Barona Indian Charter School’s Founders’ Native Garden Opens

For the third year in a row, Museum staff and the 8th grade class at Barona Indian Charter School (B.I.C.S.) teamed up to help preserve the history and heritage of the Barona Tribe. This year’s project is dedicated to and in remembrance of some very special Tribal members.

The assignment for Mrs. Martinez’s class was the study of ethnobotany, the science of cultural plant use, and the creation of a Native plant garden. Each member of the Museum team assisted with the research and construction of the garden. The class was divided into three groups reflecting categories of plant uses: food, medicine, and materials. To help prepare for the project, the students visited the Kumeyaay Garden at San Diego Botanic Garden (S.D.B.G.) in Encinitas and were accompanied by Barona Tribal Member and Enforcement Officer Frank LaChappa. At the Garden, students were given an informative tour by the staff including Director Dave Ehrlinger and Docent Mary Roper. The S.D.B.G. donated several plants to help start our Native plant garden and seeds were purchased from Native Seed Search and the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College.

The students were excited to get the ground prepared for the garden. Along with Museum staff and volunteers, the students worked very hard to weed the plot, dig furrows, and plant in mounds and rows. Over 25 different native plants including ceanothus, lemonade berry, toyon, agave, yucca, squash, beans, chia, juncus, desert willow, three types of sage, poppies, penstemon, and gourds were planted.

The most important aspect of the garden is that it is now known as the B.I.C.S. Founders’ Native Garden and is dedicated to the school’s founders, Shirley Ruis and the late Councilwoman Linda Curo. Frank LaChappa created the vision for the garden, instructing the students about its layout. He included an area for meditation and enjoyment of the Garden. The Museum thanks Mr. LaChappa for his generous donation of funds for the garden fence and Barona Resort & Casino Landscaping Department for donating and installing the river rock for the drainage and decorative touches.

The Garden opened June 11, 2012 with proud students, staff, and community members in attendance, and in addition, the Museum Classroom was dedicated to the memory of Linda Curo, Museum Committee member and Tribal Council Liaison, 2009-2011. Perhaps the students’ greatest lesson was taking part in an enduring project to honor and thank the many Tribal and Community members who support education on this Reservation. See more Native Garden photos on Page 10!
What comes to your mind when I say, "Dalai Lama"? Do you think about an exotic locale with natives in colorful dress, snow capped high mountains and beautiful temples in Tibet? That was my thinking when I heard the Dalai Lama was coming to San Diego, but after checking into the history of the Dalai Lama, I found another tale as well.

The Dalai Lama, briefly summarized, is the exiled spiritual and political leader of Tibet. According to Wikipedia, Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama left Tibet in 1951, after a takeover by China. This is similar to native people everywhere—an invading force takes over and imposes their culture upon the conquered. Can you imagine having to leave all that is familiar to you and resettling in a foreign land? Maybe you can.

The 14th Dalai Lama sought refuge in India and established an exile government. The Dalai Lama retired March 14, 2011 from his political leadership but, according to his Website, he continues to be “…guided by the promotion of basic human values or secular ethics in the interest of human happiness, the fostering of inter-religious harmony and the welfare of the Tibetan people, focusing on the survival of their identity, culture and religion.” Sound familiar?

As part of his effort to promote basic human values, on April 19, 2012, the Dalai Lama of Tibet, requested an audience with the indigenous people of San Diego County, in conjunction with his public speaking engagement at San Diego State University. I was not there but wanted to know what happened at that meeting so I asked two people who were invited, Barona Tribal Chairman Edwin “Thorpe” Romero and Barona Tribal leader and Bird Singer Steve Banegas.

Chairman Romero observed the following:

When the Dalai Lama entered the room, we did a special welcome by singing and dancing our traditional bird songs and dance. Chairman Elliott and George Prieto welcomed the Dalai Lama in our native language. The bird songs and dance were led by Paul Cuero, along with Steve Banegas and others. After this, we began the open dialogue with the Tribal Leaders. His Holiness talked about compassion and how important it is to stay together as one people. He spoke about how important it is to keep our own traditional names and native language.

I asked Chairman Romero about the spirituality associated with the Dalai Lama. He responded,

I was most impressed with his willingness to join us. I feel he joined us in spirit. I say that because I watched him very closely – I was right next to him – and I can tell how observant he was. I could see that he wasn’t just sitting in there at another meeting – he was listening and really taking in our words that our leaders delivered to him. I was also impressed with his interaction with our people. He looked very comfortable, so comfortable that he actually spent twice the time they allotted for him.

