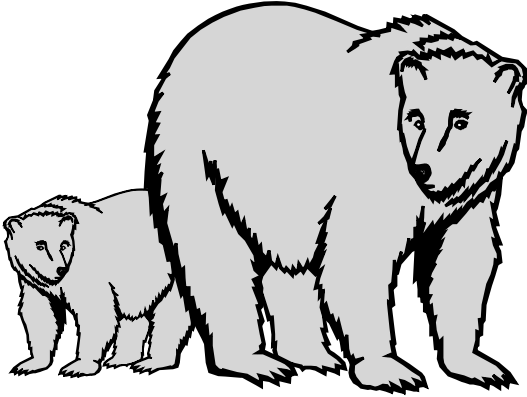


## IT'S OUR SECOND ANNIVERSARY: BEAR WITH US!



We invite you to find out about the new Omnimax film, "Bears!," by the Nature Conservancy and showing at the Reuben H. Fleet Theater. Did you know that grizzly bears were roaming the mountains of San Diego County about 100 years ago? The Indians of San Diego County honored and respected the bear. Along with many tribes in California, the Kumeyaay had the "bear doctor," a shaman who could transform himself into a bear. [See the article on page 6.]

Our second anniversary party will be a wild one. Join the Museum and Reuben H. Fleet Science Center in a celebration of our new partnership for science education. The party will be held on Friday, January 25, 2002, beginning at 5 p.m. We will have a sparkling cider reception with delicious hors d'oeuvres from our Casino's world-class catering staff. Many special surprises are in store. Please RSVP to reserve your attendance. The film at the Fleet is sponsored in part by the Barona Band of Mission Indians and Barona Museum.

### BEARS - Opens January 11, 2002

"Bears!" explores the mythical past and fragile future of some of the most inspiring and misunderstood predators on the planet. From polar bears in the arctic tundra to grizzlies in Alaska, "Bears!" presents fresh footage of these enterprising omnivores in the full glory of their natural habitat. The film also sheds light on the cultural significance of bears throughout human history. Bears have left such an impression on humans that we named a constellation for them: Ursa Major. Native American myths and legends endow bears with supernatural powers, such as the Inuit belief that bear spirits and human spirits are interchangeable, and the Southern California Indian tradition of the bear shaman. And, on a softer note, the plush "teddy bear" toy rose to popularity after Theodore Roosevelt spared a bear cub on a hunting trip. Learn about the challenges facing each of these species - and why protecting them benefits wildlife and people everywhere.

The film is sponsored by the Barona Band of Mission Indians in conjunction with the Barona Cultural Center and Museum.



Reuben H. Fleet  
**ScienceCenter**  
1875 El Prado - Balboa Park  
(619) 685-5743

# Barona Spirits Speak

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## Continuing Exhibits

### PRAISE FOR OUR VETERANS CONTINUES

In light of the tragedy in New York and Washington, D.C., this year's Veterans' Honoring has been very important. The Museum exhibit, "Barona Veterans: Those Who Served At Home and Abroad" is open through February. We are grateful to the many Reservation Veterans and families who helped contribute to the exhibit.

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## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

By Museum Committee Chairman, Beaver Curo

In October, the Museum attended the Western Museum Association conference in Palm Springs. Representing the Museum were myself, my wife, Shirley, and Cheryl Hinton. Several sessions were pertinent to Tribal museums and issues we face.

The Museum also attended the Cabrillo Festival, the Western Historical Association's annual meeting, and the Indian Scholars Luncheon. Cheryl Hinton conducted lectures for two special groups in the fall: a William Heise Park campfire and the annual meeting of the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society. The Museum was given an honorary membership to the RB Historical Society. Cheryl will be speaking to the Colorado Desert Archaeological Society at the Anza-Borrego Desert Park Visitor's Center on February 21st.

The Veterans' Dinner and Exhibit in November was another enjoyable success. Each year we learn more and more about our Barona members and their contributions. This year we added Rosie the Riveters and other defense industry participants to our story. We highlighted **Manuel Hernandez, who is now in Afghanistan**, and his wife, Karen, who is on alert. We send our heartfelt prayers to Manuel and his family for his safe return. Manuel was the Tribe's

first West Point Graduate. Also very important to our story is the section on Barona Purple Heart Veterans. They include: Tommy LaChappa, Hack LaChappa, Victor Rodriquez, Bob Sloan and Bill Adams who received the nation's highest military honor. Our gratitude goes to guest speaker Tom Splitgerber, Director of the Veterans Memorial Museum in San Diego. He filled in at the last minute for Max Mazetti who is recuperating from heart surgery and will be with us next year. Get well wishes to Max. We thank Kenny Mesa and Henry Osuna for acting as the Color Guard. Alexandra Harris, the Museum's Assistant Curator, sang the Star-Spangled Banner beautifully.

