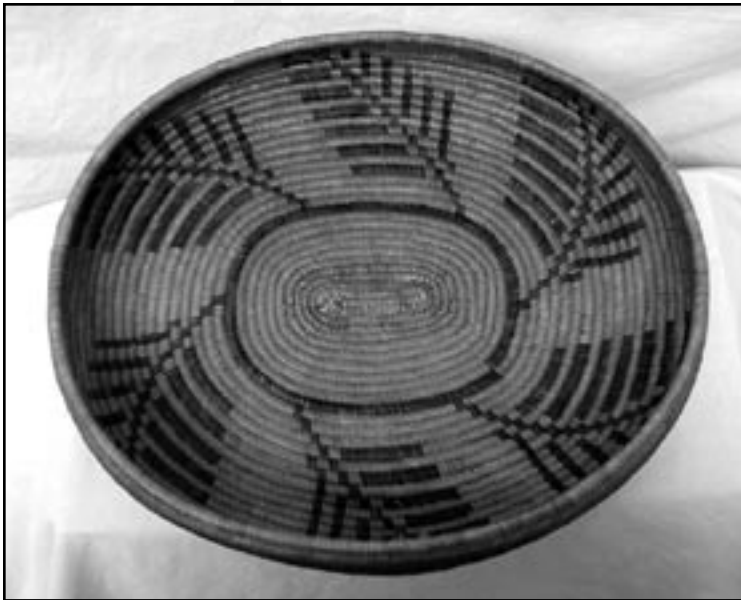


## NEW EXHIBIT— LEGACY FROM OUR MOTHERS: INDIAN BASKETRY OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

*An Exhibit in Partnership with  
San Diego Museum of Man*



*Basket created by Petna Cota, one of many featured in our new exhibit courtesy of the San Diego Museum of Man.*

Beautiful baskets are the enduring legacy of San Diego County Indian women. Of all the art forms practiced by the people, this is perhaps the most delicate and well known. The women spent hours finding the proper plants, preparing them and then coiling the fibers into practical, yet elegant containers. As the world left traditional culture behind, the women sought to make a new livelihood with their art form. Many beautiful and innovative baskets were made for sale or on commission during the early part of the twentieth century. This practice continues today. We will look at an exquisite collection of 33 baskets selected from the San Diego Museum of Man for this exhibit at Barona Museum. The goal was to have baskets with the names of the makers. From these basket makers, we tried to represent as many San Diego area reservations as possible. We add to the exhibit baskets from our own collection and from those of tribal members. It is so important to remember the women who did this beautiful work - our mothers, sisters, aunts, and grandmothers. The exhibit opens February 20th. Please look in the mail for further details on a reception for the exhibit to follow the opening.

## ONGOING EXHIBITS— THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAY CROWNING AT BARONA

This Museum exhibit commemorates the 50th anniversary of the May Crowning, an annual event held at the Barona Mission of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Parish. The May Crowning, which takes place on a Sunday in May, honors the Blessed Virgin Mary. By honoring her, the Crowning also honors her son, Jesus. In the Catholic faith, May is traditionally the month of Mary. Our thanks to Ed Nolan, Pastoral coordinator, and Barona elders: Sister Romero, Boxie Phoenix, and Josephine Whaley for a fascinating interview that provided detailed information for our exhibit (plus, it was fun to remember!) The Barona Mission is one of the few churches left who celebrate the May Crowning, and we hope that you will join us in celebrating the anniversary of this special event with a visit to the exhibit.

## CAPTAN GRANDE RECORDS SEARCH AT NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The Museum Committee voted to support an important research project on the 'Capitan Grande Removal' at University California, Irvine with Dr. Tanis Thorne and Santa Ysabel Reservation student, Heather Ponchetti Daly. We sent Museum Assistant Curator Alexandra Harris along with Dr. Thorne and Ms. Daly to Washington DC in December to retrieve the National Archives records on the removal for our Museum archives and research. Alex will give an update on their progress in the Spring Newsletter. In a telephone message at press time, Alex tells us that they are finding some wonderful documents including a great stereoscopic photo of Capitan Grande members.