Steve Banegas told me:

I thought he was very humble and holy. For some of us, it was more like we were a welcoming committee for our people and (we) let him know that we understand what his people are going through. We are working on a return trip for him to meet with more native people sometime in the near future. He was presented with a gourd, some sage and tobacco to help him pray. I believe four of our songs really touched him.

Now when I think about the Dalai Lama, I am reminded of the struggle of native people everywhere. It is such a shame to see language and culture consumed by the majority. As the minority, I can only hope that coming generations of native people can hold onto their identity just as the Dalai Lama works so hard to achieve. Yet, you’ve heard it before—we are one human race, one people. I quote from the Dalai Lama, “Every morning when I wake up, I dedicate myself to helping others to find peace of mind. Then, when I meet people, I think of them as long term friends; I don’t regard others as strangers.”

No we are not strangers. As those who attended this special meeting can attest, our common identity is our common history. Thank you, Dalai Lama, for sharing your presence with us.
I am always looking at areas of research important to the history of the people of Barona. Recently, an important text was published, *El Capitan* by Tanis C. Thorne, PhD, head of the department of Native American Studies in the History department at the University of California, Irvine.

Dr. Thorne delivered two lectures on her research this past spring for Tribal members. Dr. Thorne researched the history of Capitan Grande for many years. Sometime around 2003, she, and her student Heather Ponchetti Daley, visited the Museum with our Museum Committee member Josephine Whaley. At that time, based on the research Dr. Thorne was doing on Capitan Grande, the Barona Tribe agreed to help fund her research at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Washington, DC. Barona also sent the Museum’s then-Assistant Curator Alexandra Harris to assist. Barona Museum received copies of that NARA research for our archives. After the culmination of a decade of research, Dr. Thorne graciously donated her personal research archive from her newest book, *El Capitan*. The book includes important information concerning the history of the village at Capitan Grande, the removal for El Capitan Reservoir, and how the move affected the people of Barona and Viejas. It includes maps and photographs. One of the important topics in the book is the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ attempt to create a planned community at Barona. In Dr. Thorne’s talk *Barona: the Designer Reservation*, she discussed the BIA’s plans for the Barona community after the move from Capitan Grande. Both talks and the book were very interesting for the Barona Tribal members in attendance and provided a critical review of their history. *El Capitan* is available for sale in the Museum Store.

Also in the spring, I met with several groups to assist in their efforts to tell the history of the Kumeyaay-Diegueño people. I am working with the San Diego Botanic Gardens in Encinitas on their Kumeyaay Garden by reviewing their plans for revision of their informational signage text. A similar project I have the privilege to assist with is planning of a Native Garden and signage at Oakoasis Park on Wildcat Canyon Road. I was also delighted to welcome back to Barona Museum, the San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce Leadership program. Each year the SDECCC trains new leaders for the area and one of the important components is to give them an understanding of local tribal history. I am especially rewarded by all of the connections I make when working with this group of leaders in training. From the Barona Casino side, we heard a recent alumna, Dana Sass of Community Relations, tell of the inspiring work she has done in our East County Community as a result of this great training. Also noteworthy is Bonnie LaChappa’s voluminous work with the Chamber and the larger community. Barona Museum is always reaching out with the goal of sharing knowledge and understanding with our important community relations.
Newest Exhibition:

Rock of Ages: Contemporary Music Traditions on the Barona Reservation

Music and musicians tell great stories through song. 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 new generations and continue this important Barona tradition.

Future Exhibitions:

A Visit from Old Friends...
Coming Soon! Fall 2012

After the turn of the 20th Century, southern California native groups were engulfed in the notion of a “romanticized west.” Tourism flourished and items of Native American culture became extremely collectible souvenirs. Tourists flocked to purchase basketry, pottery, and jewelry from all over the southwest. Additionally, there were no laws at the time to protect Native American sites. Anyone could pick up broken pottery sherds, and arrow points, along with any other native goods they found. These items often ended up in cultural institutions or museums across the United States and beyond. This exhibition features cultural items from this area that are rarely seen in these other institutions.

