

- A nonprofit membership organization inspired by the spirit of traditional Kazakh communities
- Dedicated to building a bridge to Kazakhstan
- A Kazakh cultural resource



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News from the Aul

Volume 2, Issue 3

Fall 2006

A “Magical” Zhailau



Children of the Aul pose with Karina Kudaibergen and Daniyar Baidaralin after the Zhailau closing

The Kazakh Aul of the US’s 5-day/night Zhailau Heritage Camp for Families was a rousing success. In all, 48 adults and 33 children from all over the States and the Republic of Kazakhstan came together this past August to celebrate our children’s rich cultural heritage, to connect, and to relax. In the end, “magical,” was the universal comment shared by many a participant.

And magical it was. The weather was perfect; no rain, sunny every day, and not too hot. The staff of our New Hampshire host site, the Geneva Point Center, could not have been nicer or more accommodating. The food was good (even the vegetarian options!), and the general vibe in the air from the moment the opening ceremonies began—during which our Kazakh friends did *Shashu* and showered attendees with “sweetness” (special candy), Assylgul performed *dombra*, Gulsaya danced in traditional costume, and Dina sang a Kazakh song—to the moving closing ceremonies at the end of the week, when children performed their special dance, and all the families came together by the Wish Tree—the vibe throughout the week was one of love and camaraderie; feelings that were palpable to everyone.

This issue of the Aul newsletter is devoted to the special week that was this past summer’s Zhailau. We hope you enjoy the memories and information that are shared.

**2007 Zhailau dates announced!
See Page 2**

Letter from the Administrative Executive Director



Greetings!

There is not room enough to express all my deep feelings about what a powerful week Zhailau was for me personally, but I will share here the most salient one: I was, and continue to be, tremendously moved by how all our Kazakh adult friends gave us a genuine window into the nature of the Kazakh people. The depth and openness with which they taught and embraced our children and families was and remains very moving to me. They didn't just come to do a job; instead, they

welcomed our children and families into their hearts and taught everyone with love. For me, this was completely unexpected, as I have never before experienced anything comparable. The memories of this tremendous gift of the heart makes this hardened westerner emotional every time I think it and all that our Kazakh friends did for our Aul at Zhailau. Thank you Daniyar, Gulsaya, Assylgul, Karina, Assel, Karina, and Bakhtiyar from the bottom of my heart and on behalf of our Aul. Those of us who were lucky enough to attend Zhailau this past August are truly honored to have experienced true Kazakh sensibility through your warm and generous spirits.

I want to take this opportunity to also publicly thank my colleague and counterpart at the Aul, Daniyar Baidaralin, for putting together such a wonderful cultural program for our Zhailau. Daniyar never rested – both in the months before Zhailau and during the week of our camp. Many people expressed to me that the week was magical, and as thrilling as it is to receive that feedback, much of the credit is due to the special young man who is Daniyar Baidaralin. Kudos to Dan!

Thank you also to all the Americans who contributed their time and energy in countless ways to make Zhailau happen. A special thank you to Heather O'Toole and Audrey Englander. Many thanks to Norm Remmler, Tammy Young, Maria DeCore, Sara Libou, Maggie and Charlie Lattmann, Terri Sperber, and Pat O'Toole. I am grateful to Joan Norvelle, Elana Peled, and April Peterson who contributed Zhailau photos for inclusion in this newsletter. Thank you to Leila Bassenova who made the yurt and all its contents possible for our Aul. My sincere gratitude to Zhanat Baidaralin and Vera Kurmasheva for ongoing cultural insights. Thank you to Kathy Tackabury for her generous Shanyrak jewelry donations to the Aul store and the Zhailau silent auction (please see page 10 to purchase Kathy's jewelry).

All campers appreciated Jess Schload and the entire staff of the Geneva Point Center (GPC). The GPC was a phenomenal host site and it is hard to imagine a better place to hold our Zhailau camp. Simply put, and without exaggeration, GPC had everything for us, from its range of accommodations to meet various budgets, its beautiful grounds, beaches, and nature trails, and wonderful program offerings including water carnivals and nature hikes. We had our own facility, the "Chapel" for the week, replete with a stage that was perfect for performances, movies, talks, and dance lessons. The GPC even has a permanent yurt, which they generously allowed us to use for the week for Assylgul's dombra and craft lessons. The GPC staff was consistently kind, accommodating, and in numerous instances, went above and beyond in their service to our Aul. "The Wish Tree" article on page 9 contains just one of many examples of how the GPC made Zhailau even better our Aul.



