New Exhibition, Rock of Ages: Contemporary Music on Barona Reservation, opens with Rez Jam

To open its newest exhibition, Rock of Ages: Contemporary Music on Barona Reservation, Barona Museum hosted Rez Jam 2011—a night of concert fun featuring Barona Tribal member singers and musicians and their bands, each having the opportunity to play sets on the Electric Main Stage or in the Acoustic Café. The exhibition was well-received by Tribal members who enjoyed reminiscing about the many talented singers, players, and bands in Barona through the years. The rockin’ sounds of 50 Cal, Medicine Rock, Juan Bravo, Bobby Banegas & the Coyote Band, Charley’s Boys, and Still Kick’n were heard on the main stage and the acoustic sets by Curo and Banegas family members were memory-laden and moving. The audience relived memories of the good ol’ days and showed off their fancy footwork on the dance floor. It was a get-together to remember! (More photos on Page 11!)
FROM THE DIRECTOR
By Cheryl Hinton

Barona Museum’s Our Ancestors’ Village Mural to be Featured in National Museum Exhibition

I had the pleasure of visiting the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) in Washington, DC in October 2011 while performing several duties for the Museum. The National Mall was amazing, seeing men suspended on ropes repairing the damage from last year’s earthquake at the top of the Washington Monument. Last September, Chairman Romero, elders Josephine Whaley and Sister Romero, and I enjoyed a visit from the Smithsonian Associate Director Cameron McGuire and NMAI’s Christina Berube from the Office of Advancement. Upon returning the visit in October, they gave me a great tour of their Museum. In the morning, Christina Berube showed me the offsite location of the Museum Collection, the Cultural Resource Center in Suitland. At the Resource Center, I reviewed the Kumeyaay-Diegueño collections. It was wonderful to see the many old objects collected in the past. There were some rare and beautiful baskets with feathers woven into the coiling, ancient rabbit sticks and hunting bows, and then, superb regalia—rare eagle feather skirts and owl feather plumes. Our guide was Collections Manager, Tori Cranner. We also met with Archivist Michael Pahn. Barona Museum donated copies of our “Decade Report” celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Museum and our publication, More Than Words: Saving Our Endangered Language, A Family Activity Book. These will join the Barona Inter-Tribal Dictionary, Tipay Aa Tipay Aa Uumalld donated by Tribal Council in 2009. Returning to the Museum, my friend and colleague, Dennis Zotigh, gave me a special tour of the Museum. I enjoyed the benefit of Dennis’s great expertise and was delighted to see him sing and drum under the dome for the afternoon’s visitors. At lunch we were joined by Pam Woodis of the Education Department. Pam is also a Cosmic Serpent Fellow and we enjoyed catching up on ideas from the culminating conference. Plus, the award-winning food from their great Mitsitam Native Foods Café was a treat.

At the end of the day I met with Erin Beasley, Visual Researcher, to discuss Barona Museum’s upcoming participation in a new exhibition at NMAI. NMAI is working on a project that will teach visitors about moments of contact between American Indian tribes and Europeans. For the West coast of the United States, they are focusing on the Kumeyaay-Diegueño Indians of Southern California, specifically the moment of contact between them and the Spanish. Barona Museum’s Our Ancestors’ Village mural is ideal for depicting that time period. Barona Museum loaned the image of the mural which will be seen by thousands of NMAI visitors in a touch screen kiosk at the entrance to the exhibition galleries. I look forward to another visit when the exhibition is installed to see the good work of Barona Museum shared in our nation’s capitol.
2011 Living Treasure:  
Josephine Romero

In the musical Rent, there is a song entitled, Seasons of Love, with a catch phrase that says, “How do you measure the life of a woman or a man?”

Recently, I sat down with Josephine “Sister” Romero and we talked about her honoring as the Museum’s Living Treasure for 2011. She started out by saying she did not know why she was selected, “I haven’t done anything special.”

So, how do you measure a life? In Sister’s story, it goes back to her mother Dora Rodriguez Curo and father John Curo, Capitan Grande reservation members, who made a living by picking fruits and vegetables for the local farmers. According to Sister, her parents never had formal educations, possibly second grade at the most. Through life’s lessons, they taught “Sister” honesty, decision-making skills, independence and compassion to help those in need.

At the age of ten or eleven, Sister was given the responsibility to run the house while her parents and brothers worked the fields. By the age of 13, she was working alongside her parents in the fields and orchards contributing to the support of her family. She said, “I got a check and gave it to my parents, never thinking about keeping it.”

