



Meet Me at the Mitchell

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

Making It Happen

'Many hands make for light work.' With a budget of nearly \$300,000 and only one third covered by operating revenue, it takes many individual donations to reach our goal.

As part of this year's strategic plan, the museum has launched a campaign to expand our donor base. We wish to thank Evanston's past and present mayors - Elizabeth Tisdahl, Jay Lytle, Lorraine Morton, and especially Joan Barr - who hosted the June 15th event to encourage our major donors, Board, and Council of Advisors to introduce their friends, family, colleagues and acquaintances to the Mitchell. A special thank you to The Mather for donating the delicious food for the event. Please contact Kathleen McDonald to join in our effort to expand our donor base and lighten the load.

We'd like to thank our major donors who renewed their commitment including Elizabeth Seabury Mitchell, Elliott and Laura Dudnik, Joseph Yi, John and Sarabess Cahill, William and Carolyn Gifford, James Pritzker, Daniel Hidding, Will Linder and Jan Bowers, Richard Basofin, John and Marge Wold, and Jim and Diane Stuart.

The museum was also awarded several important grants from the Lincolnwood Garden Club to fix the exterior lighting, Park Ridge Indian Scouts for kids craft supplies, the Kiwanis Foundation of Evanston for general operating funds, the Arts Work Fund to sponsor the branding study, and the Illinois Humanities Council for general operating funds to cover the re-development of our permanent exhibit.

We would also like to thank our experts from the Appraisal Day program: Allan and Joyce Niederman, Jim DeNomie, Frances Hagemann, and Eliot Waldman, owner of Native Art Traders.

Finally, we would like to extend our thanks to Glennis Lundberg for her tireless work as Board President and Robert Teska and Laura Dudnik for their service on our Board of Directors.

Deconstructing Stereotypes: Top Ten Truths

The Mitchell Museum's newest exhibit, *Deconstructing Stereotypes: Top Ten Truths*, opened on June 18 and will remain open to the public until March 2012. In creating this exhibit, the Mitchell Museum collected surveys from Native peoples about the stereotypes they felt impact their lives the most. The results created an exhibit exploring the diversity and complexity of contemporary Native life and includes direct quotes from Native and indigenous peoples.

"This is not an issue about people being offended. Our hearing is about the real harm that is done to all people, Native and non-Native alike, when mascots, movies and images reinforce the stereotypes and lines that divide rather than unite us."

- Senator Daniel K. Akaka, *Hawaiian*

Beginning with a striking photo wall showing contemporary Native peoples and defying the stereotype that Native cultures have vanished, the exhibit continues on to highlight famous American Indians and Indigenous Canadians as well as artist Chris

Pappan's (*Osage/Kaw/Cheyenne River Sioux*) powerful *Firewater Series*, which addresses the stereotype that all Native people are alcoholics. The exhibit also addresses many other common misconceptions about treaties, casinos, mascots and urban Indians.

"Sometimes strangers think I'm from another time. They wonder if I live in a teepee or make my own buckskin clothes or have ever hunted buffalo. They are surprised when I tell them that most Indians live in cities, in houses, and some of us shop at the Gap. I've never hunted a buffalo, although I almost hit a cow once while driving through South Dakota."

- Rita Pyrrillis, *Cheyenne River-Sioux*



Firewater Series by Chris Pappan.
Photo by Debra Yepa-Pappan

Notes from the Director

We launch into summer with many exciting programs and changes to report. First, join me in congratulating Jim DeNomie, *Bad River Chippewa*, as the Mitchell's new President of the Board of Directors. We kicked-off several new programs: the permanent exhibit re-development, a marketing branding study to learn how our constituents perceive the museum and develop plans to better position the museum to the public, the StEPs program, and fundraising on iGive. Our major supporters were treated to a Behind-the-Scenes event hosted by Evanston's past and present mayors. We also hosted Northwestern University President, Morty Shapiro, to discuss future collaborations, and an Inuit delegation from Nunatsiavut near the Arctic Circle (see pg. 3 for more on this visit). It has been an exciting line-up of visitors. Our 2010 Annual Report can now be found on our website as well as our 2011 Support and Sponsorship Catalog. They are filled with photos and even more coverage of the wonderful programs and events coming to the museum. Be sure to check them



Thirza DeFoe, *Ojibwe* and *Oneida*, at Native Poetry Night

Visit www.mitchellmuseum.org for the latest museum news and events!