Daniyar Baidaralin presents Kazakh crafts and musical instruments to families one night at Zhailau.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to pitch in over the week that was Zhailau. Thank you to all the families who came from all over the U.S and who helped make our Zhailau the magical week it was. It was awesome to meet you all and I am thrilled that we now have deeper connections.

To everyone else in our Aul who was unable to make Zhailau this year, I hope you can come in future years, and if not, I hope that our Aul will be a source of community and cultural bridging for you and yours.

Rakhmet!
(Thank you!)

Susan Saxon

2007 Zhailau Dates Announced!

July 23-28, 2007, to be held again at the Geneva Point Center in Moultonboro, New Hampshire.

Please watch the Aul website for more information, including rates and registration materials.



Memories of Zhailau 2006

There is so much to describe.....



First and foremost, under the loving tutelage of our Aul's Kazakh staff, there was much to learn and experience over the week. Pictured here are some of the wonderful young Kazakhs who joined us: Assel Kapalova, Assylgul Dalabayeva, Daniyar Baidaralin, Gulsaya Tuleubayeva, and Karina Kudaibergen.



More of the Kazakh staff and some of the American staff who volunteered and worked hard over many months to make Zhailau happen. Heather O'Toole, Daniyar Baidaralin, Bakhtiyar Baidaralin, Susan Saxon, and Audrey Englander.



There was beautiful dancing. Pictured to the left Gulsaya Tuleubayeva performs during opening night ceremony.



Gulsaya taught dance throughout the week. Here she is pictured with some of her Zhailau students. Standing left to right are Vika Gill (CA), Saida Riddell (ME), Daviana Englander (MA), Gulsaya, Rosie Sweetwood (NJ). Kneeling in front are Alia Shaw (ME), Sara Remmler (RI), and Michael Shaw (ME).



We were honored one day when our Kazakh friends cooked a delicious traditional Beshbarmak lunch. The outdoor cooking was a large group effort and many adult campers pitched in. Shown in the foreground to the left are Wayne Tackabury (MA) and Gulsaya cooking Boursaks (traditional small fried dough).



Memories of Zhailau, 2006 (continued)



Assylgul Dalabayeva gave us a beautiful dombra performance during first night opening ceremonies (left). Assylgul honored our Aul by traveling from Almaty for the sole purpose of attending Zhailau, to perform and teach dombra, and to teach traditional Kazakh crafts.

During small group dombra lessons, Assylgul taught the history of the dombra and told entertaining traditional stories about how it came to take its place in Kazakh culture. Pictured to the right is Assylgul with Bakhtiyar Baidaralin serving as English translator during a dombra lesson.



Parents took part in Assylgul's small-group lessons, actively participating in their children's learning. On the right, Ann O'Brien (ME) is shown helping her daughter Alia learn how to play the dombra.



Parents got to play dombra, too. Pictured to the left are Hannah Sperber (NY) and Elana Peled (MA). Hannah's mom, Terri, is shown with her back to the camera.



Assylgul also directed small-group traditional craft workshops in which participants made dolls and felt purses. Pictured above, Assel Kapalova from Astana helps Michael Shaw (ME) and Saida Riddell (ME) make bride and groom dolls using materials that Assylgul brought from Kazakhstan.



Kazakh Story Night! Pictured to the left is Bakhtiyar listening attentively to Assylgul telling a story to the whole Zhailau group.

Special evening activities were provided throughout the week. On other nights the Aul presented Kazakh language games for the whole family, a silent auction, a talk on Kazakh crafts and musical instruments, opening and closing ceremonies, and nightly campfires.



One day, an American feltmaker named Caroline Owens taught us how to make felt, and children used the felt they made to make toy yurts. Above left, parents and children at work at the feltmaking table. We learned that feltmaking is a lot of hard work, and in the nomadic way, often requires participation across generations. Pictured in the middle photo above is Josie Lester (CA) making felt with the assistance of her grandma, Louise Norvelle (VA).

A lot of personal pride was 'felt' at the completion of each stage of the process. Above right: Aydin Mallery (CA) shows off his felt.