Her happiest memories are from the time she spent at Sherman Indian School in Riverside, California, from which she graduated high school (the first person in her family to do so). She spent half of her school day on book study and the other half learning vocational skills in the kitchen, laundry, hospital, and bakery. In school she made friends, ate well, and learned lifelong skills.

As she reminisced, she realized that her one regret was not continuing her education. “At that time, you learned how to cook and clean so you could get married and take care of your family. There was never any talk of becoming anything other than a nurse.”

Education is important to Sister—advocating for the youth of the reservation to pursue higher learning. “They need to be able to speak to people that will listen to us, to help change our reservation for the better.”

In that effort, Sister was the Chairperson of Barona from 1976 to 1980. She was not looking for power or prestige. She always had a desire to help people. The opportunity to serve as the Barona chairperson was just a continuation of serving others. As she puts it, “I was asked to run. I said okay because I didn’t think I would win.” Because of Sister’s leadership, the tribe started down the road of creating a casino by instituting high stakes bingo. In addition, Sister served on the Tribal Council several times as well as on numerous Barona Tribal Committees. She is a founding member of the Kuhmií Tepchuarp, Circle of Elders and was instrumental in starting the Barona Museum.

Our reservation has changed in so many ways since the Casino was established. Sister sees the changes as positive ones. The best changes are the services now available—health insurance, recreation activities, creation of a school, establishment of our Museum, availability of new homes, and enhancements to the Church of the Assumption.

At the age of 83, Sister is the oldest kuhmií (elder) on the reservation. She remembers the 1932 move from our ancestral home of Capitan Grande. Since 1947, she has been married to the love of her life, Benjamin B. Romero. Together they raised five children, Donna Romero DiIorio, the present Barona Chairman Edwin “Thorpe” Romero, Doreen Romero Ford, Dawn “Puma” Romero Banegas, and the late Darrell Romero. She has 13 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. Sister considers her family the source of her greatest love, heartache and joy.

So, how do I measure this woman’s life? I see a woman who was raised with the riches of tradition and love. She was taught to make decisions based on what information she had available to her. She learned to do with what she had and to share with those less fortunate. When asked by her Community to cook or sing in the choir or provide leadership, she never said no. Today, she embodies strength, determination, humility, compassion, and love of family in one person our Community can regard as a Living Treasure.

Sister said, “I haven’t done anything special.” A special person never considers their deeds extraordinary, but those of us looking up to them know how special they are.
Caring for Barona’s Objects of Cultural Heritage: The Impact of the 2010 Institute of Museum and Library Services Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Grant

By John George, Collections Manager

In 2010, Barona Museum received a $50,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services which funded new, specialized storage equipment, moving equipment, and conservation supplies for the Museum’s new curation and research facility, the Barona Museum Research Center. With the installation of this equipment, the long-term storage of collection is enhanced as is the accessibility of the collection. Over 4,000 artifacts in the collection are now accessible, including 1,000 artifacts available for the first time. In addition, customizable shelving, coat racks, and rolling textile units accommodate uniforms, textiles, clothing, and many other materials requiring specialized preservation storage.

Overall, the grant provided a physical environment for the Museum’s collections that facilitated proper storage techniques, good handling practices, appropriate environmental conditions, and a pest-free environment. Further, the total collections storage system upgrade enables and enhances the ongoing development of better security, fire protection, emergency operations, integrated pest management, collections housekeeping, preventive conservation, environmental monitoring, accountability procedures, and educational accessibility plans.

New Research Associate Jennifer Stone Helps Document Barona History

By Rosa Longacre, Librarian/Archivist

Barona Museum is lucky to have dedicated volunteers and interns that help in a pinch, provide an extra pair of hands, and contribute to the overall success of the Museum. One of these dedicated individuals is Jennifer Stone. Jennifer has been volunteering at the Museum since April 2010 and recently was hired as a Research Assistant where she works as needed for various departments. I had the opportunity to talk with Jennifer about her work experience so I could introduce her as a new Museum team member.

Jennifer became involved with the local Native community in the early 1990s while in college. She was a member of the Grossmont College American Indian Club and the Native American Student Alliance at SDSU. While working on her Master’s thesis, she taught Native History courses at Grossmont College and one course at the Viejas Education Center. Jennifer went on to work as an archivist and manager for the American Indian Film Festival and later worked at the San Diego Museum of Man in the Education and the Collections departments.

