Meet Me at the Mitchell
The member’s guide to programming, news, special events and much, much more!

Making It Happen
With the ups and down of the economy this year, many people have delayed or foregone their donations to arts organizations. As 2011 comes to a close, we are ever grateful for those of you who did give and gave generously to keep the museum going strong. We successfully completed our Annual Matching Campaign and raised over $50,000 for the museum. We would like to thank our lead donors in this program:

Trish and Bob Barr, Richard Basofin, Linda Bechtle, Ivan and Shelley Berk, Howard Berk, Jan and Jeff Berksen, John and Sara-bess Cahill, Joyce Chelberg, Frank and Janice Cicero, Candace Corr, Kenneth Flammang, Joan Golder, Alice Gutenkauf, Reed and Joe Hagee, Frances Hagemann, Mary Lou and Mitchell Horwat, Will Linder and Janet Bowers, Betty Mitchell, Margery Murdough, Allan and Joyce Nieder- man, Barbara Novick, J.N. Pritzker, Kevin Rielley, Susan and Timothy Salis-bury, Robert and Diane Teska, John and Marge Wold, Cheryl Wollin, and Patricia Zygmum.

Foundations and businesses also played a key role and included: John Cahill, Inc., Dallas Jewish Community Foundation, the Daniel and Janet Hidding Foundation, Evanston Community Foundation, First Bank and Trust of Evanston, John and Margaret Sagan Foundation, Landau Fam- ily Foundation, Robert R. McCormick Foundation, St. Augustine’s Center for American Indian, and the William M. Hale Foundation. We also wish to thank the Illinois Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Illinois General Assembly for their continued support.

Even though the year has come to a close, don’t hesitate to send in your donation to help us carry on the Mitchell’s mission and fulfill our wish list on the last page!

Celebrating the Mitchell Museum’s 35th Anniversary
Looking back over 35 years of educational programs, exhibits, and collecting, the museum has grown considerably since its humble beginnings in the basement of the Mitchell Brothers Real Estate Office on Green Bay Road. Since the museum’s founding by John and Betty Seabury Mitchell in 1977, a few things have changed. The museum moved from its location on Orrington Avenue to Central Street in 1997 and became an independent non-profit organization by separating from Kendall College in 2006. Each of the five prior Executive Directors advanced the museum in different and exciting ways.

What has stayed the same is the museum’s mission and core values: the engaging exhibits, the artist workshops, demonstrations, and numerous children’s programs and lectures. While the collection has grown to over 10,000 artifacts, we still see some of the core pieces that rotate on and off display and thrill us again like a rekindled friendship.

When we look at the health of an organization, we so often only look to the balance sheet or attendance records. However, a true testament to the organization is the core group of program presenters, museum members, volun-teers, Board members, and former staff that continue to participate in the museum since its founding. Our hats are off to all of our predecessors who envisioned the importance of the mission, kept the museum going through good and bad times, positioned the museum to thrive in the future, and continue to serve the community for years to come.

We would like to hear your favorite memory, program, or exhibit at the Mitchell Museum. Send an e-mail to kmcdonald@mitchellmuseum.org

Notes from the Director
Happy New Year from the Mitchell Museum! It’s been an exciting few months with wonderful programs including Dr. Alan Ray’s thought provoking talk on the Cherokee Freedmen issue, Florence Dunham’s masterful storytelling, and a full house at our annual Holiday Bazaar. We were excited to host not only record crowds but also several new artists selling extraordinary jewelry. We have received several new acquisitions for the collection including some exceptional katchinas from June Kleban (pictured here with Kathleen McDonald, Executive Director). Final numbers will be available in a few weeks, but overall attendance has been up over last year and we are getting closer to reaching our financial goals for the year. We have a great line-up planned for our 35th year including our Anniversary Gala on March 3rd as well as a comedy night in April. We are still developing our plans for a new core exhibition and working diligently behind the scenes on a collections inventory and several other important projects. We look forward to seeing you in the new year!

Visit us at www.mitchellmuseum.org and friend us on Facebook for the latest news and events!
## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JANUARY

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursdays</td>
<td>Flute Group, 6:00 - 7:45 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, Dec. 31</td>
<td>Museum Closed for New Years Eve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, Jan. 1</td>
<td>Museum Closed for New Years Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, Jan. 6</td>
<td>Free Admission Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, Jan. 7</td>
<td>Carving Traditions: Modern Inuit Carvings Exhibit Opens to Public</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Exhibit Tour with Curator</td>
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<td>The Mitchell’s newest exhibit explores the modern art of the Inuit people. See opposing page article for more details!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, Jan. 14</td>
<td>Master Craft Workshop: Doll Making with Sharon Skolnick, Ft. Sills Apache</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 - 4:00 PM</td>
<td>Learn doll making with Native artist Sharon Skolnick. Participants will choose the size of their doll and select from pre-cut fabrics and accessories. Fee includes materials cost and light refreshments. Workshop limited to 20 individuals, suggested age 15 and older. Fee: $15/members, $20/non-members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, Jan. 27</td>
<td>Book Seminar Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noon - 1:00 PM</td>
<td>Dammed Indians Revisited: The Continuing History of the Pick-Sloan Plan and the Missouri River Sioux by Michael L. Lawson</td>
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### FEBRUARY