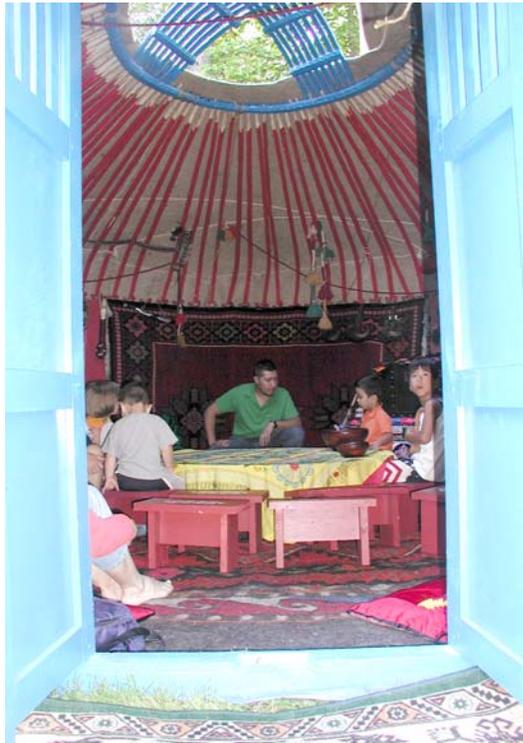
Caroline Owens and her husband operate their own sheep farm in New Hampshire, and Caroline regularly gives feltmaking classes. For more information about Caroline and Owens Sheep Farm, please visit their website at www.owensfarm.com.



The Yurt was raised by adult campers, and the whole process was completed over the course of one morning. It truly was a group effort! Above left, Pat O'Toole (MA) and Bakhtiyar Baidaralin unpack the truck, and above right, Charles and Josie Lester (CA) pose in front of the partially raised yurt. Below left, Daniyar Baidaralin and Dos Sarbassov (originally from Almaty, now of MA and attending Zhailau as a camper with his wife and two sons) work together to put the felt covering on the yurt. Below right, the finished yurt.



Memories of Zhailau, 2006 (continued)

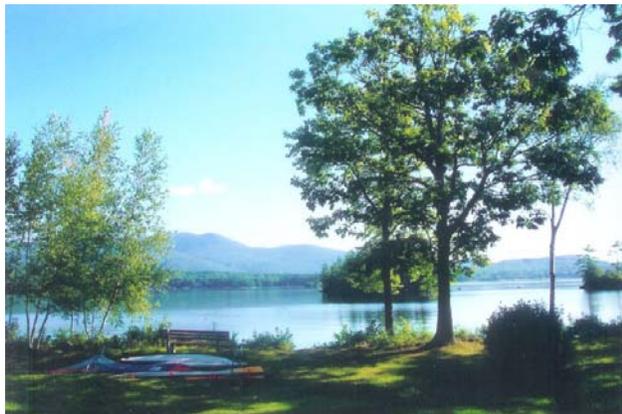


Once raised, the yurt was a special place for children and their parents to attend lectures on nomadic life by Daniyar Baidaralin.

The yurt was also a special place for meditation and small group gatherings throughout the week. On the right, Daniyar displays a traditional instrument, a Kobyz.



No camp would be complete without traditional camp activities, and Aul family campers enjoyed familiar fun, too. Our host site, the Geneva Point Center (GPC), has three private beaches on Lake Winnepesaukee. Pictured below left are two GPC lifeguards organizing water games for Aul children. Below right are Charles Lester and his daughter Josie (CA) hanging out on the water.



As you can see, the GPC provides a beautiful site for our annual camp. In addition to beaches, canoeing, and kayaking, there are also miles of beautiful nature trails. During our week there, campers participated in GPC nature hikes, organized games, and even a scavenger hunt.



Most of all, Zhailau was about building connections and having fun. Here are some more memories:



A kids table at mealtime. Clockwise from bottom left: Sara Remmler (RI), Rosie Sweetwood (NJ), Michael Shaw (ME), Saida Riddell (ME), Darya Updegraph (MA), Kairat O'Toole (MA), Daviana Englander (MA), & Alina O'Toole (MA).



There were many spontaneous moments. The center photos captures a spur-of-the-moment group handstand after dinner one night, and the photo on the right shows children hanging out at the playground. Children on the monkey bars with their faces visible to the camera are from left Saida Riddell (ME), Kairat O'Toole (MA), and Diana Tackabury (MA).