Jennifer has been extremely helpful at Barona Museum. She inventoried the Media Collection and helped prepare the collection for the digitization process. She also learned to transcribe oral histories. Documenting these recordings is an arduous job—there are over 30 oral histories that Museum Director Cheryl Hinton conducted with the Barona Community over the past twelve years. Several new oral histories were recorded during the research stage of the new Rock of Ages exhibition. Jennifer went right to work transcribing some of these. With Jennifer’s help, the stories and memories of Barona Tribal members are documented and archived for future generations.

Jennifer also assisted staff with preparations for the Teachers’ Seminar and the Thank You Native America program, created product information cards for the Museum Store, and even helps staff stay on top of the filing and office organization. Staff members are very happy to have Jennifer’s help!
Recent Acquisitions

Barona Cultural Center & Museum recently acquired the following items to add to the growing collections. If you are interested in donating to the collection, please contact Cheryl Hinton, Director/Chief Curator.

**Gift of Joseph “JoJo” Banegas / CD—Joseph Leon “Slick” Banegas, Del Dios**

**Gift of Josephine Whaley / Books—The American Indian Wars, The Trail of Tears across Missouri, Yuman Texts, Volume 1, Number 3, Indian Basket Weaving: The Navajo School of Indian Basketry, Indian Basket Weaving: How to Weave Pomo, Yurok, Pima, and Navajo Baskets, Concise Encyclopedia of the American Indian, Indians of North America: The Seminole, Temalpakh: Cahuilla Indian Knowledge and Usage of Plants**

**Gift of Toddie Yeats / Digital Image Collection—1967 May Crowning**


**Gift of LeLanie Thompson / Digital Image Collection—Charley’s Boys & family musical performances**

**Gift of Beaver & Shirley Curo / T-Shirt—40th Annual Barona Pit Bar-B-Q, 1997 CD & Photograph—Still Kick’n**

**Gift of Jacqueline Whaley / Collection of Barona History ephemera**

**Gift of Jane Dumas / Optical Disc—’Iipay Aa Language Lessons, 2011**


**Gift of Myra Marsh / Photograph—Southern California Powwow**


**Gift of April Perez / Digital Image Collection—50 Cal, Rincon Earth Day 2K Run, 2011**


**Gift of Bobbie Turner / T-Shirt & Business Card—50 Cal**

**Gift of Bonnie LaChappa / T-Shirts—37th & 38th Annual Barona Powwow**

**Gift of Bruce Curo / Digital Image Collection—Arrowhead**

**Gift of Robert Batchelder / Pottery—from La Cresta (pictured in background)**
Josiah Richardson helps Culture Camp instructor Richard Bugbee (Luiseño) construct a traditional-style tule boat.

Eldon Holsbo, Huumaay Banegas, and Nyrie Richardson learn to grind clay into fine powder during Culture Camp.

Gunner Turner, Rhyme Whitecloud, Bailey Holsbo, Gatlin Turner, and Harrison Whitecloud learn new techniques in School of Rock.

Teachers learn to play Shahuuk Maay Sarraap at the Museum’s Teachers’ Seminar.

Barona Kids made tissue paper flower wreaths for Candlelighting at the Barona Cemetery.

Candy Christman creates a heart-shaped wreath in the Museum’s wreath-making class for Candlelighting.
Ancient Spirits Speak

Spring 2012

The following classes are open to the public and lunch is provided. Due to the popularity of these classes, they fill up quickly. You must pre-pay for the class to reserve your spot.

You can pre-pay in one of the following ways:

Call the Museum to pay with a credit card over the phone;

Call the Museum to arrange to mail in your payment; or

Drop by the Museum to pay in person.

TRADITIONAL DOLLS
Saturday, April 14 & Saturday, April 21
10am-3pm
Ages 16 & up
Fee: $25 (Barona Tribal Members are free)

The tradition of doll-making goes way back—Kumeyaay people made cloth dolls as children's toys. In her autobiography, Delfina Cuero remembers constructing dolls from rags, stuffing them, and using sticks for legs. Eva Salazar (Kumeyaay) will guide the participants in making cloth dolls with a willow bark skirt and a basket hat. No sewing experience is necessary. This is a two-day class; participants must attend both days.

SENTAAY KUTUM
Saturday, May 5
10am-3pm
Ages 16 & up
Fee: $25 (Barona Tribal Members are free)

Barona Museum presents a brand new class taught by Stan Rodriguez (Santa Ysabel)! Learn to make and play Sentaay Kutum—a child's game of catching acorn cap rings on a stick. Throughout history, Kumeyaay people took great pride in their endurance and skills—children's games were played to practice the skills they'd need as they grew. Try your hand at it! Class participants will scrape yucca and make cordage, clean and shape the acorn caps, and whittle willow sticks to the proper size.