# Barona Spirits Speak

Winter 2004, Vol. IV, #1

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

*By Cheryl Hinton,  
Museum Director/Curator*



November was an interesting month in our partnership with University of San Diego. Their new president, Dr. Mary Lyons, was inaugurated. Barona had an important role in that ceremony. Tribal member Larry Banegas, Director of Social Services at Southern Indian Health, gave an interesting speech about Kumeyaay

(Diegueño) history for the inauguration. Larry wore his Master's regalia from San Diego State. Larry's son Ethan is a student at USD and a Barona Tribal member. He carried the Barona Band of Mission Indians flag with students from other nations in the flag procession. I also marched in the Inaugural Procession with the faculty. During the Community Partners luncheon, I also represented our Barona-USD partnership and was joined by Jamul Elder Jane Dumas and her daughter Daleane Adams. Mrs. Dumas graciously accepted our invitation to give a blessing and a welcoming to the new President. Mrs. Dumas gave the new president three books on the history of the local Indian people, including the Autobiography of Delfina Cuero (her mother's sister). Dr. Lyons has said many times to the faculty, as well as in a UT article, that she was very honored to have the local tribes participate and felt that those partnerships were critical to the future of USD. One of the diversity goals USD has put forth is to encourage Native American students to join their campus. Ethan Banegas is a good example for other youth of how that can happen.



(Left to right) Larry Banegas, Barona Band of Mission Indians; Bishop Robert Brom; USD President Mary Lyons; Iris Engstrand, Professor of History and Grand Marshal; Ethan Banegas, current USD student and son of Larry Banegas.

## BARONA INDIAN CHARTER SCHOOL NEWS

During the first school semester we focused on Fire Ecology and recovery with our school. We held our annual Thanksgiving 'Foods from Native America' program. This year as we passed the sage smoke from child to child to give thanks, we heard many children express thankfulness for their lives and family after the fire. The museum staff that teaches for Barona School also participated, including Diane Tells His Name, Alexandra Harris, Rich Rodriguez, and Myrna DeSomber. Several students were directly affected

by Firestorm 2003, as were their families. We also discussed Tribal government. We were honored to have Councilman Thorpe Romero come to one of our Model Tribal and General Council meetings. Councilman Romero helped us better understand how Barona Tribal Council works. He was very impressed with the level of thought the students demonstrated when discussing various topics that we put before their Council.

We would also like to thank our Museum Committee chairman Beaver Curo who sang 'Tipay aa Christmas carols for school. Beaver has done this for several years. It wouldn't be the holidays without this fun for the students and they look forward to it very much. (We especially thank Beaver who was very busy during these holidays; he came out of retirement to help rebuild houses at Barona.)



*Museum Director/Curator Cheryl Hinton hosts the Annual Barona Indian Charter School Thanksgiving Celebration.*



*Cheryl Hinton and Barona tribal members Karah and Kimberly Banegas sing Christmas songs in 'Tipay aa' with Museum Chairman, Beaver Curo.*

# Barona Spirits Speak

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## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

*By Museum Committee Chairman,  
Beaver Curo*

Fire relief center news and Firestorm 2003 update: The Museum was honored to have a Fire Relief Donation Center open just days after the fire run by Cheryl, Alex, Diane, Rich and Myrna. During the days with no electricity or phone, it gave the Museum staff a great way to help out. Many people brought goods to our Timeline Room. Several families came to receive the warm clothing, blankets, shoes and stuffed animal toys. One little boy was very excited about a huge stuffed Eeyore and a box full of Legos. The Fire Relief Center was expanded with the generous efforts of Councilwoman Bonnie LaChappa and Councilman Joseph Banegas. They opened the



*Barona Council members Bonnie LaChappa and Jojo Banegas working at the Barona fire relief center.*

Barona Mission Clubhouse taking in many more donations for a big Saturday event, where grocery bags of food, clothing, housewares, along with hot coffee and snacks, were given. Open to all the neighbors in Lakeside, Ramona, and especially our friends on devastated Wildcat Canyon Road, many people came despite the rain.

Participants included: Church of Christ Disaster Services, Tribal office: Sue Thomas and Son, Jeff Logan from Visual Design at the Casino, Sonia Babcock, Cilla Salgado, Val Krajcar, Shirley Puga, Debbie Discoe, Cheryl Hinton; the Barona Fire Department, numerous Barona Tribal members, and Father Michael Tran and many parishioners of the Barona Mission.