Sports and Games:

Serious Fun for the Barona People
Fall 2013

We would like to invite Tribal Members and the public to share with us any photographs, memorabilia, or memories of sports and games on the Barona Reservation and at Capitan Grande. As is the case for so many Indian Reservations, the people love to come together in competitive sports and games to compete for their community. This year, Intertribal Sports celebrates its 10th anniversary of competition among the San Diego and other southern California reservations. For many tribal member families, there is no closer feeling of community than competing in football, baseball, softball, golf, basketball, shinny, peon, and many other sports and games. There are many stories in the world of sports that involve heroism and courage, and some happened right here at Barona, such as the career of Barona’s Matt LaChappa with the San Diego Padres. We hope to tell many more stories of exciting competitions and contests in the arena that is so important to all Americans, but especially to Native America.

Current Exhibition:

New & Notable

Barona Cultural Center & Museum receives many wonderful donations to the archives, photograph archives, and object collections. The New & Notable exhibition shows a sample of the donations the Museum recently received. See these treasures of pottery, basketry, photographs and books for the library through December 2012.
Object-Based Learning — A New Curriculum for Museum’s Culture Classes

By Laurie Egan-Hedley, Director/Curator

Barona Museum has long-enjoyed creating learning opportunities with the students at school on the Reservation. The Heritage Project, designed for 8th grade students, has turned out so well year after year that we were encouraged to develop more meaningful learning experiences for grades Kindergarten through 7th using the Museum’s unique collection to teach Barona’s culture and history. After much research, we learned of an object-based curriculum used in a Hawaiian museum that taught culture to Native Hawaiian students. Modeling their curriculum, we created a fun new program for the students at Barona Indian Charter School.

Kindergarteners learned about “museum manners” and what an “artifact” is. They learned that artifacts or special objects are important to their owners because of the story associated with them. Each student, then, had an at-home project to complete—a “Me” box. A “Me” box is a shoebox in which the student put his or her own special objects that tells his or her story. Students then brought their “Me” boxes to class and described the stories their boxes told. The students’ “Me” boxes turned out wonderfully—the class learned to appreciate the diversity among the group and learn about why objects were meaningful—a great foundation upon which to build next year.

First graders were tasked with “making connections” after learning museum manners and all about artifacts. Museum staff modeled how to care for the Museum’s artifacts and their own private special objects. The students’ eyes lit up as staff carefully unwrapped and told of the meanings behind the special objects. Students, then, brought in their own special object from home and shared why the object was important, how they take special care of it, and their classmates asked follow up questions such as, “How old is it? Where did you get it?” and staff was thrilled to see the students’ engaged in object-based learning.

Second and third graders studied the pottery on exhibition in the Museum and learned about form and function. Each student then had the opportunity to create a replica pot in a hands-on setting. Students learned to appreciate the hard work and skill needed to produce pottery. Then students wrote their own interpretation of their piece of pottery, in essence, creating a “museum label” for their artwork.

Fourth and fifth graders received a tour of the Museum’s ancient history exhibition and each student picked out their favorite artifact. They followed up with research in the classroom on the cultural significance of that artifact. They then wrote juried essays and gave presentations to Museum staff on what they learned.

Sixth and seventh graders received a primer on Barona’s culture and history and were tasked with capturing a photograph depicting a “scene of culture” either past or present, accompanied by a written essay describing the element of culture their photograph depicts.

Overall, the program was a huge success and the students surprised us with their dedication to their projects and willingness to learn. The teachers were all so very supportive and reinforced the lessons in the Museum Classroom in their own classrooms. What a terrific group; we look forward to Culture Classes next year!
Dynamic Programming Continues at Barona Museum

By O’Jay Vanegas, Museum Educator

As the new Museum Educator at Barona Museum, I have been overwhelmed by the spirit of community and identity on the Barona reservation. It is great to see a Tribe encouraging its membership, staff, and visitors to learn of the rich culture of the people. Educational programs offered by the Museum exemplify the generational practice of oral traditions. Although I have not been working here very long, I cannot help to feel already connected to the Barona youth who attend our classes and participate in our programs.

As we end our spring schedule, I look forward to the summer and fall seasons ahead. The Museum is preparing for our annual Culture Camp program that takes place in July—three days of fun-filled and educational activities for tribal youth. Continued in the summer will be our energetic School of Native Rock program; youth who attend this program are extremely talented and musically inclined. September marks the beginning of our Ancient Spirits Speak series of public classes that will include making rabbit sticks, crafting pottery, and weaving pine needle baskets. These are just some examples of the dynamic programming coming to the Barona Cultural Center & Museum. I am very appreciative of the opportunity to serve this wonderful community and cultural institution. Please visit the Museum and find time to participate in our upcoming events.
Join us for another exciting season of Ancient Spirits Speak classes! Due to the popularity of these classes, they fill up quickly. To guarantee your spot in the class, you must call the Museum and pre-pay for the class. Barona Tribal Members receive free registration but must RSVP ahead of time. All classes are open to the public and lunch is provided.