Left: Greg and Alma Power (MA) pose behind Daniyar Baidaralin's Kazakh People Board.



Right: Three tired new friends after their afternoon dance lesson: Nina Gross (NY), Alina O'Toole (MA), and Cait Mallery (CA).



Left: An impromptu jump-rope game. Sara Remmler (RI) and Daniar Sarbasov (MA) turn the rope for Collin Morowitz (RI). Daniar's little brother Arman toddles in front of his big brother, while Robin Witnauer (CA) chats with Marilyn Aglubat (CA) in the background.



Right: New buddies, Josie Lester (CA) and Patrick DeCore (NY).



Left: Surprise! Daniyar holds the birthday cake that was presented to him just before the start of the closing ceremony on our last night at Zhailau. On the left is his mother, Vera Kurmasheva, and Heather O'Toole (MA) is in the center.



Right: Zia Peterson (CA) plays a dombra.

Aul Members' Reflections on Zhailau

I have often equated the experience of parenting Alma with falling in love. And just as I wanted to know everything about my husband when I first started falling in love with him, so I want to know everything about my daughter. She can't tell me much yet, but since Zhailau, I am convinced that through our participation in this U.S.-Kazakh community she tells me a lot. Before Zhailau, Alma was a very clingy child, never daring to venture far from me and expressing her dissatisfaction at every separation. But at Zhailau, I saw a different side of Alma. She willingly and joyfully went to her Kazakh counselors, and would even wander away from us when she noticed other Kazakh children playing nearby. I know that experts in child development might argue that Alma had just reached a new stage, that she was ready to begin testing her independence. But whenever I look at our pictures from Zhailau, whenever I see Alma dancing with Karina (one of our Kazakh counselors), banging away on a dombra, sharing her toys with her new friend Aliya, or digging in the dirt with her new buddy Nina, I believe that Alma is telling me something about herself and the way her cultural heritage has already influenced who she is. And I feel such gratitude for this community and the way it helps me to better know this child whom I love so dearly.

- Elana Peled of Georgetown, MA

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I remember how I saw people in the red t shirts of the Kazakh aul - even without knowing them, I could talk to them very easily and just be with them. I still can't believe that I faced this world in the USA. I didn't know that kids are so happy in their families because unfortunately journalists show here not the best sides of this world.

Every day was very special to me. I want to thank all families who came to the Aul and were so kind to us. Always when I remember the Aul week, I smile. It was so great. I also hope that you'll be able to touch Kazakh culture in your motherland, in KAZAKHSTAN. Rakhmet.

- Karina Kudaibergen, an Aul counselor from Kazakhstan

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We had the most wonderful experience at Zhailau 2006! We were not sure what to expect since we had never been to a "culture camp" or any other organized "adoption related" event. Since our daughter, Saida, was age 4 at adoption and is now 9 years old, she is quite aware of her adoption story and remembers her early years in Kazakhstan. We knew she would be one of only a few "older" children attending and did not know just how she would respond or what to expect from others or ourselves. We participated as fully as possible in all events and even dragged her to Daniyar's lecture on nomadic culture. During the lecture we thought Saida was not really paying attention and that it was "over her head"; we thought to ourselves, "Of course, what kid wouldn't rather be swimming and playing at the beach!" Well, later she spoke of the way Kazakh girls were warriors; couldn't wait to be inside the yurt again (she knew it was a very special place); and was obviously very curious and interested in the "olden days in Kazakhstan". She was proud to share her new knowledge with her friends and talked about it with everyone for weeks after we were home. Thank you, Daniyar, for your thoughtful and meaningful presentations throughout the entire week. We learned so much!

Saida loved making the crafts and dancing with Gulsaya! All the children were just fabulous and so engaging! She has added her felt yurt and doll to her shelf with her most prized possessions.

We were thrilled that we were able to meet and spend time with successful and friendly and warm Kazakh people who came to share their craft and skills and stories and heartfelt connections with all of us. We came away with new friends; a deeper appreciation for and wonderment about Kazakh culture; an added celebration of Saida's Kazakh heritage, and left the week with Saida saying "I don't want to leave...we are coming again next year, right?" What could be a better testament to how she felt about Zhailau! And truly, we felt just the same! Thanks again, for all the preparation and work and late nights and energy and caring it took to host such a meaningful and fun event. We absolutely loved it!

