

Xaad Kíl Gathering

MAY 14 - 16, 2024 • CRAIG, ALASKA



Creating a space where we can share the language
and work together to overcome the trauma of language loss.
Forging a new path to revitalizing Xaad Kíl.



Ja Háw'aa'uu

To everyone that took the time to participate and support this Xaad Kíl gathering and language revitalization.

More than 60 language learners, teachers and supporters came together to share Xaad Kíl, to work together to overcome the trauma of language loss, and to forge a new path to revitalize Xaad Kíl.

Daláng Xaat'áa 'láasii
Daláng t'l'áng Gasgadáang
Hahl gwii daláng 'wáadluwaan xánjuugans
sang daláng an Hl kíl 'laágang

"You good people here,
We welcome you folks to this place.
I want to thank all of you for traveling here."

Gud eehl t'l'áng káajgadee kílganggang.
Áayaad gud eehl t'l'áng káajgads dluu
Theme láa uu t'l'áng da'áang gwaa!
"Tla'ii hl kíilang gudangáadaa"
Chíinangsd uu áajii díig súudgiinii.

It's important that we meet up together.
Today as we gather together, we have a fantastic theme to follow!
"Make your voice carry."
This is what my grandfather used to tell me.

Ahljiihl uu Xaad kíl d'áng gúusuus dluu tla'ii hl kíilang gudangáadaa.

Therefore, when you speak Haida, make your voice carry.

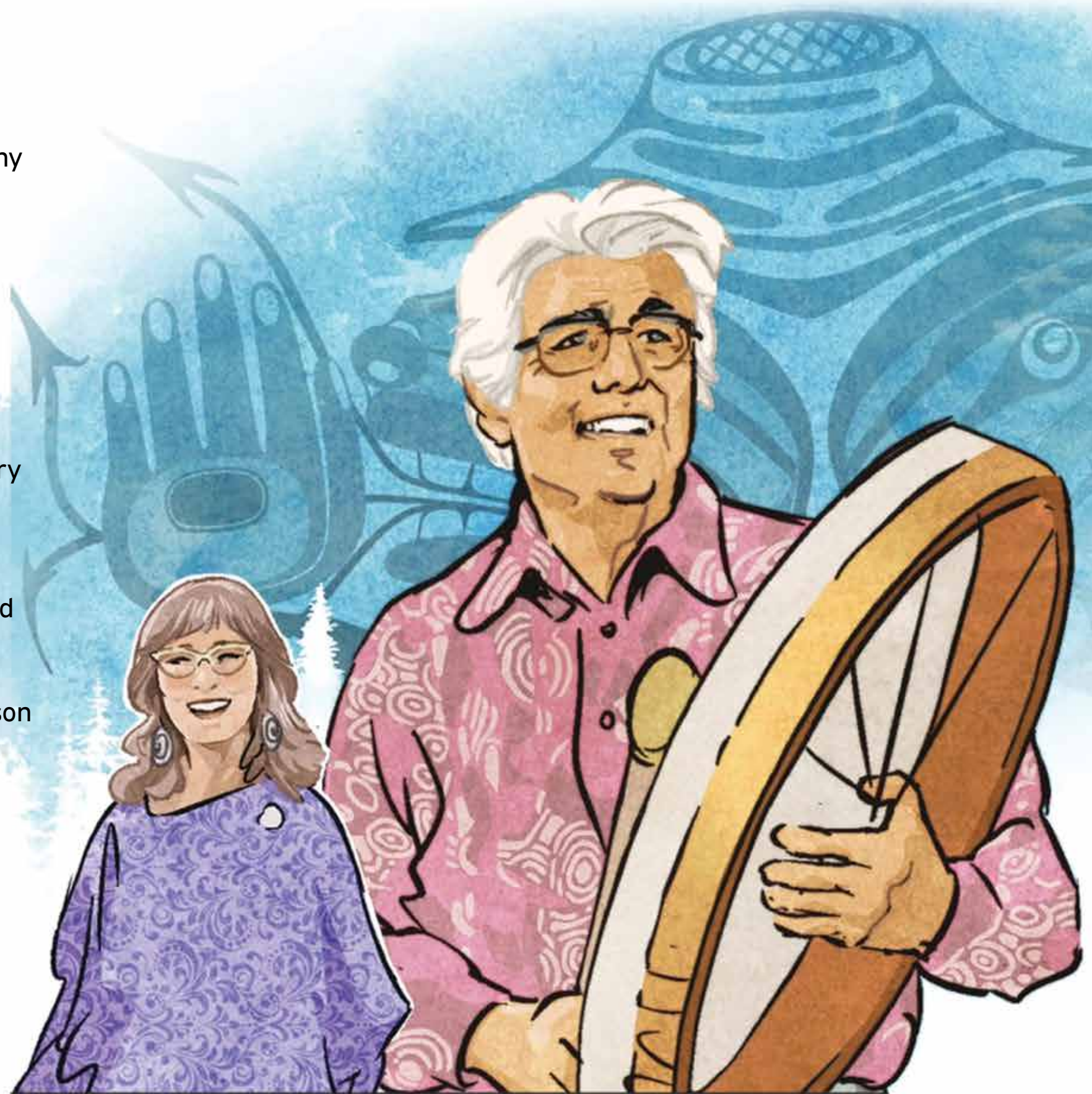
Today we have a great challenge breathing life into Xaad Kíl with so many of our fluent speakers passing on. I have a vision that this trend can be reversed just like how the art of our ancestors is alive. One way this can be done is a renewed commitment to reviving Xaad Kíl.

