Museum Committee 2007
Candy Christman (Barona), Beaver Cuco (Barona), Shirley Cuco,
Donna Romero Ectorio (Barona), Myrna DeSomber,
Linda LaChappa (Barona), Caroline Mendros (Barona),
Brenda Ray (Barona), Darante Reed (Barona),
Josephine Romero (Barona), Kelly Speer, Elaine Trojilla (Barona)
Chairwoman Phyllis VanWanseele (Barona),
Josephine Whaley (Barona), Toddy Yats (Barona)

Museum Director/Chief Curator
Cheryl Hinton

Curator of Historic Media
Alexandra Harris (Western Cherokee)

Museum Assistants
Diane Tells His Name (Lakota), Collections Manager
Richard Rodriguez (Luiseño), Education Coordinator
Rouanne Ullot, Administrative Assistant
Awujoola Robin Edmonds, Gift Shop Coordinator

Museum Volunteers and Interns
Paul Jeffrey, San Jose State University
Michelle Magaworsica, UC San Diego
Laura Workman (Navajo)

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

Take Highway 8 from San Diego going east to Highway 67. Turn tight 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.

Barona Cultural Center & Museum
1095 Barona Road, Lakeside, CA 92040  •  Phone: 619-443-7003, Ext. 2  •  Fax: 619-443-0173
Phone (via Barona Tribal Office): 619-443-6612, Ext. 219
email: museum@baronamuseum.org  •  www.baronamuseum.org

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

What are you doing for the Fiesta this year?!
The week long celebration included powwow games, children’s games, horse races, music, and dancing. It was an opportunity to meet old friends and family. Young men and women got to meet others from outside their village. Elders told stories to children, and fires were built in the evenings as people came together in a spirit of community. Everything was shared. This was a tradition begun a long time ago.

My mother, Eleonore (Curo) Brown came from the neighboring village of El Capitan Grande. Her village was affiliated with the people from Mesa Grande. The same type of Fiesta was held in their community at a different time of the year. So, it was logical that when the village members bought the Barona Valley, the tradition of a Fiesta continued. With the introduction of automobiles, more people could participate in Fiestas and they didn’t have to camp out for a week. So, the week long celebration was trimmed back to a weekend or to participate in Fiestas and they didn’t have to camp out for a week.

The people from Mesa Grande would then travel to the Barona Valley for their Fiestas. Then, I looked ahead to my grandchildren and was comforted in knowing that the tradition of the Gathering, to share these customs, would not be lost to computers and iphones. The darkness was broken by the light of powwow fires. I remember the Curo Brothers as they played popular music of the times for the people to dance. I was always in awe to see the big bass Buddy Curo played in comparison to the guitar that Charley played.

In this spirit, on August 17-19, 2007, the Barona community invited surrounding reservations and friends to join us in revisiting this recent past by preparing a Fiesta, now termed ‘Gathering.’ As I walked the grounds, the memories of my childhood came back to me when I smelled the willow branches and saw the wet dirt. Powwow games were played in the light of burning fires. Bird songs filled the night as young women danced to their chants. Modern music was played on a special stage by local tribal musicians, including Charley Curo's son, Beaver. At 1 st in the Museum host ramada, I thought about the tradition I was living. I thought about my Mom and Dad and how they were once young and probably recalled their parents at their Fiestas. Then, I looked ahead to my grandchildren and was comforted in knowing that the tradition of the Gathering, to share these customs, would not be lost to computers and iphones.

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Growing up as a Southern California Tribal member, I would often hear people talk about the Fiestas that happened sometime in the late 60’s and 70’s. It seems like every Indian over the age of 45 has at least a few memories linked to the Fiesta. Quite a few reservations would take their turn playing host and would invite people from all over to come to their event. My family used to tell me about the traditional songs and dances, the rock bands, and about people who have been teased and labeled as “Fiesta babies” (you can figure that one out). I have never experienced a Fiesta the way my grandfather, father, aunts, and uncles have, and I doubt I ever will.

Today, when most people think of Indian gatherings, the powwow always comes to mind. Powwows have become a place for many people to come and share a beautifully rich culture, and a number of reservations in San Diego County hold them. An important thing to know about the powwow, however, is that it is not a representation of traditional Southern California culture. At a powwow, you will see and hear dances and songs that originated from the Plains Indians, which include dances such as fancy shawl and jingle dress. You will also see groups of men singing and playing around a large drum.

In contrast, today there are a number of reservations still holding their Southern California traditional gatherings. If you go to a traditional gathering at a San Diego County reservation, you will see ramadas that echo back decades ago to the Fiestas. You will see games such as tug-o’war, three legged races, and the unforgettable sticky watermelon eating contest. Men sing their hearts out with ahlymaa (gourd rattles) while women dance in the dirt, wearing mission style dresses, causing clouds of dust to hover above their feet.

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the Barona Reservation. Among our celebrations we held the first traditional gathering that this reservation has held within the past few decades. I was heavily involved with the planning of this event and I worked with a number of Tribal members. The gathering was a great success and Barona played host to about 600 people, most from neighboring tribes. Today’s traditional gatherings have evolved somewhat from the Fiestas. Both gatherings and Fiestas were designed to bring people together for food, culture, and fun. The titles may be different, but we still continue to celebrate our way.

Celebrating our History and Traditions: Photos from the Traditional Gathering
The photos that we are sharing here highlight only a few of the events of the Gathering weekend. All photos by Alexandra Harris except where noted.