- Alicia, Bruce and Saida Riddell of Bar Harbor, ME



Elana Peled's daughter Alma gets a cuddle and a story from Aul counselor Karina Kudaibergen. Aida (Kostanai) and Aliya Sakai (VA) look on.



Saida Riddell (ME) gets a piggy back ride from Bakhtiyar Baidaralin. With his customary good humor, Bakh gave many rides to his younger compatriots at Zhailau.



Zhailau Closing Ceremony. Aul members gather in a large circle during the final ceremony at the GPC labyrinth.

The Wish Tree

By Susan Saxon and Daniyar Baidaralin

One of the most memorable moments of Zhailau 2006 was the brainchild of dedicated mother and Aul board member, Heather O'Toole. During camp planning last winter, Heather suggested that we have a "Wish Tree" ceremony, and described a unique place she and her husband had the privilege of visiting in the mountains outside Almaty during the summer of 2002. Heather shared a beautiful tradition, and the rest of us were sold.

Unbeknownst to the Americans on our team, the idea of implementing this meaningful ceremony presented a unique challenge for Aul volunteer Cultural and Artistic Executive Director, Daniyar Baidaralin. Daniyar was faced with the task of finding just the right tree, for as he explained, a Wish Tree must be distinct in particular ways because it will be forever designated as a special place for prayer, meditation, and reflection. We simply could not select any old tree.

The *Wish Tree* is an ancient shamanistic tradition originated by the nomadic tribes of Central Asia. According to custom, people believed that everything on earth has a spirit – all humans, animals, mountains, rivers, stones, and trees. Trees were viewed as particularly special because of their longevity and permanence in their environment, and the fact that they serve as homes to many types of creatures.

For the Central Asian nomads, three worlds comprised the universe: Heaven, Earth, and the Underground. Trees represented a model of this universe because the unique structure of trees provided a rich symbolism of the three worlds and their interconnections. The part of the tree that exists below ground, where trees take root, represented the Underground world. Soil, and the part of the tree where the trunk emerges represented Earth, and the upper branches of the tree that reach towards the sky and contain foliage, represented Heaven.

In such ways, trees were rich with symbolism, and there were special trees that were regarded as sacred. Sacred trees were very rare, because there had to be something unique to distinguish them from other trees, such as being located at the site of a battle, the grave of a hero, or in a place that was felt to have high energy. Often, a tree would be recognized as sacred if there was a spring or a river next to it. Some Sacred Trees were in remote areas, where only Shamans or lone hunters could reach them. The nomads would build special borders around the trees, to distinguish them from all others.

The Sacred Tree, or the spirit that lived in it, was believed to have the ability to help people. If people showed respect to the Sacred Tree Spirit, made a prayer and a ritual sacrifice, they were allowed to make a wish. To make a wish last longer, a nomad would carefully tie a piece of fabric to one of the tree's branches. Nomads believed that as long as the Sacred Tree and the fabric remained in place, the wish would remain viable. Thus, the other name for the Sacred Tree, the Wish Tree.

In late June, Daniyar, Heather, and fellow Aul board members Audrey Englander and Susan Saxon, drove to Moultonborough, NH to tour the Geneva Point Center (GPC) in preparation for Zhailau, and one of their goals was to select a Wish Tree. Daniyar explained that the tree must be in a private spot, preferably in a place that is a little difficult to get to, off the beaten path. The tree must be strong, with branches low enough for people to tie fabric. As the group toured the extensive grounds of the GPC, the hiking trails, the facilities, everyone kept their eyes out for such a tree, but it proved to be a huge challenge. People identified trees that had low branches, but were not private enough. They found trees in private spots that did not have low branches. The Americans on the team kept selecting trees, and Daniyar simply kept shaking his head, no. Finally, on the way to the beach, the group walked past a path with a lone sign, "Labyrinth." In passing, Daniyar happened to inquire about the meaning of the sign, and GPC host Matt said, "It's a cool place; want to see?" The group agreed to take this detour, and walked through the woods up a short hill to a clearing. There, embedded in the ground was a labyrinth made of stone bricks; a place solely intended for quiet meditation. Perfect!