We are looking forward to our new partnership with the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center. The Tribe has donated the money to help bring the Omnimax film, "Bears!" to San Diego's Fleet Theater. The Barona Indian School will benefit from the use of the Fleet facility and education staff to enhance their science program. We will have a special joint exhibit at Barona Museum and the Fleet. Our Museum will also play a part in their opening night celebration and other Fleet programs highlighting the bear. We are looking forward to a long relationship with this fine science center.

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## WHALE WATCHING TRIP

Join us to witness one of the wonders of the natural world. We will be whale watching with San Diego Harbor Excursions and in conjunction with the Steven Birch Aquarium on Wednesday, March 6, 2002. We leave Barona around 9:00 a.m. for a trip that will last from 10:15 a.m to 1:15 p.m., with lunch afterwards. This trip is open to all Tribal members and Barona School children. The price has yet to be determined. Please call for information.

# Barona Spirits Speak

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## BARONA SENIOR NEWS

We have a number of fun events scheduled for the next few months. We will be sending a mailing with all the offerings. Thursday, February 14, is slated for our annual Valentine's Day Luncheon. Please bring your sweetheart or guest. It's a great day to celebrate friendship and love. We are also scheduling a trip in May to the Palm Springs Follies. Our date is not yet secure as we go to press, so we'll keep you posted. Barona Senior Community members will be sent invitations in the mail.

**TRIBAL MEMBERS:** Our policy is that if the Seniors and their guests don't fill the bus or roster (FOR CLASSES THAT DON'T REQUIRE A BUS), you may attend. Call to be on our waiting list.

**REMEMBER:** *Barona Community members are eligible for the Senior events at age 55. Please call to add your name to our mailing list!*

### 2002 Barona Seniors and Tribal Member Trips and Tours

This is just a glimpse at the plans; some events are still to be confirmed. A mailer will be sent in January.

[TBA = to be arranged]

**Friday, January 25: 2nd anniversary**  
(All Tribal members — no charge)

**Thursday, February 14: Valentine's Day Luncheon**  
(Seniors only — no charge)

February (Date TBA): Visit to Reuben H. Fleet Science Center for viewing of "Bears!" film and lunch at Old Town.  
Open to all Tribal members.

**Wednesday, March 6: Whale Watching Trip**  
San Diego Harbor Excursions in conjunction with Steven Birch Aquarium. Leave Barona around 9:00 a.m.; excursion from 10:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.; lunch afterwards. Open to all Tribal members and Barona School children. Price to be determined.

**Tuesday, April 9: Museum of Making Music, Lunch at Karl Strauss Brewery and Carlsbad Flower Fields.**  
Open to all Tribal members. Price to be determined. Departure from Barona around 9:00 a.m., returning at 4:00 p.m.

**Saturday, May 11: Palm Springs Follies**  
For Tribal Seniors only. (TBA)

**August (Date TBA): Pageant of the Masters, Laguna Arts Festival** (Barona Seniors)

**Thursday, September 12:**  
San Diego County Tribal Elders Picnic at Barona Creek Golf Events Center. (TBA)

**October 28 (not confirmed):**  
Old Town Trolley Ghosts and Gravestones Tour and meal.  
Open to all Tribal members and maybe school children.

**November: Veterans' Exhibit Reception**  
Open to all Tribal members, Barona Vets and Seniors.

**Saturday, December 14 (not confirmed): Crystal Cathedral.**  
Open to all Tribal members.

### Attention: Barona Community Sewing Enthusiasts

Several of the ladies at the Christmas sewing class expressed an interest to get together and sew. We would like to announce the Barona Sewing Circle. Bring your machines, patterns and ideas. Or, bring your needlework: knitting, crocheting and embroidery. Let's share, visit and sew wonderful projects. Friends may come as the invited guests of participating Barona Community members. We will meet at the Museum the first Sunday of every month (January 6, February 3, and March 3) from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. We will not meet on holiday weekends.

