



# Meet Me at the Mitchell

The member's guide to programming, news, special events and much, much more!

## Making It Happen

**W**e did it! Thanks to the generosity of all of the Mitchell Museum's members and friends, we completed our Annual Matching Campaign. We raised over \$27,810 exceeding our \$25,000 goal, which will be matched by our angel of a donor to net \$52,810 for the campaign. A special thanks to our major donors: Trish and Bob Barr, Richard Basofin, Ivan and Shelley Berk, Jan and Jeff Berkson, Robert and Susan Boone, John and Sarabess Cahill, Cynthia Sawyer Engelen, James and Bonnie Lytle, Dr. Robert Gluckman, Frances Hagemann, Daniel and Janet Hidding, Will Linder, Glennis and Barry Lundberg, Barbara Novick, Rubens Family Foundation, Betty Slutsky, Triad Oil, William Hales Foundation, and Linda Sagan Harrier.

On November 4th, Mark Cleveland and his band rocked the Prairie Moon Restaurant and Grill for the Mitchell Museum's Fall Benefit. Thanks to our sponsors: First Bank and Trust of Evanston, Mark Cleveland, Koenig & Strey Real Living & Home Services Lending, and Susan and Timothy Salisbury. A big round of applause to our Resource and Development Committee, who organized the event and our split-the-pot raffle winner, John Cahill, who donated his winnings back to the museum! We hope that each of the 88 attendees enjoyed the music and dancing.

For Native American Heritage Month, the Rotary Club of Evanston Lighthouse Foundation through a District Simplified Grant funded five schools to come to the Mitchell Museum for docent-led tours and crafts. With the economy putting a squeeze on field trip funds, this grant made the Mitchell experience possible for 232 students to that would not have been able to attend otherwise.

We also want to recognize the sponsors of the first annual Dr. Carlos Montezuma Honorary Lecture featuring speaker Ada Deer: Frances Hagemann, Jim DeNomie, and Barbara Jersey. Ms. Deer's talk "A Path to Social Justice," was an inspiration to all.

Check out our Wish List on the last page to see how you can help the Mitchell.

## Eagle Books and Cahokia Exhibitions

**O**pening February 12, 2011, "Through the Eyes of the Eagle: Illustrating Healthy Living for Children" features 65 original watercolor paintings and illustrations from the popular Eagle Book series of children's books. The series and exhibit focuses on teaching young children about healthy living and diabetes prevention through traditional American Indian foods and physical activity. The four-part Eagle Books series was produced in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which has distributed over two million copies since 2005.

The Eagle Book series was written by health worker Georgia Perez and illustrated by two collaborating Native American artists. Patrick Rolo (Bad River Band of Ojibwe, Wisconsin) sketched the scenes from the books in pencil and Lisa A. Fifield (Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin, Black Bear Clan) painted the sketches using watercolor. Rolo and Fifield's collaboration has resulted in beautiful artwork drawing from both artists' cultural

heritage. They chose the theme of diabetes awareness and prevention since the disease affects nearly 24 million people in the United States, but is a much higher risk for the Native American and Alaska Native communities.



On March 12th, the Mitchell Museum opens the exhibit "Cahokia: Rediscovering Archaeology." At the height of its population in 1250, around 40,000 Native people lived in Cahokia, a larger population than London at the time. The settlement of the Mississippian city of Cahokia in southern Illinois dates back to 600 CE. Visit the Mitchell Museum's Cahokia exhibit to learn more about the city, its culture, and its residents.

## Notes from the Director

**H**appy New Year from the Mitchell Museum! This Fall was packed with exciting events from Betty Mitchell's talk to Ada Deer. We've enjoyed four new exhibits, music from the Mark Cleveland Band, the film *Reel Injuns*, the Native American Studies series, and artists at the Holiday Bazaar. The museum has been packed with school children learning about American Indian cultures and we applaud all the docents who helped us create such an enriching experience. We were glad to see so many old friends and new faces at the museum.