The Museum would like to thank Wanda Cook and San Diego's American Indian Health for wonderful donations of new clothing, blankets, backpacks and other supplies for the school children and Barona Tribal members who lost homes. We received a very nice monetary donation for our Museum Education program from Dr. Janice Lyle, the Director of Palm Springs Desert Museum. Her son Greg Lyle of Palm Springs Fire Department helped fight the fires. The Amov Family of San Diego gave a large donation of



clothing, toys and housewares to start our relief center drive. Professor Mel Amov is a long-time History Department faculty member at Grossmont College. Debbie Deline, from North County, also donated two carloads of supplies in the beginning. We received a very touching monetary donation from Brother Joshua an American Indian monk

from Ohio. It included five dollars and a small stamp collection. The Discovery Charter School students heard about the losses to Barona Indian Charter School. They presented a donation of 600 new books for the Barona students. The Discovery teachers also donated teachers' resources for our school.

With 39 homes lost at Barona, the rebuilding has begun. We wish to thank so many people but in particular, SDG&E and



*The burned remains of one of the original Barona homes built by San Diego architect Irving Gill.*

SBC workers, a large volunteer crew from Hoopa Valley Indian reservation who are cleaning up the burned trees and other areas, the many local tribal members, who have come by and contributed or called and offered help. The San Diego community has been very generous and caring. It is difficult to remember everyone, but we send heartfelt thanks to the many people who helped Barona in the recovery.

*\*\*The Museum is developing an exhibit, upcoming in 2004, about the Barona Reservation and the Firestorm of 2003. If you have photos or objects of the fire in the Lakeside/Barona area and would like to lend them for this exhibit, contact the Museum.*



*The burned remains of the kwanset hut formerly used to store some of the museum's collections.*

# Barona Spirits Speak

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## CHAPARRAL AND FOREST BURNING PRACTICES OF THE BARONA ANCESTORS AND OTHER SAN DIEGO INDIANS



*Editor's Note: This handout was compiled days after the Great Cedar Fire that swept through the Barona Indian Reservation and most of San Diego County in October 2003. I first learned about the fire ecology of Southern California while hiking with my biologist father*

*in the 1960s through the Silverwood Preserve, just a short distance from the entrance to Barona Indian Reservation. The preserve has been devastated by the fire along with many homes in Barona and in other local reservations and communities of San Diego County. There has also been the tragic loss of human life.*

*There have been many occasions in my career when the issue of burning native plants has been relevant. During my years in Palm Springs, I gave many talks about the Cahuilla practice of burning the palm oases to increase fruit and kill pests. Palm Canyon experienced a devastating fire in recent history and the fire-resistant palms recovered well, despite overgrowth in the oasis. Along scorched Wildcat Canyon and through the devastated Cuyamaca area, I see the persistent green crowns of the yucca, especially 'Our Lord's Candle.' They are emerging despite their blackened outer leaves and charred surroundings. I have also read reports that the Kumeyaay/Diegueño Indians had controlled burns for the oaks during the acorn harvest. I will study with interest and hope, the many scorched oaks in our valley and their recovery.*

*It may be impractical for us to follow the exact teachings of the ancestors who inhabited this land for thousands of years; we are now a heavily populated urban area. Yet, we can glean some wisdom and insight into new approaches based on these ancient ideas. Many good people are trying to understand fire management in our Southern California environment to improve our system and it will be a complex process. Each day in driving to the Barona Museum, I scan the hillsides to see the promised green rebirth of our Southern California chaparral forest-Ancient Spirits Speak and we need to listen.*

- Cheryl Hinton, Director of Barona Cultural Center and Museum.

Fire is a natural part of the California coastal chaparral. The chaparral is made up of mostly fire-adapted plants. Recovery is usually rapid with the burned stumps sending out new green shoots and seeds sprouting in the ash.

*Paraphrased from a biology textbook by my father, Gerald Sanders and his co-authors, Biosphere: The Realm of Life (Wallace, King and Sanders 1984, Scott-Foresman, Publishers.)*

The burning of brush around Kumeyaay villages and small, scattered homesteads 'fireproofed' these areas. No trash or vegetation was allowed to build up around the meeting and religious centers, such as the ceremonial house. Large chaparral growth was kept cleared around the houses and if it sprouted up was spot burned after a rain.