PROJECTILE POINT KNAPPING
Saturday, June 2
10am-3pm
Ages 18 & up
Fee: $25 (Barona Tribal Members are free)

The practice of creating tools from stone is one of the most respected of ancient human skills. Join Barona Tribal member Bobby Joe Curo and Tim Gross, PhD.—class participants will learn to flake or knap a stone projectile point. Bobby will share examples of his work and how he learned the skill. Dr. Gross will assist and discuss the history of this ancient tradition. Due to the sharpness of the stone material and the hazardous flaking process, students must be 18 or older to participate and must wear the protective goggles and gloves provided.
Did You Know?

By Laurie Egan-Hedley, Assistant Director/Curator

Last September, I attended the combined Western Museum Association (WMA) and the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, & Museums (ATALM) annual meetings in Honolulu, Hawaii. What a treat it was! My colleague and friend, Judi (JP) Pruitt from the University of Oregon's Museum of Natural and Cultural History, and I, led a preconference workshop, “Practical Tips for Museum Store Success.” We presented our museums’ store challenges and successes to a group of colleagues facing similar circumstances. Our presentation was well-received, and the sharing of ideas was so wonderful, we are submitting a proposal to continue our workshop theme at the WMA conference next year!

What’s more impressive are the ideas I heard the very first day of the conference from the keynote speaker; these still stay with me today. The keynote speaker, Manulani Aluli Meyer, Ed.D., is an outgoing and engaging speaker; her words and life’s work are profound. As a Native Hawaiian and a scholar, she balances those two worlds with grace. She challenged us museum people who work at cultural institutions to wrap our brains around her “Five (K)new Ideas for World Transformation.” 1. Knowledge is holographic; 2. All nouns are verbs; 3. Always describe the higher; 4. Truth is recognized; and 5. No time for nostalgia.

I encourage you to read the synopsis of her lecture on the WMA blog: westmuse.wordpress.com/2011/09/25/wma2011keynote and let it percolate. I warn you, it’s a lot to absorb; in fact, I’m still slowly chipping away at it. However, her first point, “Knowledge is holographic” became ever-so-clear to me on the plane trip home four days later.

Let me share with you what Dr. Meyer’s work has come to mean to me, in my experience. Dr. Meyer explained that knowledge is holographic—a metaphor for understanding that knowledge is composed of three parts: body, mind, and spirit. She says this common sense comes naturally to Indigenous people whereas the rest of us may rely on just one or two of these parts of knowledge.

The “body” aspect of knowledge is the foundation of Science with fundamental objectivity also rooted in Indigenous knowing. This is knowledge that comes from direct experience. The “mind” aspect of knowledge is the relative truth of what is not seen, but is known through thoughts and ideas. The “spirit” aspect is not religious. Rather, it is the understanding that we are more than our bodies and minds. Dr. Meyer encouraged museum professionals to use all three facets of knowledge in our work with Native people. Dr. Meyer also produced a list of descriptive triads that might help us relate to understanding knowledge with body, mind, and soul in our own terms. The triad that stuck me was “Ways of Knowing” (body) / “Ways of Being” (mind) / “Ways of Doing” (soul). I liked the way it sounded but I had trouble coming up with examples in my own life of how I use all three.

Towards the end of the conference, I visited the Bishop Museum and was impressed with the architecture and the multi-story exhibition of Hawaiian history—truly an inspiring place. Even though I had the best of intentions, I could not possibly see and read everything in the short time I had to visit. I walked past each display and only stopped to read if something caught my eye. Of all things, the artifact that caught my eye and held my attention was the octopus fishing lure. I admired how it was made, how it was designed to function under the water, and wondered what it must feel like to go fishing for an octopus. (I am my father’s daughter and fishing is in my genes.) I was so impressed by this lure; I even looked in the museum store for a replica to purchase to take home to Dad.