Next, the group split up and searched the perimeter to find a Wish Tree. This was no easy process; there were many young trees crowded together, and as luck would have it, only *one* tree met all the requirements. This particular tree was close enough to the labyrinth clearing for people to access, and it had branches low enough for people to tie their wish bands. However, there was a significant amount of brush in front and to the side of our selected tree. Thankfully, GPC host Matt offered to help the cause, and offered that GPC staff would clear the brush out before the Aul group arrived in August for Zhailau.

After the Zhailau organizing group returned for camp in August, everyone was astounded to discover that not only did the GPC staff clear the brush in front of the tree, they also made a large clearing around it that they mulched and bordered with stone bricks. What a wonderful unexpected gift from the GPC! Now, with plenty of room for our group to gather and a border, our Wish Tree was now truly set apart and marked in the way of the nomads!

The Aul formally dedicated the Wish Tree during the Zhailau closing ceremony on the last night of camp. After all the families made their wishes and tied their wish bands to the tree, the group then gathered in a large circle and held hands at the adjacent labyrinth. Together, we thanked each other and our Kazakh ancestors for bringing us all together in this special place (see photo on page 8). The magic of Zhailau brought us all together, and wonderfully, the Wish Tree symbolized, and continues to symbolize, all that our Aul represents.

Our Aul's Wish Tree lives on at the GPC in New Hampshire, where it and the beautiful nomadic tradition with which it is now paired may be shared with all guests of the Center. Our Aul has laid roots at this site, and we cannot wait to return.



The Aul's Wish Tree at the Geneva Point Center. Sara Remmler (RI) poses in the foreground.

Aul Holiday Gifts!

All proceeds from purchases of these beautiful and artful gifts will help support your Aul

TO PURCHASE ANY OF THE ITEMS LISTED ON THESE PAGES, PLEASE MAIL A CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO THE KAZAKH AUL OF THE U.S., 247 CYPRESS STREET, PROVIDENCE, RI 02906. WE ALSO ACCEPT PAYPAL (EMAIL ADDRESS FOR PAYPAL PAYMENTS IS PAYMENTS@KAZAKH-AUL-US.ORG).

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL ADDRESS, IN CASE WE NEED TO CONTACT YOU ABOUT YOUR ORDER.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE EMAIL SUSAN AT SSAXON@KAZAKH-AUL-US.ORG OR CALL 401-486-4023.

Kazakh Bride and Groom Dolls



Handmade in Kazakhstan by our Aul's own Assylgul Dalabayeva, each doll is unique and full of exquisite detail, including beading and decorative fabric. Please note that because each doll is handmade, there are slight variations in the decorations from doll to doll, but all are beautiful in the manner of the dolls that are pictured here.

Approximately 8" tall, *supplies are limited.* \$26.95 each, or \$50.00 for the Bride and Groom Set. Shipping/handling is an additional \$8 for one doll, or \$10 for the set.

Shanyrak Pins and Pendants

This beautiful sterling silver pin or pendant is designed after the logo of our Aul: the Shanyrak (pronounced *Shan-RAAK*). Cast from the original hand crafted design created by professional jewelry designer Kathy Tackabury, an Aul member and proud mom of Diana Aisulu (a.2002 from Kostanai). The pins and pendants are exquisitely detailed, they lay flat when worn yet the Shanyrak itself is slightly raised as it curves outward in the genuine manner of a real Shanyrak. 1 and 1/2" in diameter. A truly special and unique Kazakh-themed gift! Many thanks to Kathy Tackabury for her wonderful design that she has donated to our Aul.



When ordering, please specify whether you want a pin or a pendant. Cost is \$125.00 each, which includes shipping and 18" sterling silver chain for pendants.

Information about Shanyraks: The Shanyrak is the top and center of a yurt. It functions as a ventilation system and skylight; however, it is rich with symbolism for Kazakhs and indeed, the Shanyrak is one of the most important symbols of Kazakh culture. It crowns the yurt and represents the sun and the sky, powerful influences for the ancient nomads.



Note Cards from Original Art by Daniyar Baidaralin

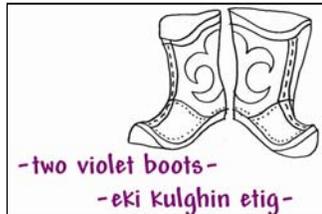
Great for the holidays! Use these cards to send Kazakh-themed greetings to your loved ones, or give these beautiful sets as gifts. Each boxed set contains five different blank cards, each featuring a reprint of an original painting by our Aul's own Daniyar, a talented artist who was born and raised in Almaty. \$12.95 per set, envelopes included. *Special:* 2 sets for \$25.00. Shipping and handling \$4.00 for one set, \$2.00 for each additional set in a multiple set order.



