Teaching Traditions at the Barona Museum

Old Town Cinco de Mayo Celebration Featuring My Ancestors’ Village

Museum Intern Emily Leiker supervises the Museum exhibit ramada at the Old Town Fiesta.

This year’s Old Town San Diego Cinco de Mayo Fiesta was partially sponsored by the Barona Band of Mission Indians, which afforded the Museum the opportunity to create a cultural display with citywide exposure. Based on the presentation at last year’s Balboa Park December Nights, this May’s My Ancestors’ Village included museum exhibits, a traditional house, children’s activities, basketry demonstration, and Indian tacos. We received hundreds of visitors over the course of the two-day fiesta, and many were local Tribal members and teachers who were especially excited to see us. This was a major event for the Tribe; the Museum teamed up with the Marketing and Visual Design Departments on the reservation to construct ramadas, create our informational signs, and coordinate the supplies.

We had strong involvement from the Barona Teens group for the construction of the traditional ‘ewaa house and monitoring the children’s activities during the event. Barona Tribal Recreation Department staff members Melissa Waddell and Nick Ruis oversaw the Teens as they collected willow at the old reservation of Capitan Grande. The Teens spent the weekend prior to the Fiesta under the expert instruction of Stan Rodriguez of Santa Ysabel, who taught the kids how to construct the ‘ewaa. At the event, we featured resident Barona Teen artist Derrick Ruis. He and the other Teens decorated gourds and assisted visitors with gourd painting, rock painting, and decorating sticks for a dice game. Much appreciation goes out to those Barona Teens and other kids who participated at Cinco de Mayo and the ‘ewaa building, including Dalton Banegas, Mason Banegas, Corrine LaChappa, Nick Rodriguez, Derrick Ruis, and Nick Ruis demonstrate their artistic talent with gourds at the Old Town Fiesta. Photo by Alexandra Harris.
NOW ON EXHIBITION

Ancient Spirits Speak: The Native People of San Diego County
Who are the people that have inhabited this land since time immemorial? Now when you fly into the San Diego International Airport, Terminal 2, you can experience the culture for yourself. The eight cases exhibit Kumeyaay/Diegueno culture and history from ancient times to the present. We highlight important periods in time and lifestyle, including stories of the land and home, the impact of the Spanish Missions, and modern tribal sovereignty. After a successful installation by Assistant Curator Alexandra Harris and the Barona Visual Design team this April, the exhibit will be on display until the end of September. If you are traveling into or out of San Diego, please make sure to see our display on the balcony above baggage claim.

CONTINUING EXHIBITS

American Indian Identities: Literature, Art, and Images
When we are very young, we have our first introduction to other people. What have books been saying and showing children about Indians? How much of it is good; what is negative? Much of what people believe about Indians comes from some very general stereotypes that have been around since Europeans came to the Americas. In our new exhibit, we explore some of these images and identities using the Museum’s library. How do these images affect us, from children to adulthood? We allow our visitors to question the influences in their own lives and decide for themselves if these images are accurate representations of who Indians are. Our discussion of Indian Identities will continue until 2007.

The Original Collection: Photos & Artifacts
This selection of images has been chosen to represent all of the original families who traveled to the Barona Reservation from Capitan Grande in 1932, and begins our look back at the last 75 years of this reservation that will culminate in a celebratory exhibit in 2007. Some images were donated by Tribal members from their family collections. Others were acquired by Tribal members at the National Archives in Laguna Niguel. Our images span over one hundred years and include images of the old reservation at Capitan Grande as well as photos documenting the removal to and life at the Barona Indian Reservation. Please join us to celebrate a community history through images. The continuing exhibit on the permanent collection of objects also continues.

Cecil Lloyd, Dustin Montiel, Bubba Parada, Nick Rodriguez, Derrick Ruis, Jason Ruis, Nicholas Ruis, Jr., Taylor Ruis, and Amanda Waller. Our thanks also to Assistant Curator Alexandra Harris and Education Coordinator Richard Rodriguez for their hard work in coordinating the Cinco de Mayo Festival and ‘ewaa construction for the Museum. We hope to see you again at My Ancestors’ Village during this year’s December Nights!
Sharing the Music  
By Richard Rodriguez, Education Coordinator

This spring, the Barona Cultural Center and Museum began hosting classes that introduce the diversity of traditional songs and dances found within this area to local Tribal members. Those that attend are not only given a chance to listen and watch the dances, but are also highly encouraged to participate. All ages are represented from young children to adults.

