you won't be attending after all, simply call (907) 263-5191 or (800) 764-2474 and select option 5 to update your attendance. Your RSVP helps CIRI staff ensure that shareholders and descendants are comfortable and enjoy each and every CIRI event.



## 2015 CIRI SHAREHOLDERTAX **INFORMATION**

After Dec. 31, CIRI's Accounting and Finance Department will be able to determine the proper treatment of the various types of distributions CIRI made to shareholders in 2015 with respect to IRS 1099 Form reporting requirements. As soon as the proper treatment is determined, the dividend hotline and CIRI website will be updated. An article about how CIRI distributions will be reported to the IRS will also appear in a future issue of Raven's Circle. CIRI's IRS Forms 1099 will be mailed to shareholders no later than Feb. 1, 2016, as required by law.



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**Shareholder Participation Committees** www.ciri.com/spc

Submit your stories & ideas to info@ciri.com

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## CIRI BOARD OF **DIRECTORS**

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### **NEW EPISODE OF CIRIosity NOW AVAILABLE**

Climate change isn't a theoretical problem that affects strangers in locales far from the CIRI region. In fact, Alaska is situated on the front line of climate change, where villages and people experience the impact of a swiftly warming planet on a daily basis.

Download the newest episode of CIRIosity, the CIRI podcast, to learn how CIRI, its shareholders and its nonprofits are addressing climate change and reducing their carbon footprint. The latest episode of CIRlosity is available at http://www.ciri. com/ciriosity. Or you can subscribe in iTunes, and new episodes will download automatically to your smart phone or device.

http://www.ciri.com/ciriosity