# Barona Spirits Speak

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## QUARTERLY QUESTION

*In each Quarterly newsletter, we present some research questions that test our readers.  
Please call or write the Museum if you have an answer or even a small clue.*

**Does anyone have information on the last sighting of a grizzly bear in San Diego County?**

Call the Museum Curator with any information.

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

**By Cheryl Hinton, Museum Director/Curator**

Thanks again to Hewlett-Packard Corporation. We used our new equipment for the first time on the Veterans' Exhibit and it worked beautifully. Posters and photos were easily produced with the growing expertise of Assistant Curator Alexandra Harris.

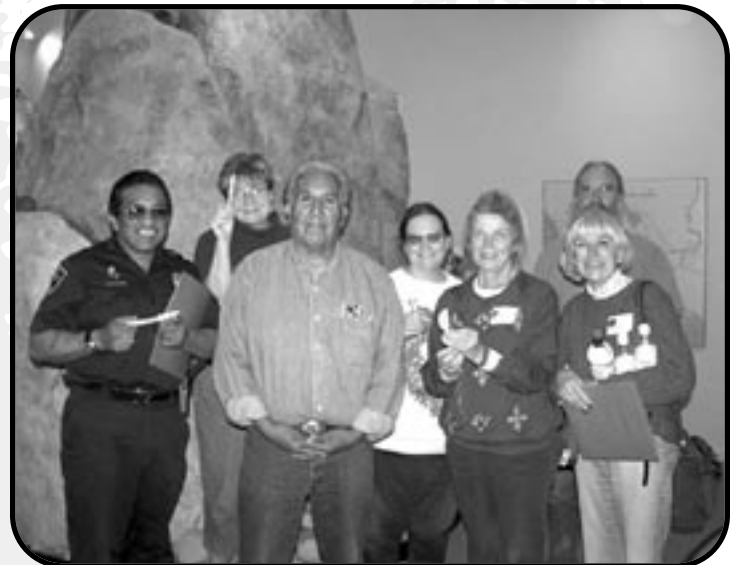
The Museum expansion is underway. Please stop in and visit us during the Anniversary Celebration on January 25 to have some fun and see the progress. We are looking forward to our new partnership in science education with the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center. The Museum staff is currently putting the finishing touches on its new Bears Exhibit.

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## ANCIENT SPIRITS SPEAK: Classes for Kids on Spring Break

Spring Break is March 26-28 this year. The week of Spring Break will be celebrated with three special days of activities for kids: watching Indian-related videos, making crafts and hearing stories. Snacks will be provided. Activities will take place from Noon until 2 p.m.

*\*Kids from Barona Reservation are welcome to just drop in. \*\*Members of the public: parents must contact the Museum if you are going to drop off your children; there is a special emergency form to complete. Please call to let us know you are coming. These classes are free - a gift from Barona. Happy Holidays! For more information, call the Museum (619) 443-7003, x 219.*



Holiday Gift Classes: Tribal member Frank LaChappa (far left) provided a generous cash gift for all of us this holiday season. He sponsored the Gifts from the Ancestors class by Amil Pedro of Gila River Community (center). Each student made a traditional stone knife blade.

# Barona Spirits Speak

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## RECENT DONATIONS AND ACQUISITIONS

Cash Gift from Tribal member **Frank LaChappa** to sponsor the Gifts from the Ancestors class by Amil Pedro in December 2001.

**Mr. & Mrs. William Hart** donated a *San Diego Union* article on local Indians from 1929.

**Max Mazetti** donated Sherman Institute panoramic photos and several archival materials.

**Delores Ruis Howard** donated photos of Capitan Grande and of her father Abel Ruis.

**Shirley Curo and Peg Stewart** each donated their quilt samplers from the summer class, Ancient Spirits Speak.



*The Veterans' Exhibit Opening and Dinner: Chairman LaChappa chats with Dr. Tom Splitgerber, Director of the Veterans Memorial Museum in San Diego, and Mrs. Splitgerber at the Museum Exhibit Opening. Dr. Splitgerber was the honored speaker at the Vets' Dinner.*



*Barona Community members and guests look for their veterans on the Barona Vets "Wall of Honor" at the Museum opening.*

## SATURDAY SEMINAR ON SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA INDIANS

Teachers, educators, and college students, here is your chance to explore the knowledge and the resources of the Barona Museum staff. You will meet Tribal members and anthropologists who will help you accurately plan and present your curriculum on local Indians. Whether your focus is primary, college, or public education, we believe this basic information is crucial to all educators in San Diego County. Please call to register and reserve your spot for Saturday, March 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This class may be eligible for professional growth - we will expand hours to fit the criteria. Have your supervisor contact Director/Curator Cheryl Hinton. Also a professor at USD, Hinton has worked in the field of Southern California Indian cultures for 20 years. Best of all, educators, this class is free!