We are very fortunate and honored to have Chairman Paul Cuero (Campo), John Christman (Viejas), and Marlow Rose (Quechan) come out to Barona and share their knowledge of these songs. These meetings have become more like mini-gatherings rather than classes. A meal is served before the singing begins and this gives the opportunity to talk with old friends, meet some new ones, and just take some time out to visit with one another. These classes are ongoing and open to all Kumeyaay/Diegueño Tribal members.

SUMMER CLASSES

Pottery Making and Firing: June 10 & 11, July 8
Our pottery classes were once again successful. We are always appreciative of the community enthusiasm for these classes. The public began making reservations before the official invitations were sent, and the classes were filled to capacity. Our thanks to Robert and Edwina Freeman for their expertise in teaching the class. Look for more art classes in the winter.

Kids’ Photography Class: July 18 & August 1, 9am to 12pm
Tribal children who attend this two-part class will learn about the history of photography relating to Native people, and will discuss why photographs might be important to their own family. Assistant Curator Alexandra Harris will introduce the kids to basic camera use and the importance of composition and light. We will work on how to take photos of our family members and our homes. During the second session, we will look at our processed images and discuss the photos created by our classmates. We will choose images to display in next year’s 75th Anniversary exhibit in the Museum. This is a children’s class open to Barona Tribal Members and Community only age 9 to 18, limit 10. Cost is $10 and snacks will be provided. Call the Museum to RSVP by Saturday, July 15.

Shawrii (Acorn Pudding) Class: Sunday, July 30, 9am to 1pm
Join Barona Tribal Member Bobbie Turner as she demonstrates how to make traditional acorn pudding. Students will take part in processing acorns from their raw form to the finished cooked Shawrii. This class is open to the public. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Lunch is provided. Call the Museum to RSVP by Thursday, July 27.

Traditional language, singing, and dance classes
The Museum will begin a new series of ‘Tipay aa’ language classes for all Kumeyaay/Diegueño Tribal community members who wish to attend beginning in early July. This is another six-week course with classes held weekly. CD’s are available. Invitations will be mailed or faxed to Tribal Offices.

Traditional Singing and Dancing classes are being held at the Barona Community room every Wednesday evening from 6pm-8pm. These classes are open to any Kumeyaay/Diegueño tribal community members who wish to participate. Children under age 15 must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information about classes, please contact Education Coordinator Richard Rodriguez at the Museum.
From the Director
By Museum Director/Curator Cheryl Hinton

The Gamble Olla Rescue

Hiker Dana Craig was walking through the backcountry in Ramona and was surprised by a very rare sight. Down a deep ravine he spied a very large olla left in situ—in its original position, where it was no doubt placed hundreds of years ago by a Kumeyaay/Diegueño Indian.

The Museum thanks Dana Craig for doing the correct thing: he did not disturb the olla, and he contacted the property owners and the Museum to alert the proper parties about the object. We are also very grateful to the property owners, Ken and Joanne Gamble, for contacting the Museum to get advice on its proper removal and donation to the Museum. With the guidance of the Museum Committee, Director Cheryl Hinton contacted Dr. Lynn Gamble (no relation to the owners) who is an archaeologist in the Anthropology Department of SDSU. The Museum arranged for Dr. Gamble to bring several graduate students out to the Ramona property to remove the pot. The property owners were concerned about leaving the pot in its present situation. Since large storage ollas such as this one are rare finds and usually in isolated places along trails, the Gambles worried that damage might come to it.

Large pots found in situations such as this one are known to be supply stations and were often scattered throughout the backcountry. Sometimes the pots were completely sealed and contained stashes of seeds and other foods. Some were urns to catch rainfall or for water storage. Tribal members have mentioned that some may have been traps to catch small animals for food. This particular olla may have been a water urn. It did not have evidence that it had been completely sealed although a capstone was placed over most of the mouth of the olla. Its position nestled in the side of large boulders included a shiny worn area on the rocks below. This rubbing on the stone indicated to the archaeologists that the olla may have been visited often to collect the contents. Water stations were essential to summer travel in the arid backcountry.