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<tr>
<td>Thursdays</td>
<td>Flute Group, 6:00 - 7:45 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, Feb. 3</td>
<td>Free Admission Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, Feb. 4</td>
<td>Docent-Led Exhibit Tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00-4:00 PM</td>
<td>Join Laura McDowell, Exhibit Developer and Collections Manager, on a tour of the museum’s permanent exhibit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, Feb. 11</td>
<td>Special Lecture &amp; Book Signing Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 - 3:00 PM</td>
<td>Native American Bolo Ties: Vintage and Contemporary Artistry</td>
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<td>by Diana Pardue with Norman L. Sandfield</td>
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<td>Author and one of the Mitchell Museum’s Council of Advisors, Normal Sandfield will speak at the museum about bolo ties and personally sign his new book, co-authored with Diane Pardue. Sandfield's bolo tie collection consists of more than 1,000 bolo ties, scarf slides and ephemera. A limited number of books will be available for purchase at the Mitchell Museum. Come meet this passionate collector and read his fascinating book.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, Feb. 24</td>
<td>Book Seminar Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noon - 1:00 PM</td>
<td>Book to be selected at meeting on Jan. 27</td>
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### MARCH

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<tr>
<td>Thursdays</td>
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<td>Friday, March 2</td>
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<td>Saturday, March 3</td>
<td>Docent-Led Exhibit Tour</td>
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<td>3:00 - 4:00 PM</td>
<td>Join Laura McDowell, Exhibit Developer and Collections Manager, on a tour of the museum’s permanent exhibit</td>
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<td>Saturday, March 3</td>
<td>35th Anniversary Spring Benefit Gala</td>
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<td>6:30 - 9:30 PM</td>
<td>Come celebrate 35 years of the Mitchell Museum bringing Native American art, education, and culture to Evanston and the surrounding area. See side article for more information on this great event! Location: Unitarian Church of Evanston (1330 Ridge Ave, Evanston, IL) Tickets: $120/individual, $800/table of 8 people</td>
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<td>Friday, March 23</td>
<td>Book Seminar Meeting</td>
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<td>Noon - 1:00 PM</td>
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### Family Fun & Activity Corner

Looking for fun indoor family activities this winter? Stop by the Mitchell on Saturdays and Sundays and make a Native American inspired craft. Guided craft instruction available during the below times!

**Kids’ Crafts Hours:**

Saturdays, 11:00 AM - Noon & Sundays, 12:30 - 1:30 PM

Kids’ Crafts FREE with regular admission

**DATES**

- January 7 & 8: Inuit Snow Goggles
- January 14 & 15: Woodlands Porcupine Quill Boxes
- January 21 & 22: Northwest Coast Button Blankets
- January 28 & 29: Plains Warrior Shields
- February 4 & 5: Northwest Coast Rattles
- February 11 & 12: Children’s Bolo Ties
- February 18 & 19: Gods Eyes
- February 25 & 26: Woven Baskets
- March 3 & 4: Beaded Key Chains
- March 10 & 11: Corn Husk Dolls
- March 17 & 18: Talking Feathers
- March 24 & 25: Loom Beading
- March 31 & April 1: Lakota Star Quilts
35th Anniversary Benefit Gala

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian. The Mitchell is one of only a handful of museums in the United States that specializes in the art, history, and culture of the American Indian peoples. Through the Mitchell’s wide-ranging exhibits and programs, and its numerous outreach initiatives, the museum has built cross-cultural bridges honoring Native cultures and dispelling negative stereotypes. Now more than ever, the Mitchell Museum is proud to be a place where people can learn, experience, and understand American Indian culture and heritage.

To celebrate this milestone, the museum is holding a very special 35th Anniversary Benefit Gala on Saturday, March 3 from 6:30 – 9:30 PM at the Unitarian Church of Evanston, 1330 Ridge Ave in Evanston. The festive gala will feature a sit down dinner with elegant cuisine, live music, a raffle and a silent auction, Native-themed entertainment, and a presentation honoring our history and founders. Join your fellow American Indian art and cultural enthusiasts for a night to remember! Tickets can be purchased through Visitor Services. Contact the museum at (847) 475-1030 if you are interested in supporting or sponsoring this event. We hope you join our celebration!