# Barona Spirits Speak

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## NEMUULY AND THE PEOPLE: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

By Cheryl Hinton, Barona

*Did you know that San Diego County was grizzly country for people living in the late 1800s? Grizzly bears were roaming the mountains in Julian and Warner's Hot Springs about one hundred years ago. The Indians of San Diego County honored and respected the bear. Along with many tribes in California, the Kumeyaay had the "bear doctor," a shaman who could transform himself into a bear.*

In the Creation stories of several Southern California tribes, humans, animals, and other natural phenomena originated from a single sacred people. These "first people" communicated in a common language and lived as relatives. According to some beliefs, humans were also transformed into animals, plants, and natural objects such as rocks, the wind, the stars and the moon. Through the ages, there continued to be powerful people, called shamans, who could take animal form at will. One of the most impressive supernatural experiences was the bear shaman, or bear doctor... "he who became a bear." In San Diego County, the Kumeyaay\*, Cahuilla, Luiseño and Cupeño all had stories about bears and the shamans who became bears.

It has often been remarked that in the shadow of the forest, an upright bear almost appears to be an immense human. Few living animals evoke the respect and fear felt toward the bear. Before the arrival of the Spanish, thousands of bears roamed California, including the grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos Californicus*) and the black bear (*Ursus americanus*). The California grizzly is

now extinct; the last reported kill was in 1922. This may be very surprising to modern Southern Californians who are not aware that bears ever inhabited the area.



*The California State Prehistoric Artifact, an 8,000 year old stone crescentic from Agua Hedionda, northern San Diego County. Courtesy of Hank Koerper. Photo by Greg Rager.*

Today, only a few black bears remain in the San Bernardino Mountains - enough to cause a yearly flurry of sightings in towns like Banning and Beaumont. Black bears, however, are not a



# Barona Spirits Speak

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## CALIFORNIA INDIANS AND GRIZZLY BEARS

Barona Museum Director

native species of Southern California. Several black bears from Northern California were released in San Diego County in 1917, and in San Bernardino County in 1933. Thus, the bear described in the earliest traditions is the California grizzly bear.

Who was the one who became a bear? The Indians of past and present tell us of the shamans who could assume animal form, such as that of an eagle, rattlesnake, deer or bear. A close spiritual relationship between the shamans and certain sacred animals produced knowledge about the animal world that was believed to help in the hunt, to prevent dangerous situations, and to show the people how to conduct a proper life. Also, these shamans had great power; they cured diseases and killed the disobedient (A.L. Kroeber, 1925).

Language often gives clues to the importance of an animal or activity in a culture. There is ample linguistic evidence for the bear shaman, or “the one who becomes a bear.” In a Cahuilla dictionary by Seiler and Hioki (1979) are the phrases, *hunwe-t*: (the bear), *hunwe-lu*: (to turn into a bear), and *hunwe-lu’u-ish*: (one who became a bear). *Hunwet* is also the name of the bear in Luiseño and Cupeño. In ceremonial songs of the seasons, the bear is described as losing his hair and getting fat (Constance DuBois, 1908:143). In Cahuilla territories, place names also provide evidence of the importance of the bear: *Hou wit s sake* (a bearskin blanket) near Eagle Canyon; *Hoonwit ten ca va* (hills of the roasted bear) near Palm Springs and Interstate 10; *Hunwit*

*hekik* (place of the bear) near Tahquitz Canyon (Bean, Vane, Young, 1991); and Big Bear in the San Bernardino Mountains. The word for bear is *nemuuly* in the Barona Tribal Dictionary of the ‘Iipay dialect (Langdon et al, 1988). There is also the Bear Valley of the San Pasqual Indian Reservation (‘Iipay).