*From an article by the late Florence Shippek, Kumeyaay Plant Husbandry: Fire, Water, and Erosion Control Systems (Blackburn and Anderson, 1993:384)*

California Indians were fine horticulturalists, burning fields to maximize the growth of seed plants, kill pests, and open hunting grounds. It was only after California Indians were forced into smaller territories and an agricultural life, that they were unable to practice the important fire and horticultural skills they had honed for centuries. Life before European Contact held abundant food and a rich knowledge of plants and animals and their relationships with the California ecosystem. Full-time agriculture and ranching was a poor substitute for the abundance found in California before the Contact.

*Paraphrased from Survival Skills of Native California Paul Campbell (1999) [p. vii] Gibbs-Smith Press.*

**Suggested further reading:** *Two articles by Bean & Lawton [pp 39-54] and by Shippek [379-388.] In Anderson, K. & Blackburn, T., Before the Wilderness: Environmental Management by Native Californians. Ballena Press, Menlo Park, CA . Just out in December by T. Jordan, Ecological and Cultural Contributions of Controlled Fire Use by Native Californians: A Survey of Literature. In, American Indian Culture and Research Journal Vol 27/Number 1/2003.*



# Barona Spirits Speak

Winter 2004, Vol. IV, #1

## KUMEYAAY BURNING PRACTICES: BURNING OFF THE CHAPARRAL

*This article is taken from a poster presentation by Mark George of USIU, Fall 1998 for an Environmental History class with Professor David Bainbridge. The Barona Museum thanks the author and his professor; the poster was given for educational purposes and hangs as an exhibit in the museum. All rights reserved.*

Native Californians set brush fires deliberately to burn off the shrubby plants, minimizing the possibility of more catastrophic fires and encouraging the growth of new sprouts. Fire was a critical tool for Kumeyaay land management. By carefully managing burning sequences on different terrain, only a minimum of bare earth was ever exposed to erosion. By burning only small patches of grain as each area dried out (depending upon local ground water and sun exposure), and then immediately broadcasting seed grain and annual seeds which would sprout with differentially-timed rains, only a small patch of bare ground existed.

Oak and pine groves, from the coast to the mountains, were burned annually after the nut harvest. Each year's fallen leaves or pine needles, broken branches and any low growth were burned. Such burning returned nutrients to the soil immediately. The annual flash burning also prevented the accumulation of dead material that could contribute to damaging forest fires. Annual burning also prevented the development of undergrowth, including poison oak, which would reduce nutrient return to trees and thus reduce the nut crop. Burning also destroyed plant diseases, damaging insects, and parasites such as dodder and mistletoe. All of these, if unchecked, could damage important food crops.

In the desert, mesquite and screwbean groves were managed in the same manner and for the same purpose-to maintain food supplies. [In the California Fan Palm oasis, Indians burned the undergrowth and the palms; this encouraged a good crop of date fruits and killed palm-boring beetles. Ed. note] Only chaparral plants, which provided food or medicine, were grown on steeper slopes. Here the burn sequence varied depending upon the growth rate of the particular desired food or medicinal plant on that slope, and upon the plant part to be used (seeds, berries, and leaves, new sprouts). The average interval between burns was anywhere from five to ten years, although some areas followed a 15-year sequence. On steep slopes, the burning was done during a time when surrounding areas were damp or green from recent rain, or had been partially cleared by some earlier burning of individual plants.

The Kuseyaay [Kumeyaay/ Diegueño /'lipay shaman specialist] in charge of burns selected windless days with high humidity, and had the men and boys gather around any potential danger spots. Some slopes were essentially spot burned, as this or that chaparral plant needed renewal because it grew more rapidly than surrounding plants. If plant disease, dodder, or insect infestation started, infected areas were burned immediately, before the infestation could spread. Although some mistletoe was needed for a variety of purposes, too much could damage an infested tree and reduce food availability. Regular burning kept mistletoe from damaging oaks, mesquite, and pine trees as food sources.

During the Portola expedition of 1769-1770, while journeying from San Diego to San Francisco, Father Juan Crespi repeatedly observed burned-over grasslands. His first report of burning was south of San Onofre, where the expedition "crossed some mesas covered with dry grass, in parts burned by the heathen [sic] for the purpose of hunting hares and rabbits." Crespi also reported seven other examples of burned grassland. Near Chualar, he stated that a valley was "short of pasture" due to fires set by the Indians. On Soquel Creek, he reported that good pasture was found, although the Indians who stayed hidden from the Spanish had just burned it. Although Crespi did not witness the rabbit hunt he mentioned it due to patterns he has seen in other Native Americans practicing this technique. [The last four sentences have been paraphrased, Ed.]