Calendar of Events: JULY

Alternating Thursdays **Flute Group**, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Call the museum for dates and location.

Friday, July 1 **Free Admission**

Saturday, July 2 **Curator's Exhibit Tour**
3:00-4:00 PM
Join Laura McDowell, Exhibit Developer and Collections Manager, on a tour of the museum's permanent exhibit.

Saturday, July 16 **Dream Catcher Gourd Workshop**
1:00-3:00 PM
Join artist and teacher Julie Darrough, *Shoshone*, in making these unique dream catchers in a gourd vase. Workshop includes materials and instruction. Space is limited. RSVP by July 13th by emailing visitor.services@mitchellmuseum.org. Fee: \$15 members/ \$20 non-members



Friday, July 22 **Book Seminar: Summer Hiatus**
Independent Mystery Book Reading!
Contact the museum for the reading list.

Saturday, July 23 **Did You Know They're Native?**
2:00-3:00 PM
Exhibit Open to Public with Curator Tour
Come see the Mitchell's newest exhibit and find out how many famous Americans you never knew were Native American.

Sunday, July 24 **Dr. Carlos Montezuma and Other American Indian Heroes Lecture**
2:00-3:00 PM
Frances Hagemann, *Ojibwe/Metis*

AUGUST

Alternating Thursdays **Flute Group**, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Call the museum for dates and location.

Wednesday August 3 **Teachers' Top Ten Truths Workshop**
2:00-4:00 PM
FREE CPDU Credit
Join the Mitchell's Education Committee in developing lesson plans and worksheets covering the Top Ten Truths in the Deconstructing Stereotypes exhibit.

Friday, August 5 **Free Admission**

Saturday, August 6 **Curator's Tour**
3:00-4:00 PM
Join Laura McDowell, Exhibit Developer and Collections Manager, on a tour of the museum's permanent exhibit.

Saturday, August 13 **Hands-On Contemporary Native Cultures**
2:00 -3:30 PM
Discover Native Cultures with John Dall, *Ho Chunk*, as he reveals the transition of war club to dance stick in Pow Wows and many other aspect of tribal life. Graphic Designer, artist, tribal legislator, and public speaker John Dall is sure to enthrall the whole family.
Fee: \$10 members/ \$12 non-members

Friday, August 26 **Book Seminar: Summer Hiatus**
Independent Mystery Book Reading!
Contact the museum for the reading list.

SEPTEMBER

Alternating Thursdays **Flute Group**, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Call the museum for dates and location.

Friday, Sept. 2 **Free Admission**

Saturday, Sept. 3 **Curator's Exhibit Tour**
3:-00-4:00 PM
Join Laura McDowell, Exhibit Developer and Collections Manager, on a tour of the museum's permanent exhibit.

Sept. 9th—11th **Indian Summer Festival in Milwaukee**
Call the museum for details.

Thursday, Sept. 15 **Treasures of the Collection Exhibit**
6:00-8:00 PM
Preview & Annual Campaign Kick-Off Party

Saturday, Sept. 17 **Treasures of the Collection Exhibit**
2:00-3:00 PM
Opens to the public with a curator tour.

Sunday, Sept. 18 **Top Ten Truths Series: Cultural Competency.**

Join Jim DeNomie, *Bad River Chippewa*, for the first in a series of three in-depth discussions of *Deconstructing Stereotypes: Top Ten Truths Exhibit*. Learn more about the top five misconceptions about American Indian culture.
Fee: \$10 members/ \$12 non-members

Friday, Sept. 23 **Book Seminar Resumes**
Noon - 1:00 PM
Contact the museum for information.