The public often does not realize what history they might destroy by removing objects found in their original place. A trained professional can determine several things including: the object’s most probable use, any other cultural activity in the context of the find, and details that include time period and tribal affiliation. Archaeologists often simply record the evidence of the archaeological site and leave objects in place if they are in no danger of being damaged or removed. The site is also properly recorded for historical knowledge, and in case building or road construction threatens it in the future. Tribal members ask that if the public inadvertently finds an archaeological object or site, contact the Tribe most closely affiliated with the object for advice. In this case, Barona was the closest affiliate and so the donation of this utilitarian pot by private property owners to the Barona Tribal Museum was appropriate.

The large size of the olla and its location in a very steep ravine made safe retrieval a very delicate and difficult operation. We are deeply indebted to the archaeologists on the Gamble Olla Rescue team: Dr. Lynn Gamble of SDSU and husband, Dr. Glenn Russell, of San Diego County Planning Department, SDSU graduate students in archaeology: George Kline, Scott Mattingly, and Matt Tennyson; Dana Craig, the Gamble Family, and their sons who are Boy Scouts.

This amazing object is special for so many reasons, including the story of its find and donation. The Gamble Olla is aptly named, especially since the Gamble Family donated it and Dr. Gamble retrieved it. We thank everyone for their cooperation in making this necessary olla rescue successful.
BARONA SENIORS

Barona Seniors Attend The Tonight Show
By Phyllis Van Wanseele

The Barona Senior Committee has been busy during the last few months! On March 7, we took a trip to The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, sponsored by the Barona Seniors. Josephine Whaley, Beverly Means, Todd Yeats, Craig and Phyllis Van Wanseele attended the taping of the show in downtown Burbank. A stop at Downtown Disney for lunch was quick and fun, but since those arriving first at The Tonight Show got the best seats, we voted for a short lunch. It threatened to rain, but our two hour wait in line prior to entry was spared a downpour.

The guests for that evening were Kristen Davis, recently of Sex and the City, a funny comedian named Carlos Mencia, and musical guest Kris Kristopherson.

Our seats were close to the stage in the first set of bleachers. When the show begins, the camera pans the audience and that camera was right in front of our group. So, if you looked real close, you saw all of us waving and screaming it up for the camera. Well, maybe not all of us. Well, maybe just my husband Craig and I. The show is taped live, meaning it runs for an hour with time outs only for commercials and then back to the show.

The show tapes at 4:00PM and we were out of there at 5:00PM. After a few souvenirs, it was back on the bus for a quick dinner stop and then home to San Diego for a 9:30PM arrival. What a fun day with good people!

The last time our Senior Committee met was April 7, when we toured La Vida Real, an all-inclusive Senior Community in Rancho San Diego. The tour provided ideas on the ideal senior community with amenities such as a motion picture theater, beauty salon, exercise facility, library, computer terminals, lush gardens and paths, tasteful decor, and twice weekly trips to doctor appointments or the mall for shopping. It reminded me of a cruise ship!

On Thursday, June 8, the Senior group departed for lunch and a tour of the Midway Aircraft Carrier Museum. In honor of Memorial Day, I requested that each Senior bring the name of a veteran (living or deceased) to be read at the lunch prior to the tour.
Summer 2006, Volume VII, Issue 3

Chairman’s Corner

By Museum Chairman Charles “Beaver” Curo

Edward R. Brown: In Memoriam

In May, the Barona Museum and the Tribal Community lost one of its most important supporters, Ed Brown. Mr. Ed Brown was not only an active member of the Museum’s Tribal Community Seniors, he was a principle consultant for our language revitalization program. Ed attended many Museum events through the years and often carried his own video camera to Senior luncheons. He was featured telling his story of the fire and speaking about the Indian language in our 2003 Firestorm Video and Exhibit. He was also one of the important consultants for the Barona History Project. Although he was a member of the Viejas Reservation, he lived much of his adult life here at Barona. Ed gave us two hours of interview about his interesting life out in the world and on the reservations at Capitan Grande, Viejas, and Barona. He did this just a few months ago, although he was quite ill. His undaunted spirit kept him vital and sharp. As Cheryl Hinton finished interviewing him, she apologized for keeping him so long and worried about what his daughters would say for wearing him out. Ed laughed and said that he would come back and tell us even more; he felt great. Since he was 88 years old when he passed, he had seen a tremendous amount of history.