The time of the burnings reported was from July to October. One entry in Crespi's journal merits close attention. On the fourth day of the Portola march, north of Carlsbad in the valley where Mission San Luis Rey was later founded, Crespi reported that the expedition "descended into a large and beautiful valley, so green that seemed to us that it had been planted." Crespi was an attentive traveler, who routinely made detailed comments on the abundance of native grasses and intermixed plant cover. Significantly, two Native American villages lay at opposite extremities of the valley plain. Agricultural specialists have suggested that the effect described would most likely have been produced if the villagers had burned the adjacent plain. [Possibly Luiseño, Ed.]

Father Junipero Serra noted a similar valley in his march up the Baja peninsula. Two weeks journey south of San Diego in June of 1796, Serra reported entering a valley "more than league in width (3 m/4.8 km), and in parts so green that, if I did not know in what country I was, I would have taken it, without any hesitation, for land under cultivation."

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## BARONA SENIORS

### Christmas Fun

We had a nice group for the bus to Pechanga Seniors' annual Christmas party. Myrna DeSomber and Diane Tells His Name coordinated the trip; they also attended to represent the museum. The party was a welcome celebration after a difficult autumn with so many of our senior events cancelled.

There were several trips and events for Barona Tribal Seniors postponed due to fire. Please look for mailings as we reschedule upcoming events and activities.

**REMEMBER:** Barona Community members you are eligible for the senior events upon your 55th birthday. Please call to add your name to our mailing list!

## RECENT DONATIONS, LOANS, GIFTS, AND ACQUISITIONS

### DONATIONS:

**FIRESTORM 2003:** Many thanks to so many volunteers at the Museum and Tribal Office and to the contributions of time, money, clothing, toys, household goods, and food.

The Amov Family: Mel, Diana and Rachel  
Brother Joshua of Ohio  
Cheryl and Jim Hinton  
Church of Christ Disaster Services  
Councilman Joseph Banegas  
Councilwoman Bonnie LaChappa  
Debbie Deline  
Diana and Lowell Lindsay  
Diane Tells His Name and Jim Buchanan  
The Discovery Charter School in La Jolla  
Janet Sobel and Leela McCormick  
Dr. Janice Lyle and family

Wanda Cook and American Indian Health of San Diego

### LOANS:

Museum of Man basket loan: 33 baskets

## EDUCATION

### Grossmont College Class on Southern California Culture offered at the Barona Reservation

We will be continuing our classes on the Reservation that will also be key to the future Tribal Gaming Degree. The 2004 spring semester will feature a class on California Indian Cultures CCS133, 3 units, Wednesday evenings 6 p.m. to 8:50 p.m. at Barona Museum. Please contact Alexandra Harris who will be the instructor and visit the Grossmont College website for more information on late registration. Classes beginning in January will be open to Tribal members and the public through the college.

### Saturday Seminar on Southern California Indians

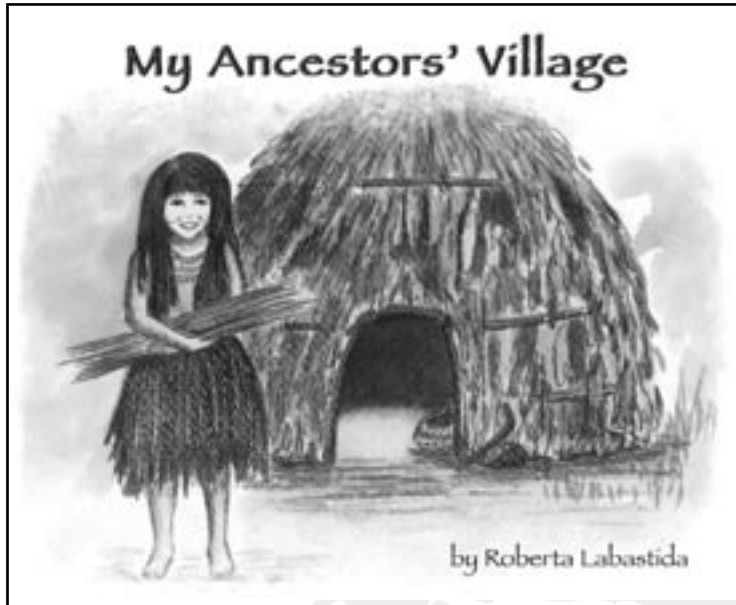
Teachers, educators, and college students here is your chance to explore the knowledge and the resources of the Barona Museum staff. This program has been compiled with the expertise of tribal members and anthropologists to help you accurately plan and present your curricula on local Indians. Whether 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 13th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This class may be eligible for your professional growth needs—we are able to expand hours to fit the criteria. Have your supervisor contact Director/Curator Cheryl Hinton. Also a professor at USD and Grossmont College, Hinton has worked in the field of Southern California Indian