Family Fun & Activity Corner

Looking for fun family activities during the summer break? Stop by the Mitchell on **Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays** to make a Native American inspired craft. Different crafts are featured each week. Craft instruction and materials are free for members and included with regular admission for non-members.

Kids' Crafts Summer Hours:

Thursday, 12:30 - 1:30 PM, *summer only*

Saturday, 11:00 AM - Noon

Sunday, 12:30 - 1:30 PM

July 2 & 3

July 7, 9 & 10

July 14, 16 & 17

July 21, 23 & 24

July 28, 30 & 31

August 4, 6 & 7

August 11, 13 & 14

August 18, 20 & 21

August 25, 27 & 28

September 3 & 4

September 10 & 11

September 17 & 18

September 24 & 25

Mini Tipis

Fetish Bracelets

Cherokee Syllabary (Alphabet)

Northwest Coast Button Blankets

Beaded Key Chains

God's Eyes

Corn Husk Dolls

Woven Baskets

Porcupine Quill Boxes

Dream Catchers

Loom Beading

Lakota Star Quilts

Navajo Woven Rugs



Calling All Educators!

Looking for a new way to bring Native American history and culture to life in your classroom? The Mitchell Museum offers many unique, hands-on experiences and resources designed to compliment classroom curriculum K-12, including:

Docent-Led Tours: These scheduled tours, led by highly trained docents, give students a hands-on experience in American Indian history and contemporary culture.

Loan Box Program: Our loan boxes contain educational artifacts and resources that can be checked-out by teachers.

Curriculum Guide & Resources: Our website provides a curriculum guide, K-12 resources and references to help you apply American Indian culture, history, and art to almost any area of your curriculum.

Website Worksheets & Lesson Plans: We provide worksheets and lesson plans to compliment our field trip experience and your curriculum.

CPDU Credit Programs: The museum offers free, CPDU credit programs for teachers. Sign-up for our e-blast list to receive more information by email visitor.services@mitchellmuseum.org or click on the "Join" button on our website.

Through our variety of programs, we have seen students of all grade levels gain a deeper appreciation of history and traditions of American Indian peoples, as well as topics of diversity, racism, the environment and many more. Contact the museum today at (847) 475-1030 or email visitor.services@mitchellmuseum.org to learn more about our educator resources (see August 3 event).

StEPs Program

As a small museum there is still an expectation to meet the same rigorous museum standards even without the staff and budgets of larger museums. This is where the American Association of State and Local History excels with their program, StEPs, to guide small museum to meet the accreditation standards set by the American Association of Museum. The program, *Standards and Excellence and Program for History Organizations*, provides a wealth of support webinars, contacts to call with questions, and a workbook to guide the museum in six areas of museum operations: Mission, Vision and Governance, Audience, Interpretation, Stewardship of the Collection, Stewardship of Historic Structures and Landscapes, and Management. This program will crystallize the museum's practices into formal policies and procedures to further raise the bar and ensure that we maintain these high standards.

One area that we have changed is cancelling the Jewelry Trading Days program where the museum oversaw the resale of old and gently used Native American jewelry. While we were not illegally selling the museum's collection, because it overlapped with our collecting scope, it gave some of our constituents the perception that we were. This perception is important. We rely on donations to build our collection and it is vital that we encourage people to donate rather than sell materials that could be part of the museum. In addition, donors need to feel confident that we intend to preserve their donation for future generation and not turn around and sell it. For all the Trading Days fans, we will still offer programs such as Appraisal Day and sell NEW jewelry at the two artist marketplaces and in our museum shop.