**Rabbit Sticks**
Instructor: Stan Rodriguez  
Date: Saturday, September 8, 2012  
Time: 10am-3pm  
Ages: 16 and up  
Fee: $25 Public/Free to Barona Tribal Members

Rabbit Sticks are important tools for hunting rabbits in open fields. A hunter must possess great ability and skill to throw a rabbit stick and accurately hit the target. Join Stan Rodriguez (Santa Ysabel) as he shows us how to cut and shape this traditional hunting tool. Participants will be able to test their skills on targets (no rabbits will be harmed). RSVP by August 31st.

**Pottery Making**
Instructor: Martha Rodriguez  
Date: Saturday, October 6, 2012 and Saturday, October 13, 2012 (participants must attend both days)  
Time: 10am-3pm  
Ages: 16 and up  
Fee: $25 Public (covers both days)/Free to Barona Tribal Members

Martha Rodriguez (San Jose de la Zorra) instructs a two-part pottery-making class. Learn the traditional way to create pottery in utilitarian forms. Learn to grind and process raw clay, shape and build a pot, and then fire the final piece. RSVP by September 21st.

**Pine Needle Basket**
Instructor: Yvonne LaChusaTrottier  
Date: Saturday, November 3, 2012  
Time: 10am-3pm  
Ages: 16 and up  
Fee: $25 Public/Free to Barona Tribal Members

In earlier times, pine needle baskets were used as gift baskets for special occasions. Contemporary pine needle baskets include decorative accents. Join Yvonne LaChusa Trottier (Mesa Grande) as she instructs participants in making their own pine needle basket. RSVP by October 19th.

**Holiday Kid's Craft Class**
Date: Saturday, December 15, 2012  
Time: 11am-Noon  
Ages: 5-11 (adult chaperone required)  
Fee: $5 Public/Free to Barona Tribal Members

It's time for the Museum's annual Holiday Kid's Craft Class! Participants will create a special holiday craft with a Native twist. RSVP by November 30th.
Volunteer Life is ‘Ehan at Barona Cultural Center & Museum

By John George, Collections Manager

The Barona Cultural Center & Museum is fortunate to have a group of talented individuals donating their time and skill to help organize and catalog museum objects, inventory and arrange archival collections, and participate in educational programs.

Melissa “Missy” Snell is a graduating senior at Biola University. She is currently working on her B.A. in Anthropology and has been volunteering and interning with the Museum for over eight months. Missy has worked in every facet of the Museum, either conducting research for department needs or gaining hands on job training. Most notably, Missy has assisted in the development of the Founders Native Garden at the Barona Indian Charter School. Her tasks ranged from tilling the soil and creating garden labels to assisting with the implementation of the Museum lesson plan with the 8th grade students.

Sandra “Sandy” McCann is another talented volunteer. Sandra comes to us with experience as a Collections Intern at the CARTA Primatology & Museum Lab and as an Ethnographic Consultant for Smart Revenue. She graduated with a B.A. in Anthropology with Honors from the University of California, San Diego and has been volunteering with the Museum for over four months. Sandra has assisted in a variety of projects with Collections Management, the Archives, and Library including environmental monitoring, cleaning, integrated pest management, and collections care. Most notably, Sandra is responsible for assisting in the organization and re-housing of audio and video collections and fabricating customized storage mounts for lithic, ceramic, and organic museum objects.

We are so grateful to have assistance from dedicated individuals like Missy and Sandy!
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 Curator Cheryl Hinton.

**Gift of Bruce Curo**
Poster: The Pat Travers Band with special guests Viva Halen
Tribute to DLR era Van Halen, ArrowHead, and Taz Taylor Band

**Gift of Phyllis Van Wanseele**
Digital Image: Craig Van Wanseele Military

**Gift of Mandy Curo de Quintero**
Digital Image Collection: 5th Annual Barona Traditional Gathering, 2011

**Gift of Harper Family**
Collection of 7 books, 7 magazines, 1 pamphlet

**Gift of Tanis C. Thorne, PhD**
Research Archive: *El Capitan*
2 books

**Gift of Myrna DeSomber**
Book: T-O’odham A-B-C O’odham / Our O’odham A-B-C Book

**Gift of Eugene Lutes**
Collection of 10 books

**Gift of David Toler**
Hearing of the Senate Interim Committee on California Indian Affairs,
California State Legislature 1954

Woodblock print titled *Barona Indian Mission* by artist E. Ballin.