“shamans who  
could assume  
animal form”

There is also archaeological evidence in the region. From the ‘Iipay (Kumeyaay) and Luiseño territory border, the Agua Hedionda Lagoon site in northern San Diego County held a small, bear-shaped stone crescent that has become California’s state prehistoric artifact. (The site may be 8,000 years old.) Bear Valley Parkway by Lake Hodges in Escondido is very close to the site of the bear crescent artifact and continues into the Lake Wohlford area/San Pasqual Reservation. Rock Camp near Big Bear, a possible Serrano site, contains several grizzly bear bones in the

*Continued on page 8.*



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## NEMUULY AND THE PEOPLE: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA INDIANS AND GRIZZLY BEARS (CONTINUED)

archaeological midden. Another instance includes an artifact examined at Palm Springs Desert Museum in 1991. The four-inch, ceramic figurine resembled an upright “bear.” The bear was found at Palen Dry Lake, near the far northeastern border of the Cahuilla, and adjacent to Chemehuevi and Halchidhoma territories.

Among Cahuilla artifacts identified with bear associations is a group of pottery pieces painted with what appear to be bear claws. The “bear claw” potsherds were found in Palm Springs and are housed at Joshua Tree National Monument. Identified in the collection at the Palm Springs Desert Museum is a patch of bear fur threaded on a leather thong. It is thought to have been associated with Cahuilla ceremonial objects obtained in the 1960s. There is only one known record of bear-like designs on Cahuilla basketry. George Wharton James’ text, *Indian Basketry*, states, “This [basket] was made at Cahuilla, and represents the four feet and claws of a bear....The sharp saw teeth of ursa major” (1972: 212). The “feet and claws” resemble the design on the Palm Springs pot described above.

References to bear legends and the human-becoming-bear experience often occur in anthropological research on the California Indians. Renowned ethnographer, A.L. Kroeber, states in his survey (around 1902 to 1919) in *The Handbook of California Indians*, “The bear doctor was recognized over the entire state from the Shasta to the Diegueño...the bear shaman had the power to turn himself into a grizzly bear” (1925: 854).

Kroeber’s student, Lucille Hooper, often mentions the bear in her 1920 paper on the Cahuilla. Pet dogs were given the name of *Hanwet-mihanwish* or “fights bear.” Hooper’s study describes the “bear people” in an account of a “witchman” (or shaman) who changed into a bear during a contest of power between shamans. “It was during this same fiesta...that Juan de la Cruz...assumed the shape of a bear. He did this just as he finished dancing, then ran away, so that they did not get a good look at him. He first began to growl and imitate a bear, and then he really assumed its appearance” (1978: 337).

At the San Diego Museum of Man, there is an E.H. Davis photograph described as “The Bear Dance at Cereza Loma Ranch, 1910, Mesa Grande, California.” This is an ‘Iipay (Kumeyaay) Indian Reservation. In the photo are two individuals who resemble bears. They are dressed in full-length garb complete with rounded head coverings with bear ears. Each “bear” is leaning on a staff or pole. Curator Ken Hedges felt that this dance may have been staged for tourists.

The work of anthropologist William Duncan Strong, published in 1929, has many references to the bear and bear shamans among the Cahuilla, Cupeño, Luiseño and Diegueño (‘Iipay). Several Cahuilla interviewed by Strong said that the people could talk to bears in their own language. He cites an incident where a Cahuilla man in Los Angeles witnessed a “bear and bull fight” (animal fights staged for gambling). The man





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By Cheryl Hinton, Barona Museum Director

called to the bear, "You must fight and defend yourself." The bear listened and killed the bull (1987: 116). One Cupeño man at Kupa [today, Warner's Hot Springs in San Diego County] changed himself into a bear and killed many calves. According to the *Handbook of North American Indians*, some "Tipay/Tipay were 'born shamans' and could transform themselves into bears and rattlesnakes" (Luomala, 1978).

When encountering a grizzly bear in the mountains, the Cahuilla say, "Piwil, (great-grandfather), hide yourself far back in the mountains. Your enemies are coming. I am only looking for my food, you are human and understand me, take my word and go away" (Strong 1987: 116). The ceremonial bundle of the *kauisiktum* clan (of Palm Springs) contained a whistle made from a grizzly bear pelvis, "very powerful and called 'frightening'...the *paha* (ceremonial assistant) would whistle on it...a sound that would kill a noisy or irreverent person" (Strong 1987: 128). The bear shaman also figured importantly in the rituals of the hunt, as is described in the following:

...there was a hill called *pulukla*, near San Jacinto peak, to which hunters sang in the dance house asking that a deer be sent to them. They would then go to the spot and if their prayer was granted they would secure a deer. Such hunters were called *pavul*, and had the power of changing themselves into bears or mountain lions. Palm Springs informants stated that each group had these two kinds of shamans, the *pul* or curing doctor, and the *pavul* or "bear" shaman possessing the power of becoming an animal (1987:115).

