

# SAFV Voices

Sitkans Against Family Violence

June 2017



## Every Girl Is Number 1!

Girls on the Run (GOTR) just completed its 9th season at Keet Gooshi Heen with 24 girls enrolled in the program this year. The season culminated with a 5K Community Fun Run on May 13th where participants ran with their coaches, parents, siblings and friends. They were cheered on by lots of enthusiastic community members.

This after-school program for girls in 3rd-5th grade is a national program aimed at empowering girls and equipping them with tools “to be joyful, healthy, and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which integrates running.”

Congratulations to our brave, bold, and determined young champions for completing GOTR and achieving their 5K goal! We are so proud of you and hope to see you next year as we celebrate our 10th GOTR season in Sitka. SAFV also supported the implementation of this program in Kake.



At the end of the run all girls came together for a photo. They received a medal and a colorful lei as a memento of this year's theme: beach, sun, and palm trees.



“What are some words that describe your friend” is one of many questions girls in this program are encouraged to think and write about.

## SAFV News



### New Prevention Staff

SAFV would like to give a big welcome to our newest staff member, Becca Foster, who is the Boys Run I toowú klatseen Expansion Coordinator! She hails from Minneapolis, MN, and moved to Sitka on April 1st,

2017. She is very enthusiastic to be here in our lovely Sitka!

Becca has a lifelong interest in the empowerment of families, working with youth, and helping to cultivate safe communities. Outside of work, her passions include drinking tea, hiking, spending time on or in the water, planning her next adventure and staying active within the community. She is super excited to be coordinating the expansion of the Boys Run I toowú klatseen program and working towards its sustainability!

### Winter Fellow Says Farewell

SAFV would like to extend a huge thank you to our Winter Fellow, Will Conlon, for his year of service in our prevention department. Will split his time between SAFV and ANDVSA working on communications strategies and research. At SAFV, he served as a coach for Boys Run I toowú klatseen, provided support to the Sitka Youth Leadership Committee and the media intern, produced radio, TV, and newspaper content, and co-facilitated a process to help us develop an agency-wide communications strategy.



Thank you Will for your dedication and enthusiasm for our agency's mission. We wish you the best of luck as you hike the interior of Alaska, from

Valdez to Fairbanks, before heading off to Stanford Law School in the fall.

### Summer Intern

SAFV's new intern, Emma Thompson, is currently working towards a degree in Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies at Gustavus Adolphus College, a small school in Minnesota. She's excited



about spending the summer helping out where she can at SAFV as a woman's advocate and learning about what she can do with her degree post-college. She's really glad to be in Alaska, and is hoping to do some hiking around Sitka while here. Most importantly, she is enthusiastic about working for an organization as awesome as SAFV. She's passionate about helping people, is loving her internship so far, and can't wait to see what the rest of her summer at SAFV will bring.

### Shelter Update

SAFV currently has 14 residents: 12 women and 2 children. While we are not at capacity, every room is occupied including one of the living rooms. We have had requests for shelter nearly every week within the last two months.

### Special Grant for Summer Activities

SAFV thanks the Sitka Alaska Permanent Charitable Trust for the recent grant that will allow advocates to take past and current program participants on cultural and local recreational trips throughout the summer. All fees, food, and transportation costs are covered. Swim and bus passes are provided so that families without resources have safe options for spending time together after traumatic experiences.

**Prevention at Work—Wilderness Experience for Leaders**

**Glacier Bay Kayak Expedition**

Seven youth leaders from Sitka and Hoonah embarked on an epic adventure in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve recently.

While kayaking through islands and viewing wildlife and glaciers, these young leaders learned about the rich natural and cultural heritage of the region and discussed the importance of building a strong and connected community.

SAFV hopes these young leaders will return to their homes inspired to take action in conservation issues as well as human rights initiatives.

This year, the program was coordinated and implemented by the Sitka National Historical Park, Alaska Geographic, and SAFV.



Participants play a game at the orientation day in Sitka before heading to Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve.



The group getting ready in Bartlett Cove, Gustavus, before setting out for 4 days of kayaking in the Beardslee Islands Wilderness area of Glacier Bay.

## Prevention at Work—Fostering Youth Leadership



### Sitka Youth Leadership Committee

The Sitka Youth Leadership Committee (SYLC) graduated 11 youth leaders from the program this year.

SYLC works primarily on projects that address systemic issues around racism and sexism by promoting messages that support a respectful school and community climate. This year they developed a social media project modeled off of the beloved blog and Facebook page, “Humans of New York,” to highlight teen voices and experiences. This project is scheduled to launch in the fall of 2017.