In addition to these great events, the Board and staff refined the Mitchell's strategic plan for 2011. Our key strategies are to improve the museum's resources by developing a new permanent exhibition for 2012, continuing to improve our website, and taking steps toward AAM's accreditation standards by refining our collections policy. We will define the Board's financial expectations and recruitment plan, develop a marketing plan, solicit more foundations for support, and increase staff efficiency and customer service. To reach all these improvements, we will be soliciting your help filling out surveys, participating in brainstorming sessions and focus groups, and providing feedback on exhibits and programs. Make sure you are on our e-mail list for the latest information.

The Mitchell's 2011 calendar is filled with five new exhibits, exciting programs including American Indian storytellers, artists, poets, scholars, and dancers, and enhanced offering such as the new monthly docent-led exhibit tours open to the public. We hope you plan a trip to the Mitchell soon to take advantage of the museum's wonderful resource of exhibits, programs and collections. What a great year we have ahead of us!

*Visit [www.mitchellmuseum.org](http://www.mitchellmuseum.org) for the latest museum news and events!*

## Calendar of Events: JANUARY

Every Thursday	Flute Group (5:30 - 7:30)
Saturday, Jan. 1	New Years Day - Museum Closed
Friday, Jan. 7	Free Admission
Saturday, Jan. 22 1:30 - 4:30 PM	<i>Master Craft: Beadwork</i> Beadwork with Norma Robertson, Dakota Learn traditional beadwork techniques. Make earrings, necklace, bracelet or a keychain. RSVP by Jan. 18. Fee applies.
Thursday, Jan. 27 6:00 - 8:00 PM	<i>Bolo Tie Fashion Show (RSVP required)</i> Come show off your bolo ties and mingle with other American Indian art enthusiasts at our Donor Appreciation Event. Food and refreshments will be served.

## FEBRUARY

Every Thursday	Flute Group (5:30 - 7:30)
Friday, Feb. 4	Free Admission
Saturday, Feb. 5 2:00 - 3:00 PM	Join Assistant Curator Laura McDowell on an in-depth exploration of the Mitchell's exhibits. Each tour will focus on a particular topic in American Indian history/culture. Tours are free with museum admission, but donations are welcome.
Sunday, Feb. 6	<i>Bolo Ties &amp; Intrigue and Novelty</i> Exhibitions close to the public.
Thursday, Feb. 10 6:00 - 8:00 PM	<i>Eagle Books</i> Exhibition Members' Only Preview Party
Saturday, Feb. 12	<i>Eagle Books</i> Exhibit opens to the public
Wednesday, Feb. 16 5:00 - 7:30 PM	<i>Teacher's Night: Crafts in the Classroom</i> Join other educators to learn how to incorporate Native American crafts as part of your class curriculum. Free CPDU credit for teachers.
Saturday, Feb. 26 2:00 - 4:00 PM	<i>Storyteller:</i> Ron Kanutski, Ojibway Hear traditional Ojibway teachings and drumming. \$20 suggested donation
Every Thursday	Flute Group (5:30 - 7:30)

## MARCH

Friday, March 4	Free Admission
Saturday, March 5 2:00 - 3:00 PM	Join Assistant Curator Laura McDowell for an in-depth exploration of the Mitchell's exhibits. Free with admission but donations welcome.
Saturday, March 12	<i>Cahokia: Rediscovering Archaeology</i> opens to the public

## MARCH

Saturday, March 19 10 - 5PM	<i>Artist Marketplace</i> Join the Mitchell Museum for our Spring Artist Marketplace! Meet American Indian artists and buy arts and crafts directly from the makers.
Sunday, March 20 Noon - 4PM	Admission: \$3/Members, \$5/Non-Members <i>Museum admission included</i>

## Coming Soon! Spring Benefit

Stay tuned for more information about the Mitchell Museum Spring Benefit to be held later in March. This year's benefit will feature a silent auction as well as a program to honor some of the American Indian community's most valued supporters. We hope to see you there!