[To be continued next issue....]

*Note: The people of San Diego County who are Yuman speakers have been known as: Diegueño, 'Iipay, Tipay or Kumeyaay in various locations. These names have also had various spellings. The Cupeño are also called the Kupa.*

*My appreciation to Jane Dumas, Angelo Lavato, Katherine Saubel, the late Satumino Torres, Lowell Bean and Ken Hedges for their expertise in this subject. Portions of a previous article by the author are excerpted (1993) from American Desert Magazine Volume 3; Hunwe-lu'u-ish: The Cahuilla Bear Shaman, by Cheryl Jeffrey [Hinton] with permission of Publisher Joan Brooks. © All rights reserved Cheryl Hinton.*



A Bear Dance at Cereza Loma Ranch at Mesa Grande Reservation (1910). Photo by E.H. Davis. Courtesy of San Diego Museum of Man.



# Barona Spirits Speak

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## MUSEUM CALENDAR

Subject to change. Please call (619) 443-7003, x 219.

### January

#### January 6:

Barona Sewing Circle, Sunday, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

#### January 9:

Museum committee meeting, Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.

#### January 11:

"Bears!" opens at the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center with Barona Exhibit (Open to the public)

#### January 25:

Museum 2nd Anniversary Party by invitation only, Friday evening.

### February

#### February 3:

Barona Sewing Circle, Sunday, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

#### February 6:

Museum committee meeting, Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.

#### February 14:

Valentine's Day Luncheon (Barona Seniors only)

#### February 16:

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center Family Science Day with Barona Museum  
Noon to 3:00 p.m. Call the Fleet Museum for information.  
(619) 238-1233, ext. 853 (Open to the public.)

#### February:

(Date TBA) Visit to Reuben H. Fleet Science Center for viewing of "Bears!" film and lunch at Old Town. Open to all Tribal members. Call the Barona Museum for details.

### March

#### March 3:

Barona Sewing Circle, Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

#### March 6:

Whale Watching Trip, San Diego Harbor Excursions in conjunction with Steven Birch Aquarium. Leave Barona around 9:00 a.m. Open to all Tribal members.

#### March 9:

Saturday Seminar on Southern California Indians from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Open to the public.)

#### March 13:

Museum committee meeting, Wednesday, at 10:00 a.m.

#### March 26-28, Ancient Spirits Speak:

Classes for kids on Spring Break, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday; activities from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Open to the public.)



*Several members of the Barona Community turned out to quilt southwest-style Christmas stockings with Pat Sloan (Chiracuahua Apache).*

# Barona Spirits Speak

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## THE MUSEUM COMMITTEE AND STAFF 2002

Charles "Beaver" Curo  
Museum Committee Chairman

Shirley Curo

Myrna DeSomber

Linda LaChappa

Josephine Romero

Kelly Speer

Josephine Whaley

Cheryl Hinton  
Director/Curator

Alexandra Harris (Western Cherokee)  
Assistant Curator

### MUSEUM ASSISTANTS:

Myrna DeSomber  
Senior Events and Archivist

Anna Navarrete  
Collections Management and Gift Shop Manager

## INTERNS

Rudy Ruiz  
Palomar College

Diane Tells-His-Name (Lakota)  
Palomar College

## MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Bobby Curo

Beverly Means

Phyllis Van Wanseele

Joe Yeats

Toddy Yeats

Please direct any newsletter inquiries to the editor, Cheryl Hinton.



(619) 443-7003, Ext. 219 • Fax 443-0681  
Email: [chinton@barona.org](mailto:chinton@barona.org)

# Barona Spirits Speak

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## DIRECTIONS

Take Highway 8 from San Diego going east to Highway 67. Going North to Ramona/Lakeside take a right on Willow Rd. (Circle K) and proceed to the intersection with Wildcat Canyon Rd. Take a left and go 6 miles to Barona Casino. Continue on Barona Rd. (Wildcat Canyon) for another mile and the Museum and Cultural Center are on the left.

## HOURS

Closed Monday and Tuesday.

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday: Noon to 5 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Call to schedule tours and research appointments.



1095 Barona Road  
Lakeside, CA 92040