They also learned how to be peer educators and co-facilitated a healthy relationships course in Mt. Edgumbe’s health class with SAFV’s School Program Coordinator.



And lastly, they coordinated a cross-school event, bringing together youth leaders and adults from MEHS and SHS to discuss ideas for building more connections across the schools.

Thank you for a job well done this year, SYLC members! See you in the fall. If you know a youth interested in joining SYLC, please fill out an application on our website at:

[www.sitkayouthleadership.com/join-sylc](http://www.sitkayouthleadership.com/join-sylc).



In Kake, girls and boys ran in a combined final 5K to celebrate the conclusion of Girls on the Run and Boys Run I toowú klatseen.



### Prevention Staff in Kake

From May 7th-14th, SAFV Employees, Becca and Lauren, were welcomed by the community of Kake!

Lauren gave presentations at the schools on safety and healthy relationships for all of the students, and Becca helped out with the Boys Run I toowú klatseen and Girls on the Run programs' 5K color run!

They greatly enjoyed their time and are looking forward to another visit soon!



I toowú klatseen

## Thank You Sitka - Gunalcheesh

### Honoring Women 2017

Sitkans and guests celebrated the 19th Honoring Women Dinner and Silent Auction on April 22 at Harri-gan Centennial Hall. SAFV thanks Betty DeCicco, KathyHopeErickson, Lisa Busch, and Valerie Edwards for allowing us to highlight their immense and long-lasting services to the community. SAFV also thanks Sitkans and visitors for attending, supporting the honorees, bidding, and contributing to a very successful fundraiser.



Left to right: Betty DeCicco, KathyHope Erickson, Lisa Busch, and Valerie Edwards were honored as Sitka's Women of the Year 2017.

### Dream (Cruise) Fundraiser

Four SAFV staff members followed an invitation of Alaska Dream Cruises and attended a dinner cruise on the M/V Chichagof Dream recently.



They enjoyed gourmet food including an outstanding dessert buffet, had meaningful conversations with owner Dave Allen, guests, and crew members, and witnessed an unbelievably successful fundraiser, matched by the host. SAFV extends a huge thank you to Dave Allen and family.



SAFV staff members, left to right, Deanna Moore, Tina Bachmeier, Michelle Mahoney, and Martina Kurzer enjoy a fabulous dinner on the M/V Chichagof Dream.

### United Way Day of Caring

For the second time, staff of local businesses and United Way of Southeast Alaska gathered at SAFV for a few hours of intense work. They spray-cleaned the building and completed all kinds of yard work. SAFV very much appreciates this wonderful help provided by businesses supporting local non-profits with tasks they can't do by themselves.



Donna Chong and Flori Davis from Wells Fargo Bank spent three hours volunteering for SAFV.

## The Language of Gender Violence

*Thank you to SAFV supporter Betty Conklin for sharing this article on Facebook. We think it is very relevant that we re-print it here. This article is dated March 15, 2012.*

*By Robert Keren | Photography by Robert Keren*

You could have heard a pin drop in Mead Chapel on Monday night as guest speaker Jackson Katz showed an audience of about 400 people—students, community members, faculty, and staff—how common language is perpetuating gender violence today.

Problems of gender violence, which include sexual violence, domestic violence, sexual abuse of children, and sexual harassment, are viewed by society as “women’s issues that some good men help out with,” rather than seen as men’s issues.



Jackson Katz

Men and masculinity “have been rendered invisible in much of the discourse” around gender violence, Katz said. This is not surprising since “dominant groups often go unchallenged in society, and their power and privilege goes unexamined.”

“Gender violence issues affect women at every level, but I am here to say that the very fact of just calling these issues ‘women’s issues’ is in itself part of the problem.”

The guest speaker, who is an educator, author, filmmaker, and cultural theorist with a PhD from UCLA, offered powerful examples to support his argument that language reinforces social norms that place women in jeopardy today.

“The first problem with using the term ‘women’s issues’ when talking about gender violence is it gives men an excuse to not pay attention. A lot of men hear ‘women’s issues’ and they tend to tune it out and think, ‘Hey, I’m a guy,’ and they literally don’t get past the first sentence.”

Another way that people discuss gender violence is through the use of the passive voice.

“We talk about how many women were raped last year, not about how many men raped women. We talk about how many girls in a school district were harassed last year, not about how many boys harassed girls. We talk about how many teenage girls in the state of Vermont got pregnant last year, rather than how many men and boys impregnated teenage girls.