“A thin curtain hangs between us”, is a Haida term I learned from Uncle Victor. He translated it to mean, “when two people are closely related there is a thin curtain hanging between us”.

Today there are a lot of groups studying the language and some are very advanced in Xaad Kíl, but sometimes a thin curtain hangs between our groups, preventing us from working together.

How can we lift that curtain so we can all benefit from the knowledge and insights we all hold?

-Guud San Glans - Robert Davidson



Gidahl Gudslaaay, Lalaxaaygans - Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson

Áajii Xaad kíl, gaa xadláa sk'at'áas gwíijgwaa 'la 'wáadluwaan Xaad kíl an
únsadee ga díi sdahláang.

"Concerning the children learning Haida, it's my hope that they all will
learn and come to understand the Haida language."

- Ilskyaalas - Dr. Delores Churchill





Being here changed my life and being back here for the last 48 hours has changed my life again.

I am so proud to hear about what everyone has been doing with all of this work.

All of the work that everybody has been done is not being forgotten.

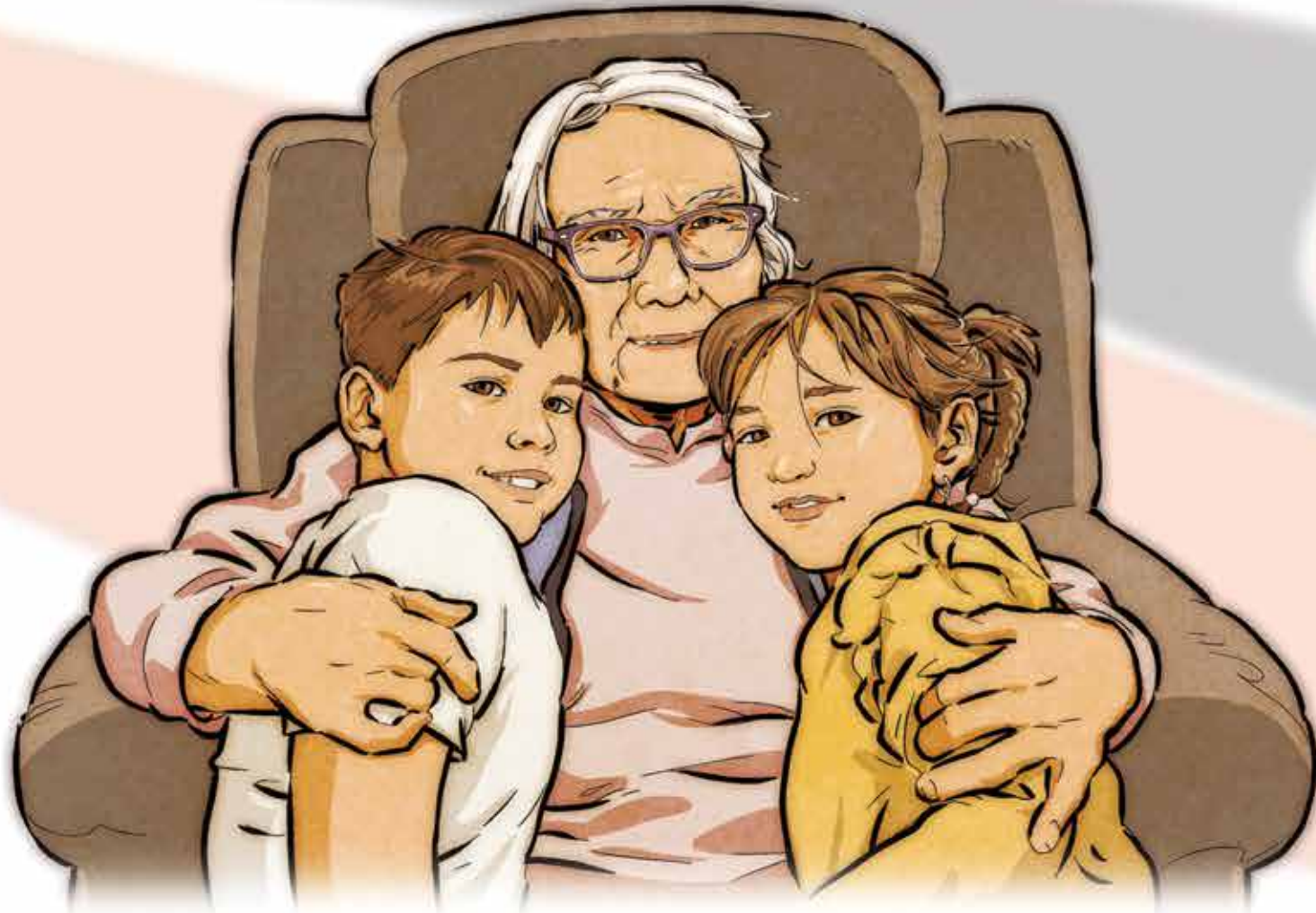
Maybe a name slips through the cracks, but the work itself is not being forgotten. It is being brought back out. That is the sign of a healthy language that is the sign of language revitalization.