Zhailau Kazakh Counting Coloring Book

by Daniyar Baidaralin & Audrey Englander

This book was a hit when we presented it at Zhailau, 2005. Your whole family or friends can enjoy counting to ten in Kazakh using Daniyar's transliterations in English. And, any child will enjoy coloring Daniyar's wonderful graphics! We've improved the book since the summer in that we added a spiral binding (as opposed to old fashioned staples). Produced on the Aul's own color laser jet printer with front and back covers of heavy card stock. \$12.00, plus \$3.50 shipping and handling.



Give the Gift of the Kazakh Aul of the US

An Aul membership is a great way to share Kazakh culture and community with your family and friends. For each gift recipient, please send us all the important details, and we will happily send each person a personalized gift card. Annual memberships cost a minimum of \$40.00, and more information is available on our website at www.kazakh-aul-us.org or contact info@kazakh-aul-us.org.

Kazakh Aul of the U.S. T-Shirts

Show your pride in your Aul and in Kazakhstan! Our t-shirts are 100% pre-shrunk heavy-weight, 6.1 oz. cotton, and were designed by Daniyar Baidaralin. Daniyar's cool design features yurts, a horseman, and Shanyrak. White design on a variety of colored shirts. Supplies are limited.



We sold out of all the adult sizes at our Zhailau camp this summer, but we have children's sizes left in sizes small and medium. If you are interested in another size for children or for adults, please let us know; if we have a large enough demand, we will order additional shirts. Current available colors: orange, blue, and maroon. All the red t-shirts, like the one pictured above, are sold out.

Adult t-shirts: \$20 each (SOLD OUT)

Children's t-shirts: \$15 each.

children's sizes available: S (colors: blue, maroon) and M (colors: blue, maroon, and orange).

Shipping and handling: \$4.00 for the first shirt, \$2.00 for each additional shirt in a multiple shirt order.



The Kazakh Aul of the U.S. gratefully acknowledges its donor base, including the following members who graciously donated during the past quarter. Thank you so much!

Azamat level

Chern Family
O'Brien-Shaw Family

Howe Family
Peterson Family

McKenzie Family
Tagliaferro Family

Murray Family

A warm welcome to the following new Aul families:

Cathryn, Abby, and Ben Anderson, SC
Colene, Jeffrey, Karleigh, and McCale Belli, , NJ
Hillary and Aaron Brotherton, TN
Demy, Paul, and Jenya Blake, FL
Julie, Mike, and Braydon Clifford, WA
Sharon, Ron, Christopher Marat, & Catherine Asel Corradino, VA
Corey, Eric, and Sienna Halls, MN
Jenn, Tim, AJ, and Charlie Keohane, CA
Dana, Scott, Zachary, and Kaitlyn McKenzie, NY
Regina Shelnett, GA
Michelle, Jonathan, and Dari Sabina Steinley-Bumgarner, TX



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Our Mission

The Kazakh Aul of the United States, Association for American & Kazakh Families, aims to establish a cultural center dedicated to educating and enriching the lives of children from Kazakhstan who were adopted by loving American families and who are now growing up in the U.S. Together with their families, children will participate in Kazakh heritage camps and cultural education, to develop a deeper sense of knowledge and understanding of their birth culture, how they fit into both the Kazakh and American worlds, and to develop skills that in the future may be used to contribute to both their mother-countries, Kazakhstan and the U.S. The Kazakh Aul of the United States will serve as a cultural bridge to bring together the children of the two countries, helping them be citizens of the world and thereby promoting cross-cultural understanding that will sustain through the generations.



Zhailau 2006—Memories of Our Summer Kazakh Culture Camp for Families

Information plus more inside



Kazakh Aul of the U.S., Association for American & Kazakh Families

Board of Directors: Daniyar Baidaralin, Audrey Englander, Heather O'Toole, and Susan Saxon

Volunteer Administrative Executive Director: Susan Saxon

Volunteer Cultural & Artistic Executive Director: Daniyar Baidaralin

Volunteer Director of the Kazakhstan Division, Almaty: Leila Bassenova