“So you can see how the use of the passive voice has a political effect. [It] shifts the focus off of men and boys and onto girls and women. Even the term ‘violence against women’ is problematic. It’s a passive construction; there’s no active agent in the sentence. It’s a bad thing that happens to women, but when you look at that term ‘violence against women,’ nobody is doing it to them. It just happens to them...Men aren’t even a part of it!”

Next, Katz used a whiteboard on the platform at Mead Chapel (giving credit to author Julia Penelope for the exercise that followed) and wrote:

**John beat Mary.  
Mary was beaten by John.  
Mary was beaten.  
Mary was battered.  
Mary is a battered woman.**

The first sentence, Katz explained, “is a good English sentence: a subject, a verb, and an object.” The second sentence is the first sentence written in the passive voice, and according to Katz “a whole lot has happened. The focus has shifted from John to Mary. John is now at the end of the sentence, which means that John is very close to dropping off the map of our psychic plane. So it’s not just bad writing to use the passive voice, it’s also political. And the political effect has been to shift the focus from John to Mary.”

*(Continued on page 7)*

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In the third sentence John is gone. In the fourth, the term “battered” is substituted for “beaten,” and in the final sentence of the sequence “you can see that Mary has a new identity. She is now a battered woman and John is no longer part of the conversation.”

**How language holds victims** accountable, rather than their perpetrators, is demonstrated by the way the word “accuser” has supplanted the term “alleged victim.”

“This,” Katz stated, “is a very big shift in the conversation about sexual violence. People who come forward to allege that they have been sexually assaulted are now referred to routinely as ‘accusers.’ There’s a lot going on here with the use of this word. The public is generally positioned to identify sympathetically with the victims of sexual assault or other forms of abuse. So when you hear about a sexual assault you think, ‘That’s horrible. That’s too bad. Or that could have been me or someone I care about.’”

But using the term ‘accuser’ reverses the process, because it turns the victim into an accuser. “So we as a public are now positioned to identify sympathetically with him as the victim of her accusation, rather than with her as the victim of his al-

leged perpetration. This is subtle but deep, isn’t it? It’s another instance where victims are being told to sit down, shut up, and don’t come forward because if you come forward you are going to be an accuser, and then people are going to be questioning your motives...it’s just another way that we in society keep people from coming forward.”

The intensity of Katz’s one-hour presentation—one “aha moment” after another about society’s skewed language for the treatment of women—had his audience exhausted but inspired. But the creator of the [Mentors in Violence Program](#), a gender-violence prevention system implemented by professional sports teams, NASCAR, and the U.S. Marine Corps, wasn’t finished yet.

Katz took four or five questions from the audience, answered each one thoroughly, and then screened a clip from his film “Tough Guise: Violence, Media, and the Crisis in Masculinity,” and a segment from Byron Hurt’s documentary “Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes.” Katz spoke pointedly about the obligation men have to model the respectful treatment of women. And he closed with a quote from Frederick Douglass, the 19th century orator and activist, who said, “It is easier to build strong children than repair broken men.”

Source: <http://sites.middlebury.edu/middmag/2012/03/15/gender-violence/>

### Unheard Voices | Unheard Wisdom

Ketchikan artist Carmel Anderson was in Sitka in early May to present objects showing strong images on violence women and children suffer from the hands of men. One of her newer pieces shows a woman’s business suit, and only on very close look one can see that the inside is all unraveled, the label is coming off, and the lining is held together by safety pins.

Many survivors of verbal and emotional violence confirm that this is exactly how they feel in their relationships. Professional on the outside, and falling apart inside.

SAFV is extremely grateful to Carmel for visualizing everyday situations many women and children find themselves in.



## SAFV will offer free training

We are still working on the exact schedule,  
but sessions will be offered on

- Dynamics of domestic violence (DV)
- Impact of DV on children
- Trauma-informed advocacy
- Legal Advocacy
- Cultural considerations
- Sexual assault and trauma
- Substance abuse and DV
- Prevention programs in Sitka

- Facebook
- In the Daily Sitka Sentinel and
- Sitka Soup.

You will hear announcements on Raven Radio  
and KIFW in

**August/September, 2017.**

You may choose what to attend.  
No obligations involved.

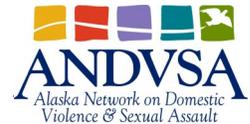
They will be announced on our website

- [www.safv.org](http://www.safv.org)

Call Martina, 747-3370 with questions.



United Way Member Agency  
Member of the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault



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