- Yáahl K'ánggdanga - Dr. Jordan Lachler

Working with all of the Elders that I had an opportunity to work with and all the students and learners that I had a chance to work with. That made me the linguist that I am today.

You guys have made a huge contribution to languages outside. Any dictionary, textbook, any classes I taught stand on the shoulder of the work that we did together.

It goes far beyond Prince of Wales of Island, goes far beyond the mountains. I need you to know that.



"Her vocabulary is amazing and Ben's vocabulary, too. I really admire that Ben gave up four years of his life to learn vocabulary to learn the Haida language with his grandfather. Every time we did something for the language nest Ben would say Xaad Kíl words for the children in the language nest. I really honor Ben and Skíl Jáadei. They are amazing. They are really going to help to keep our Haida language and help to teach it in kindness and love."

- Ilskyaalas - Dr. Delores Churchill

"One thing I find really moving is people like Ben Young and Linda Schrack. I'd like to tell you about Linda's grandmother. In the late 70s early 80s, her grandmother gave her her name, Skíl Jáadei . Nora was the youngest daughter of Charles and Isabelle Edenshaw. She got that name when she was very young. It is an honor to be given that name. When Skíl Jáadei and I did translation work it was amazing that she could know every word right away."



"The Haida language gathering serves as a powerful testament to the resilience and richness of our culture. It is through the revitalization and celebration of our language that we ensure the survival of our heritage for generations to come."

- Chalyee Éesh - President Richard Peterson



"The first time I spoke Xaad Kíl in public, a deep vibration resonated within my chest. In that moment, I felt the presence of 15,000 years of my ancestors surging through me, their voices echoing into the room. Let's use Xaad Kíl and release the brilliance of our ancestors into every single space."

- Wáahlaal Gidaak - Barbara Blake



"It is all of our responsibility to use Xaad kíł every day. That is how it will be strengthened. Even if it's only one word, use it and build on it. When we speak our language the love and honor we have for our Ancestors is put to work."

- La quen náay - Elizabeth Medicine Crow

XKKF was honored and delighted to attend the Haida Language conference hosted in Craig, AK. Our hearts are filled with hope and pride to witness the tireless efforts of so many Haida language reclamation programs across Southeast Alaska. XKKF is committed to continuing to provide adult Haida language learners opportunities and to support the missions of our language reclamation warriors.

- Dr. Wendy Todd, Xaadas Kíl Kuyáas
Foundation President



Táawee 'wáadluwaan gud ahl t'aláng táas dluu xáwlaang". All the food tastes sweeter when we are together."