Barona Museum recently acquired this print which once belonged to Helen Walker, a famous movie star of the 1930s and 1940s.
Barona Indian Charter School’s Founders’ Native Garden Opens

On March 28-29, 2012, the 8th grade students began preparing and planting the Founders’ Native Garden in the northwest corner of the Barona Indian Charter School. Over a two-day span, the students prepared the soil, designed the layout of the garden, germinated seeds, and planted native plants.

On May 10, 2012, the 8th grade students worked with the Barona Resort & Casino landscaping crew: Jaime DeLeon, Roy Silva, and Luis Vega. They demonstrated gardening and landscaping techniques and instructed students on best practices when planting and landscaping gardens. The students maneuvered large cobble stones and filled in the natural drainage creating a river of rock. Students also encircled individual plants with a ring of river rock as a barrier for each plant’s basin.

In addition to the BICS Founders’ Native Garden, the Museum Classroom was dedicated in remembrance of Linda Curo, Museum Committee member and Tribal Council Liaison, 2009-2011, and her support of education on the Reservation.

Chairman Romero (center) with Bill Adams, Principal of the Barona Indian Charter School (left), and Frank LaChappas (right) dedicate the Founders’ Garden on June 11, 2012.

Vice Chairman LaChappas and Barona Indian Charter School Founder, Shirley Ruis, at the Founders’ Native Garden dedication.
Experience the Last-Saturday-of-the-Month Native Artist Showcase

By Robin Edmonds, Museum Store Coordinator

On the last Saturday of every month, in addition to free coffee and donuts, Barona Museum hosts a Native Artist Showcase. This event, coupled with a free guided tour of the Museum, has proved to be very popular. Similar to a “trunk show,” artists are on hand to meet with the public, share their stories, provide demonstrations, and give the public the unique opportunity to purchase artwork directly from the artist.

The Museum is especially privileged to feature PaiPai, Tiipay, and Kumiai artists from Baja through our partnership with Terra Peninsular; a nonprofit science based organization that conserves and protects the natural and cultural heritage of the Baja CA Peninsula and adjacent areas for future generations. Check the Museum’s website for upcoming dates and artists.

Did You Know?

By Jennifer Stone, Museum Assistant

In keeping with our mission statement, the Museum Store strives to provide the finest quality of handmade traditionally-inspired merchandise for you. Part of the Barona Cultural Center & Museum’s mission is to “increase understanding and appreciation of the Kumeyaay/Diegueño people.” To that end, we have been working hard to have cultural information, histories, and artist information for all of our Store merchandise. I have been researching many new items and learning about how they are made and how they were traditionally used.

The helul, or flute, is a reedless wind instrument whose sound is produced by blowing air into one end. The flutes are commonly made of Elderberry or cane, have four finger holes, and are often incised with spiral and horizontal designs. Traditionally, to hollow out the flute, a small fire-heated stick is worked back and forth. Both Delfina Cuero and Tom Lucas note that for sound to be produced, one hand or finger needed to be placed back and forth over the far end while blowing. The helul is not used for rituals or ceremonies. It was used by Kumeyaay men and boys for pleasure, entertainment, and for courting.

Another new item in the Museum Store is kuphaall ‘ehau kunilly, or Acorn Coffee! The process of making acorn coffee is an ancient one. Today the process is not much different, however, it is much less labor intensive with modern equipment. Acorns are gathered, shelled, and peeled. They are then placed in a ceramic pot over coals and toasted until black. Finally, the toasted acorns can be ground up in a coffee grinder.

We have many other new items in the Museum Store including a variety of soaps made by the Necua artisans. Choose from scents such as chocolate, sage, and oatmeal with honey. We also have ground sage incense sold individually or with clay turtle incense burners. Stop by and check them out!
Take Highway 8 from San Diego going east to Highway 67. Turn right onto Mapleview, left onto Ashwood. Continue through the 4-way stop as Ashwood turns into Wildcat Canyon Road. Proceed six miles to the majestic Barona Valley. Continue on Barona Road (Wildcat Canyon) for another mile and the Museum is on the left.

Museum Hours:
Tuesday - Friday, 12pm to 5pm; Saturday, 10am to 4pm

Research Center Hours:
Tuesday - Friday, 9am to 5pm

Call to schedule tours and research appointments.