



Fred White

Tlingit Language and Cultural Specialist

My name is Fred White. *Daalatjáa* is my Tlingit name. I am a member of the Shangukeidí Clan, Xéitl Hít (Eagle/Thunderbird Clan of the Thunderbird House) of the Gunaaxhoo Kwaan, Dry Bay Alsek River area near Yakutat, Alaska. I am the Grandchild of the Luknaxh.adí (Raven/Coho Salmon Clan).

I am the youngest fluent speaker of our Tlingit language. I was raised by my grandparents who spoke only Tlingit. Today my mentors are our precious Tlingit elders that I have worked with for the past 30 years with their recordings of clan history and clan migrations. Today I transcribe and translate their audio recordings of oral narratives that tell of traditional knowledge and clan's histories and legends that span well into the last great flood of the world with Raven stories, as he creates our world for us humans to live.

I am a Tlingit Language and Cultural Specialist at Goldbelt Heritage Foundation. My primary responsibility is to support the development of Tlingit language curriculum to be delivered to students at all grade levels and the language learning communities. I teach in the Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School with my apprentice, Victoria Johnson, for grades 6-8 grade by using the "Grey Morning Method". I am responsible for audio recordings of the Tlingit language with fluent Tlingit elders to create units and distribute project materials to teachers throughout the region to teach and enhance the use of the Tlingit language. I also develop and teach Northwest Coast Indian Art.

My work experience includes:

Teaching Tlingit language to K-12 and community members in Yakutat and Juneau;
Transcribing, translating and publishing the Tlingit Language on a contractual basis for the past 20 years for several organizations (U.S. Forrest Service, The Smithsonian Institute, Sealaska Heritage Institute, Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Goldbelt Heritage Foundation and the National Park Service Glacier Bay (with Yakutat Ranger District the Yakutat "Juke Box Project") which includes the first Tlingit place-names map with audio; Cultural Interpreter for Yakutat Tlingit Tribe for 4 years aboard the cruise ships; Holland America, Royal Caribbean, and Seven Seas Mariner. My work included the life of the 5 Tlingit clans that inhabit the Northern Gulf Coast from Copper River south to Lituya Bay. I developed and facilitated a 45 minute Power Point Presentation that showed the last of the great ice age retreating which covered the area up to a thousand years ago which today leaves the Malaspina Glacier larger than the state of Rhode Island, that lies on the shores of the gulf of Yakutat Bay and home to the World famous salt water glacier they call the galloping glacier that feeds the Yakutat bay from two of North America's highest coastal mountain peaks, Mount Fairweather and Mount St Elias.