Inuit Delegation Visits Mitchell Museum

On May 24th, the Mitchell Museum was honored to meet with a delegation from the government of Nunatsiavut, which represents five Inuit communities in the Labrador province near the Arctic Circle. The delegation's main purpose was to receive the remains of 22 individuals from the Field Museum that were taken without permission by an expedition in 1927 and return them for a proper burial in their homeland. They also plan to erect a cultural center to teach visitors about historic and contemporary Inuit culture and life near the re-burial site. During their visit at the Mitchell Museum we discussed their plans for the cultural center and shared ideas for displaying and caring for material culture. They were particularly interested in our plans for the new permanent exhibit and our evaluation on what works well and what flops. We wish to thank the members of the Canadian Counsel General of Chicago for coordinating the visit.



L-R: Jim DeNomie, Sarah Leo, Kathleen McDonald, Isabella Pain, Johannes Lampe, Georges Rioux, Jamie Burke

Native American Recipe

American Indians on the Pacific Northwest Coast have traditionally cooked salmon on cedar wood, which gives the fish a rich, smoky flavor. Light up your grill this summer and try this healthy dish with a spicy twist.

Grilled Cedar-Plank Salmon

Ingredients

- 4 Six-ounce pieces of salmon fillet
- Kosher salt and pepper
- 1 seedless cucumber, sliced into half-moons
- 1 jalapeno, seeded and sliced
- 2 tsp fresh lemon juice
- 1 tsp extra virgin olive-oil
- 1 cedar grilling plank, soaked in water for at least 1 hour (many local grocers carry cedar planks during grilling season)

Directions

Heat grill to medium. Season salmon with $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt and $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon pepper, arrange on plank. Place the plank on the grill and cook, covered, until the salmon is opaque and flakes easily, 12-15 minutes. In a bowl, combine the cucumber, jalapeño, lemon juice, oil and $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt. Serve with the salmon.

Other great grilling favorites:

Many traditional Native American vegetables are versatile on the grill and make a great side dishes. Try grilled beets, potatoes, carrots, squash, zucchini, bell peppers and of course, corn-on-the-cob!





**Mitchell Museum
of the American Indian**

3001 Central Street
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(847) 475-1030
www.mitchellmuseum.org



Get out of the heat and into the Mitchell Museum's summer programs & events!

In this Newsletter...

- **Calendar of Events**
- **Educator Resources**
- **New Family Craft Activities**
- **...and Much, Much More!**

Wish List

Storage Shelves: \$110 each

The museum collections storage is in need of new shelving and re-housing materials to properly house and preserve all of the incredible artifacts for generations to come. We also need shelving for our educational collection and for exhibit supplies.



CD Player with speakers

Bring the voices and music of Native cultures to the museum by donating your gently used CD player to the museum.

Craft Supplies: Yarn

In preparation for the fall school groups we need to prep craft supplies this summer. Donate your yarn of any color for children to make the vibrant God's eye, rug weaving, and other crafts.

Folding or Stacking Chairs and Tables:

As we expand our programs into the larger space offered in the 3009 Central building we need more chairs and 6-8' folding tables. Donate gently used or funds for us to buy new.

Volunteer Spotlight

The Mitchell Museum is honored to feature Caroline Fernald in our Volunteer Spotlight. Caroline has volunteered at the Mitchell every Wednesday since October 2010. She fell in love with the museum after seeing *Dazzling Colors: The Evolution of Plains Reservation Art*. After much dedicated preparation, she became a docent and was a key leader for our busy fall school tour schedule. Caroline absolutely loves giving tours of the museum and teaching visitors about Native American art and culture. She believes that, as a docent, she shares valuable information about American Indian communities that visitors might not learn on their own.

This past May Caroline received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She will be attending graduate school at the University of Oklahoma this fall with a full scholarship studying Native American art history. Everyone at the Mitchell Museum will miss her dearly and know that she will accomplish everything she sets out to do.

The Mitchell is always looking for additional hands for our volunteer work force. Mitchell volunteers perform a variety of jobs based on their individual interests and skills, and our volunteers are from all ages and backgrounds. If you enjoy sharing your interest in Native American cultures with others, ask about our docent training program. To learn more about volunteering or becoming a docent, please email 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.