Barona Tribal member Steve Banegas (right) with Vice Chairman Beaver Curo and Museum intern Paul Jeffrey planting the posts that will support the ramadas at the Gathering grounds. Photo by Cheryl Hinton.

The finished ramadas, ready for the day’s crowds.

Barona Tribe member and guests from other reservations compete in a horseshoe tournament.

Community members go head-to-head during the six-leg race.

Vice Chairman Beaver Curo plays with fellow Tribal member Larry Banegas (keyboard) and their band for the evening entertainment.
Ancient Spirits Speak
Fall Classes 2007

These classes are open to the public.

Kumeyaay Doll Making Class
Instructor: Eva Salazar (Kumeyaay, San Jose de la Zorra)
October 20 and 21, 10:00am – 3:00pm
Cost: $20 (for both days), Barona Tribal members free
Ages 14 and up

Eva Salazar will be teaching a class on how to make a Kumeyaay doll. This will include a willow bark skirt and a basket hat. Those taking the class should plan on attending both days. Lunch is provided. Class is very limited to 10 and you must RSVP by October 5. Individuals that show up to the Museum for the class without an RSVP may be turned away.

Painting Class
Instructor Robert Freeman
October 27, November 3, 10, and 17, 10:00am – 1:00pm
Cost: $20 (one-time fee, due at first class)
Barona Tribal members free
Ages 12 and up

Renowned local artist Robert Freeman (Luiseño/Hunkpapa Sioux) will be holding a series of four painting classes for the public. Beginners are encouraged to attend but experienced painters are also welcome. Please join us for these classes. Light refreshments provided. Please RSVP by October 12. Class is limited to 15.

Fall Children’s Class Ages 8-12
Gourd Ornament and crafts
December 15, 10:30am – 12:00pm
Cost: $5, Barona Tribal members free
Kids, join us at the Museum and create a special holiday ornament. Other crafts will be available just in case you finish your wonderful ornament early. What a great gift to give Grandma, your teacher, or the mailman. The class will be taught by the Barona Museum staff. RSVP by December 7 to ensure that you will have a spot.

‘Iipay aa Classes
‘Iipay language classes are being taught by Stan Rodriguez (Santa Ysabel) and are held at the Museum on Thursday evenings at 5:30pm. Language classes are open to Kumeyaay/Diegueño Tribal and community members.

For more information on these upcoming classes, call
Richard Rodriguez at (619)443-7003 ext 229

New and Continuing Exhibits
‘Ekur ‘emaayaayp Barona Indian Reservation: A Story of 75 Years of Unity

This new exhibit tells the story of the Barona people and their Reservation. The people have stayed together through the years; during difficult times and good times, and they have grown and prospered. Barona Indian Reservation is celebrating 75 years since the people moved here from Capitan Grande. We hope this exhibit will give rise to other remembrances and that the body of history will be enhanced and grow. In this way, the Museum has been privileged to put these visions, thoughts and reminiscences together as the Barona Tribal members tell their own stories of this living history.

We held a special Tribal member preview on August 7. Over 75 Barona Tribal members and their families attended for food and family stories. On September 14, we held a public opening for the 75th Anniversary exhibitions. We had about 250 visitors who enjoyed eating the amazing food. As a highlight of the evening’s program, Senator Diane Feinstein’s office presented the Tribe with a proclamation honoring the Anniversary. Thank you to all who attended and joined in the celebration!

Iipay aa Classes continue with Ms. Curo’s photographs will continue through fall 2007.

By Education Coordinator Richard Rodriguez

This summer, the Barona Cultural Center & Museum held two very special classes in its Ancient Spirits Speak series. The first class was given by Robert Freeman (Luiseño/Hunkpapa Sioux) on traditional Southern California pottery making on July 7. Participants experienced an art form that was close to a thousand years old. The students cleaned, pounded, and shaped the clay into various shapes and sizes. Some stuck to the traditional olla designs, while others expressed their designs with a modern flair. Two weeks later the class met again and the pottery was fired in a shallow ground pit. A number of pottery pieces broke, but at least the memories of the class will not be as easily shattered!

The second class in our Ancient Spirits Speak summer series was given by Stan Rodriguez (Santa Ysabel “Superman”) on how to craft a traditional rabbit stick. A handful of participants went through the process of making this traditional hunting tool over a weekend in late July. The class included learning how to cure the freshly cut oak branches using a fire, and allowing it to set overnight. The next day, Stan gave a lesson on how to shape the rabbit stick using a sharp object and a lot of muscle. Our ancestors used rock, but since the Barona elders Josephine “Sister” Romero (center, left) and Josephine Whaley, with Councilman Barona Museum Committee members, including eldest Tribal member Sister Romero (center) enjoy the Tribal member opening of our new exhibit in August.

The collection that began it all! The Museum will continue celebrating the 75th anniversary of the reservation. This collection was acquired for the Barona Tribal members to tell their own stories of this living history. As the Barona Tribal members tell their own stories of this living history, those stories will give rise to other remembrances and that the body of history will prosper. Barona Indian Reservation is celebrating 75 years since the people moved here from Capitan Grande. We hope this exhibit will give rise to other remembrances and that the body of history will be enhanced and grow. In this way, the Museum has been privileged to put these visions, thoughts and reminiscences together as the Barona Tribal members tell their own stories of this living history.

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