- Christian White



"Sharing our food is
sharing our kindness."
- Ilskyaalas - Dr. Delores
Churchill

Táaw gudgä t'áng isdáas
dluu, k'áנגgwdaang gudgä t'áng kíndaang



Tl'áng náanggan gyáan

(We played and...)



gudahl tl'áng hlGággulgan

(we worked together)



Kiilang tl'áng gya'ándaasaang

(We'll use our language, words and voice)



Tla'ii hl kílilang gudangáadaa

(Make your voice carry)



Agenda – Day I
Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Tla’i hl kiilang gudangáadaa
(Make Your Voice Carry)

8:00 AM	Meal Blessing • Song • Breakfast Buffet
8:45 AM	Welcome Guests - Islyaalaas, Xayáa Jáad Marita Tolson
8:50 AM	Guest Speaker - <u>Guud</u> Sans Glan Robert Davidson
9:30 AM	Networking Song - K’uyáang Ben Young
9:45 AM	Brunch • Networking
10:20AM	<u>Xaad Kil</u> Recollections and Anecdotes Advanced <u>Xaad Kil</u> Speakers
10:30 AM	Presentation of Language Work - Skidegate
11:00 AM	Presentation of Language Work - <u>Xaad Kil</u> Née
11:30 AM	Presentation of Language Work - Marianne Ignace & Lucy Bell
12:00 PM	Meal blessing & Lunch Grilled Salmon and Kalua Pork
1:15 PM	<u>Xaad Kil</u> Recollections and Anecdotes Advanced <u>Xaad Kil</u> Speakers
1:30 PM	Presentation of Language Work - Tlingit & Haida
2:00 PM	Presentation of Language Work - XKKF
2:30 PM	<u>Xaad Kil</u> Game - K’uyáang Ben Young
3:00 PM	Presentation of Language Work - Ketchikan Haida Language Group
3:30 PM	Presentation of Language Work - Sealaska
4:00 PM	End of the Day Recap - K’uyáang Ben Young
4:15 PM	Optional Ocean Dip - La quen náay Liz Medicine Crow



Agenda – Day II
Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Kiilang tl’áng gya’ándaasaang
(We’ll Use Our Language, Words and Voice)

8:00 AM	Blessing the Food • Song • Breakfast Buffet • Networking
9:50 AM	Welcome Guests • Introduce President Peterson - K’uyáang Ben Young
10:00 AM	Guest Speaker - Tlingit & Haida President Richard Chalyee Éesh Peterson
10:30 AM	What it means to heal and move forward La quen náay Liz Medicine Crow & Wáahlaal Gíidaak Barbara Blake
12:30 PM	Meal Blessing & Lunch
1:25 PM	<u>Xaad Kil</u> Recollections and Anecdotes Advanced <u>Xaad Kil</u> Speakers
1:30 PM	Creating a Song Presentation - Robert and Terri Lynn Davidson
2:00 PM	Small Group Breakouts to Create Songs
3:00 PM	Orthography Discussion - Skíl Jáadei (Linda Schrack)
3:30 PM	New Vocabulary Creation - Yáahl K’ánggwdangaa (Jordan Lachler)
3:45 PM	Small Group Breakouts to Create New Words
4:00 PM	<u>Xaad Kil</u> Game & Recap - K’uyáang Ben Young
4:15 PM	Optional Ocean Dip - La quen náay Liz Medicine Crow



Agenda – Day III
Thursday, May 16, 2024

Agán tl'áng sangáadaasaang
(We'll Celebrate Ourselves)

8:00 AM	Meal Blessing • Song • Breakfast Buffet • Networking
9:50AM	Welcome Guests • Introduce Delores Churchill - K'uyáang Ben Young
10:00 AM	Guest Speaker - Iskyaalaas Delores Churchill
10:30 AM	Commitment to Perpetuate the Language <u>Guud San Glans</u> (Robert Davidson)
11:00 AM	Share Resources with One Another
12:00 PM	Lunch
Following Lunch	Song and dance invitationals Peace Offerings • Gift Giving • Fellowship Last words • Announcements • Farewells





It is with the utmost respect to dedicate this book in honor of Náanii Row Row (Dr. Delores Churchill, Ilskyaalas). She has blessed so much of our Xaad Kíl projects and events with her presence, her intellect, and enduring wisdom.

She has spent more than 50 years perfecting her artistry in traditional weaving and textiles. Having built a prestigious reputation with her artwork, she travels worldwide to museums as a consultant and authority within the artistic and academic realm. The 2020 pandemic put a hold on all social gathering which led to Náanii focusing the majority of her time during isolation on language perpetuation. She began teaching Xaad Kíl via video conference with relatives and interested learners who were also isolated in their homes. This work gave people hope during a scary time in our world. She reconnected with her older sister Jane Kristovich (pictured on cover). Náanii Row Row gave us all conviction and affirmation that our work and efforts were important and vital for the preservation of our language. Through her patience, grace, and love we have all been so blessed to be within her circle of influence.

Háw'aa Náanii Row Row! Dáng gáws dluu, gé ítl' 'láahlangáa'anggang.

“Thank you Ilskyaalas! If it wasn't for you,
we would be nothing.”

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Choose love, Choose life, Choose Xaad Kíl

- Ilskyaalas - Dr. Delores Churchill