## Family Fun & Activity Corner

There's always something educational and fun for families at the Mitchell! Join us on Saturdays for our Kids' Craft Mornings, where each week the museum features a different Native American craft to make, and offers guided craft instruction between 11:00 - noon. Kids' Craft Mornings are included with regular admission and free for members.



### Kids' Craft Mornings (Saturdays 11:00 – noon):

January 8	Gods Eyes
January 15	Navajo Woven Rugs
January 22	Talking Feathers
January 29	Porcupine Quill Boxes
February 5	Woven Baskets
February 12	Cherokee Alphabet
February 19	Plains Warrior Shields
February 26	Northwest Coast Rattles
March 5	Dream Catchers
March 12	Loom Beading
March 19	Button Blankets
March 26	Seminole Patchwork

Check out [www.mitchellmuseum.org](http://www.mitchellmuseum.org) or call (847) 475-1030 for the latest information

## Opportunities at the Mitchell Museum

Looking for an enjoyable and rewarding way to spend your free time? Want to learn more about Native American cultures and history, and share that knowledge with others in your community? Consider volunteering or becoming a docent at the Mitchell Museum. The museum is always looking for additional hands for our volunteer work force. Greet the public at the admissions desk, assist with our library inventory, or help the museum keep on top of its office work. Mitchell volunteers perform a variety of jobs based on their individual interests and skills, and our volunteers are from all ages and backgrounds. Volunteering is a great way to spend free time, or to learn valuable career skills.

If you enjoy sharing your interest in Native American cultures with others, ask about our docent training program. Trained docents lead tours of the museum for groups of all ages and backgrounds, and work closely with museum staff to make sure that everyone's experience at the museum is one they will never forget! If you're interested, please email [director@mitchellmuseum.org](mailto:director@mitchellmuseum.org) or call us at (847) 475-1030. We'd love to meet you and help you become part of the Mitchell Museum family!



## Spring Artists Marketplace

The Mitchell Museum hosted the annual Holiday Bazaar this year on December 4th and 5th with one major change—the 2010 craft fair was held next door to the museum in our 3009 Central Street building. Native artists from all over the Chicago area, as well as from Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan, had more room to set up and sell their art and craftwork directly to visitors. Visitors were able to meet the artists to find out more about their works.

This was such a great event that we are already planning the Spring Artist Marketplace to be held in the same space on March 19th and 20th, 2011. The Spring Artists Marketplace is your opportunity to purchase American Indian art and crafts directly from the artists, and learn more about the various traditions and techniques that go into making each piece. Pottery, beadwork, dolls, paintings, herbal body care products, moccasins and an array of other items will be available for purchase. If the snow kept you away from the Holiday Bazaar, then let the spring weather bring you to the Spring Artist Marketplace!

### Spring Artist Marketplace Event Details

Location: 3009 Central Street  
Dates: Saturday, March 19, 10 - 5 PM  
Sunday, March 20, Noon - 4 PM  
Admission: \$3/Members, \$5/Non-Members  
*Admission includes entrance to the museum*

## Artifact Spotlight: The Arctic Yoyo

Sometimes called “chuk-chuk” and “game-of-much-fun,” this artifact is more commonly known as the Arctic yoyo. The Inuit people of Canada and Alaska invented this game to teach young boys hunting skills. These toys are made in a variety of shapes, from two simple seal skin balls to intricate miniature mukluks. To use, the player holds the Arctic yoyo and begins to rotate one side of the string clockwise. When ready, the player then begins to rotate the other side counter-clockwise. The object of the game is to keep the two sides moving in opposing directions while avoiding bumps or tangles. This game taught Inuit boys the dexterity and concentration necessary to be successful hunters.