Beyond giving us his time, perhaps the most important contribution Ed has made to the Museum was his knowledge of the Indian language. Ed agreed to help us very early on as the first consultant in our Barona Dictionary Project that began with Dr. Margaret Langdon in 2001. He met monthly with the group of Elders and students along with linguist Dr. Amy Miller. His participation was steady even through various health challenges. Ed was always there for us in his ball cap with a smile, listening deeply to what we needed, thinking carefully, and giving his best in response. We often called on him to help us with words we needed for exhibits and programs. He especially helped us with teaching the language to school children in our Barona Culture Classes. From that effort, one of his important recordings of words and sentences in the Capitan Grande dialect is featured on our new language CD for the current classes. So, Ed Brown’s legacy of generosity and education lives on in the Museum.

In the same tradition of generosity and support for the Museum, the Brown family, including children Phyllis Van Wanseele, Chairman Anthony Pico, Sam Brown, and Toddy Yeats, asked that donations be made in their father’s name establishing a memorial fund dedicated to the Barona Dictionary and Language Program. At this writing, the fund stands at just under $5,000, reflecting how beloved and respected Mr. Ed Brown was to many in the Southern California community—Indian and non-Indian alike. ‘Uuháyi and thank you Ed, we were all honored to know you and to work with you. You will be deeply missed.

Donors to the Edward R. Brown Memorial Fund


Myrna DeSomber also gave in memoriam donations in the name of Lupe Curo and Marie LaChappa; Lupe and Marie both had a brief but important involvement in the project.

$4920.00 in total donations.

Your donations to the fund are still greatly appreciated.
Looking ahead, the Senior group is anticipating our trip to see the musical \textit{Wicked} on July 27. Only 19 tickets are available to see this matinee show, so call soon to make a reservation with the Museum! We will make a day of it with lunch downtown before the show. A trip is also being planned to the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington DC in 2007, and we’re looking forward to participating in the 75th Anniversary of Barona. In the future we will need a name and a logo for our group, as well. Our PR advisor, Kelly Speer, and her staff have developed a variety of potential activities for the Senior Committee to consider doing in the coming months. I encourage all Barona Tribal Seniors to become actively involved with our group.

**SENIORS:** Please look for mailings as we schedule 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!

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**Appreciation to Our Interns**

Much appreciation is extended to our interns Sarah Smith and Emily Leiker for their contributions to the Barona Museum family during this past semester of their college courses. Sarah has been working with Paul Jeffrey on our Barona History Project, transcribing interviews that we have been conducting concerning the history of the reservation. Sarah has recently finished her undergraduate degree in Anthropology at San Diego State University and is leaving us to start her graduate study at New Mexico State University in Mesoamerican Archaeology. Emily has been fulfilling her class requirements here at the Museum for her studies at Grossmont College. She will continue to volunteer for the Museum throughout the summer. Thanks, Sarah and Emily, and good luck!
Take Highway 8 from San Diego going east to Highway 67. Turn right onto Mapleview, left on 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.

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

Museum Committee 2006
Candy Christman (Barona member) Chairman Beaver Curo (Barona member), Shirley Curo, Donna Romero DiIorio (Barona member), Caroline Mendoza (Barona member), Shirley Ruis (Barona member), Myrna DeSomber, Linda LaChappa (Barona member), Brenda Ray (Barona member), Josephine Romero (Barona member), Kelly Speer, Phyllis Van Wanseele (Barona member), Josephine Whaley (Barona member), Toddy Yeats (Barona member).

Museum Director/Curator
Cheryl Hinton

Museum Assistant Curator
Alexandra Harris (Western Cherokee)

Museum Assistants
Diane Tells His Name (Lakota) – Collections Manager
Richard Rodriguez (Luiseño) – Education Coordinator
Leah Nightwalker (Cheyenne) – Museum Assistant

Museum Volunteers and Interns
Paul Jeffrey, Emily Leiker (Yokuts), Beverly Means (Barona member)
Leland Red Eagle (Oglala Lakota/Assiniboine), Sarah Smith.

Please direct any newsletter inquiries to the editor, Alexandra Harris.