### Science News

Congratulations to our Collections Manager, Diane Tells His Name, who wrote an article for *News from Native California, Fall Issue, 2003*. She details the Explorer's Club on local reservations. The Club meets at four Indian Education Centers in San Diego and the monthly meetings encourage kids' interest in the natural world around them, hopefully prompting them to investigate careers in earth sciences.

# Barona Spirits Speak

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Book cover of *My Ancestors' Village*.

## NEW PUBLICATION FROM SUNBELT:

*My Ancestors' Village Sponsored by the  
Barona Band of Mission Indians and the  
Barona Museum*

The Barona Tribal Council, Museum staff, several Tribal elders and the Dictionary participants helped edit a new book for school children, 'My Ancestors' Village.' The publication was funded in part by the Barona Band of Mission Indians. We worked closely with Sunbelt Publisher Diana Lindsay and author, Roberta Labastida to create a little book that can be used in the classroom and by children everywhere. It is versatile enough to reflect many Southern California tribal traditions, and still describe the culture of many Kumeyaay, Diegueño, 'Iipay, Tiipay people as well. There is a history section written by Museum Director Cheryl Hinton, a map based on Margaret Langdon's linguistic studies, and a word list used in the book based on the Barona Dictionary project. It is also available for sale in our museum gift shop for \$9.95.

## MUSEUM CALENDAR

Subject to Change,  
please call (619) 443-7003 x 2

### January

Museum Committee meets on Thursday,  
January 8 at 12:30 p.m.

Grossmont College class on California Indian Culture  
at Barona Indian Reservation at the Museum on  
Wednesday nights 6:00 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.  
Call the college to register.

### February

Museum Committee meets on Wednesday  
February 11th at 6:00 p.m.

Legacy from our Mothers: Indian Basketry of San Diego County:  
An Exhibit in Partnership with San Diego Museum of Man.

Opens February 20th.

Look for a mailing this month on the Reception.

### March

Museum committee meeting to be announced.

Saturday Seminar on Southern California Indians,  
March 13th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

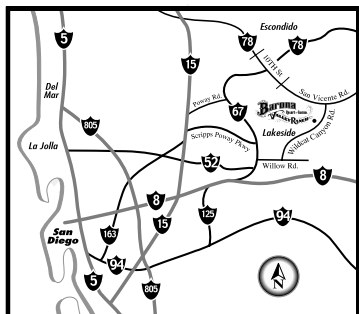
Barona Cultural Center and Museum  
1095 Barona Road  
Lakeside CA 92040  
(619) 443-7003 Ext. 2  
Fax 443-0173

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 is on the left.

Hours: Closed Monday; Open Tuesday through Sunday: Noon to 5:00PM.  
Call to schedule tours and research appointments.

**Barona Cultural Center and Museum**  
1095 Barona Road, Lakeside, CA 92040  
Phone (619) 443-7003 Ext. 2  
Fax (619) 443-0173  
email: [chinton@barona.org](mailto:chinton@barona.org)



1095 Barona Road  
Lakeside, CA 92040

### Museum Committee 2004

Chairman Beaver Curo (Barona member), Shirley Curo  
Donna Romero DiIorio (Barona member), Myrna DeSomber  
Linda LaChappa (Barona member), Vicky Matheny (Barona member)  
Josephine Romero (Barona member), Kelly Speer  
Josephine Whaley (Barona member), Toddy Yeats (Barona member)

### Museum Director/ Curator

Cheryl Hinton

### Museum Assistant Curator

Alexandra Harris (Western Cherokee)

### Museum Assistants

Myrna DeSomber, Senior Events and Archivist  
Diane Tells His Name (Lakota) Collections Manager  
Richard Rodriguez (Luiseño) Museum assistant/Front Desk

### Museum Volunteers and Interns

Beverly Means (Barona member)  
Phyllis Van Wanseele (Barona member)  
Pandora Paul

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