This Arctic yoyo was made with seal fur, sinew, leather, ivory, and embroidery thread and dates to the 1960s, a time when the toy became a popular souvenir. You can help the Mitchell Museum preserve artifacts such as the Arctic yoyo by adopting an artifact

like this for one year! For your \$100 contribution, you will receive a Certificate of Adoption, a photograph and historical description of the artifact, and you can visit the artifact with museum staff. You will also see your name listed in our Newsletter and Annual Report. Your artifact adoption is tax-deductible and makes a great gift!

## Native American Recipe

### Warming Venison Stew

*Venison (deer) can be found at a specialty grocer, but you can substitute buffalo or beef for this stew.*

- 1 1/2 pounds venison or beef, cubed
- 1/4 cup corn or canola oil
- 1 medium onion, coarsely chopped
- 5 scallions, chopped
- 3 large cloves garlic, diced
- 8 small red potatoes, quartered
- 1 small rutabaga, cubed
- 3 celery stalks, diced
- 1 red pepper, chopped
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 cup wild mushrooms, sliced
- 1/4 teaspoon dried parsley,
- 1/4 teaspoon coarse salt
- ground pepper to taste
- 1 tablespoon vinegar
- 2 cups beef broth
- 2 [15 oz] cans stewed tomatoes
- pinch of Sassafras powder or Filé powder



In a large pot, heat oil over medium-high heat. Brown meat. Add onions and garlic, cooking for two minutes. Add remaining ingredients (except Sassafras) and stir well. Cover and cook for 30-45 minutes or until the venison, rutabaga and potatoes are tender. Remove from heat and stir in Sassafras powder. Enjoy alone or with hot sauce for an extra kick!



**Mitchell Museum  
of the American Indian**

3001 Central Street  
Evanston, IL 60201

(847) 475-1030  
www.mitchellmuseum.org



*Happy New Year from the Mitchell Museum!*

## Volunteer Spotlight

In early September, Ivan Berk walked into the door of the museum and inquired about volunteer opportunities. One month later, he was leading twice weekly tours as a fully-trained docent. He has helped the museum provide excellent educational tours for school children and adult groups throughout our very busy fall tour schedule.

Ivan is dedicated to working with the museum staff and other Mitchell docents to innovate and improve the museum's tours and educational activities. Ivan has a special talent of tailoring museum tours to each individual group that visits the museum. Whether the groups are interested in American Indian religious beliefs, cultural customs, or looking for general knowledge about Native America, Ivan has drawn from his own wealth of knowledge and research skills to find answers that help the Mitchell continue to teach the public about American Indian peoples. His passion for learning and sharing knowledge has made him an incredible addition to the Mitchell Museum docent team, and he is a friendly face for the visitors and tour groups alike.

Ivan and his wife are Evanston community members, and valued supporters of the museum. Ivan's family are regular museum visitors, and the Mitchell is happy to have Ivan as a member of our volunteer family.

## Wish List!

### Craft Supplies

As we start a new year, we are eager to replenish our craft supplies depleted by the waves of school groups this Fall. Yarn and pony beads are always welcome.

### Sponsor an Exhibit: Eagle Books \$250—\$8,000

Help defray the cost of the Eagle Books exhibit with a donation of \$250. Your name will be included in the exhibit credit panel.

### Collections Care: \$50—\$5,000

Fund the purchase of supplies to provide museum-quality storage for the preservation of the Mitchell's American Indian art and material culture collection.

### Loan Box Redo & Presentation Supplies: \$50—\$1500

Help us upgrade the loan boxes filled with hands-on objects for teachers to use in their classrooms and docents to take to off-site presentations. The treasures in these boxes bring the experience of the Mitchell Museum to audiences who cannot travel here.

## In this Newsletter...

- How to Play an Arctic Yoyo
- Visit the Spring Artist Market Place
- Family Fun & Activities Corner

...and Much, Much More!