Sitting comfortably on my long flight home and going over all the presentations and events of the conference in my mind, I recalled what a cool artifact that lure was. I was remembering the shiny cowry shell tied to the gritty stone, the smooth bone hook, and then it hit me. I identified with that lure through body, mind, and spirit! I could use all three tenets of knowledge. Body—I know how to fish, I know how the mechanics of a lure work, and I have that knowledge through experience. Mind—although I have not fished for octopus, I know what it must feel like when the octopus tugs on the lure and the fisherman sets the hook all in the space of an adrenaline-infused moment. I also know the thrill of pulling the catch up and out of the water. Spirit—I felt connected, even if in the tiniest bit, to Hawaiian octopus fishermen and that minute piece of their culture. I now know. That is the best thing I brought home from the conference.
The Museum is deeply saddened by the loss of Councilwoman Linda Curo, founding Museum Committee member, former Council Liaison, and Circle of Elders Committee Chair. Linda was a tremendous source of support, inspiration, and assistance for the Museum over the last decade. In the early years of the Museum she was especially helpful in reviewing exhibition materials to make sure all of the Tribal families were included. In recent years, she was active in the operations of the Museum as the Museum’s Tribal Council Liaison. Her support and devotion to our Museum projects and activities were always appreciated. Linda was a fine cook and excellent seamstress, and she generously lent her skills to museum classes and projects. She was important in many Tribal Community service activities including the Enrollment Committee, the School Board, the Housing Committee, the Circle of Elders, and numerous others. She was a devoted mother, nemaaw, nina, and auntie to her family. She was a friend to so many on the Barona Reservation and in the larger community. Linda is greatly missed.
Menyuwara?
(Are you hungry?)

By Victoria Kolb, Museum Assistant

One part of the Museum’s mission is to preserve the Kumeyaay/Digéñö language, ‘Iipay Aa. The Museum works toward this goal in a variety of ways: our early recordings of the language are in the process of being transcribed, translated, and digitized; we work with linguist Amy Miller to document the language; and we hold several series of language classes for the Barona Tribal Community.

Pat Curo (Barona) and Stan Rodriguez (Santa Ysabel) are our teachers, and Herman Osuna (Santa Ysabel) is our elder assistant. Learning a new language is difficult—the students can attest to that, and the teachers certainly have their work cut out for them. It can be very frustrating and learning from a book isn’t for everyone. So, with input from Tribal Members, we changed it up!

I worked with Pat and Stan to create immersion-style classes. For eight weeks, we focused on what everyone loves—food! We created an exhaustive list of vocabulary—everything food- and cooking-related. Pat recorded the vocabulary so Tribal Members could listen to the language in their cars, at home, in the gym… anywhere. Students translated their favorite recipes into ‘Iipay Aa and shared them with the class. Students were even treated to a restaurant-setting class where Stan, Rosa, Laurie, and I served dinner and only spoke in ‘Iipay Aa and the students had to order their meals in the language. It was a success!

This class format was more enjoyable than book-learning and everyone can now speak ‘Iipay Aa in their kitchens as they prepare dinner! ‘Eyay ‘ehan!

NEW EXHIBITION NOW OPEN!

Rock of Ages:
Contemporary Music Traditions on the Barona Reservation

Music and musicians tell great stories through song and memories. The Museum collected many of these great stories through recent interviews with several of the musicians on the reservation. The exhibition features the stories about the musicians, how they got their starts and who their teachers were. Many Barona Tribal members sing, play in bands, and participate in choirs. Some have records and CDs. These dedicated players pass down this love of music to a new generation and continue this important Barona tradition.

Last Saturday of the Month
Guided Tour, Refreshments, and Native Artist Showcase!

Arrive at 10am (no reservations needed) for coffee, donuts, and a guided tour from the Museum Educator. Stay to meet and greet a Native Artist at our Native Artist Showcase.

Receive 10% off your purchase from our showcased artist!
Native Artist Showcases & Much More New to the Museum Store

By Robin Edmonds, Museum Store Coordinator

The New Year brings a fresh perspective to Barona Museum’s Store. The Store expanded its merchandise selection to include “Brushkins”—whimsical animal ornaments and magnets representing animals of the ancestors. In conjunction with the new Rock of Ages exhibition, the Store carries commemorative guitar picks and CDs from Barona’s own bands/musicians and singer/songwriters such as Harold Hill, Bruce Curo, Bobby Banegas, and Steven & Mandy Curo. The Store also carries official 50 Cal t-shirts and hats.

On the last Saturday of the month, the Museum Educator gives a free guided tour at 10am. No reservations are required and refreshments are provided. This year, the Store is enhancing the “Last-Saturday-of-the-Month” program. After the guided tour, stick around for the Native Artist Showcase from 11am-2pm. Meet and greet a different native artist each month from the San Diego County area. Receive a 10% discount on the artist’s work that day! Our first Native Artist Showcase takes place on Saturday, January 28th. Meet master basketmaker Eva Salazar (Kumeyaay) and see her exquisite basketry and other native arts. Be sure to sign up online at www.baronamuseum.org to receive email updates and details about the monthly Native Artist Showcase.

MORE PHOTOS:
New Exhibition, Rock of Ages: Contemporary Music on Barona Reservation, opens with Rez Jam

Visit our new and improved website! www.baronamuseum.org