Event Details
Date & Time: Saturday, March 3 from 6:30 - 9:30 PM
Location: Unitarian Church of Evanston (1330 Ridge Ave, Evanston, IL)
Tickets: $120/individual, $800/table for 8 people
RSVP by February 25

Master Craft Workshop: Doll Making

Join Sharon “Okee-Chee” Skolnick, Ft. Sills Apache, for a master craft workshop on traditional doll making. Skolnick is the proprietor of the Andersonville Okee-Chee’s Wild Horse Gallery, which showcases American Indian art and a founding member of the Chicago Indian Artist Guild. Skolnick is an accomplished acrylic and graphic artist, but she is best known for her images of horses and her extraordinary dolls. Her dolls are dressed in traditional attire made of fur, horsehair, deer hide, porcupine quills, feathers, leather, and cloth trimmed with beaded and appliquéd designs. They are inspired by traditional Great Lakes cultural designs. She is happy to share her knowledge with audiences at the Mitchell Museum!

Participants in this workshop will choose the size of the doll to create and select pre-cut fabrics and accessories for their individual doll. Light refreshments will be provided. The workshop is limited to 20 participants, so be sure to sign-up soon! Because basic sewing skills are required, the suggested age for participation is 15 years and older.

Event Details
Date & Time: Saturday, January 14 from 1 - 4 PM
Location: Mitchell Museum
Fee: $15/members, $20/non-members
Fee includes materials and light refreshments
RSVP by 5 PM on Tuesday, January 10

Carving Traditions: Modern Inuit Carvings

Carving is an Inuit art form that dates back approximately 2,500 years. Created initially as a decorative art, Inuit carvings have evolved over the centuries, becoming a way to remember and honor past nomadic lifeways and to pass down traditions. Since the 1940s, carvings have greatly increased in popularity both within Inuit communities and among art collectors. During the 1940s and 1950s, the way of life most Inuit peoples led for generations began to change. Pressure from disease and the need to participate in the cash economy forced them to move into permanent villages created by the Canadian government.

Stone, bone, antler, baleen, and ivory carvings depicting Inuit traditions took on a new importance within Inuit communities as their communities faced these dramatic changes. Art collectors began to take note of the increased production of Inuit carvings, making the figures useful both for remembering traditions and as sellable art. Subjects illustrating family, fun, traveling, hunting, and connections to animals continue to inspire Inuit carvers and provide a window into Inuit life past and present. Come see over 50 Inuit carvings from the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian’s collection and from private collectors on display beginning January 7, 2012. A special curator tour of the exhibit will be offered on opening day at 2:00 PM. Don’t miss this interesting exhibition!

Native American Recipe

Perfect for a cold winter’s day, fry bread is made by many different Native American cultures as a warm and toasty treat. The below recipe is only one of the many ways which this simple food can be made. Serve this bread piping hot with honey, butter, fruit jam, or topped with meat, cheese, or along with your favorite hearty soup or stew - the combinations are endless!

Ingredients
4 cups flour
2 TBLS baking soda
1/2 cup shortening
1 cup warm water
1 cup high-heat cooking oil for Frying (canola or grapeseed oil)

Directions
1. Mix flour, baking power, and salt.
2. Gradually add in the shortening and water, adding only enough water to make the dough stick together.
4. Cover dough balls with a towel for 10 minutes, then pat them into circles roughly the size of a pancake.
5. Heat cooking oil in a cast iron skillet.
6. Fry dough in skillet until brown on both sides.
7. Remove from skillet and blot excess oil on paper towels.
8. Serve hot with your favorite topping!
Jump Start Your New Year by Visiting the Mitchell Museum!

**In This Newsletter...**

- Winter Calendar of Events
- 35th Anniversary Spring Benefit Gala
- Master Craft Workshop: Doll Making
- ...and Much, Much More!

**Wish List**

**Apple Mac Book Pro: New or Refurbished**

What they say is true for graphics and video: Apple computers are the way to go. Donate a Mac Book Pro to expand the museum’s ability to create incredible exhibit and marketing materials in-house.

**Collections Storage Shelving: $115 each**

We’re making great progress in expanding the shelving space for collections, but we still need your help in funding more shelves.

**Library Chairs: $25 per chair**

Help us replace the menagerie of library chairs and make our seating more comfortable for programs and events. We need 40 chairs.

**Office Supplies: New or gently used**

We always need a steady supply of file folders, post-it notes, paper clips, and all the things that help keep an office organized. Help shave off some of our overhead by donating these ever-useful items.

**Volunteer Spotlight**

Alex Bloss, retired Head of Acquisitions at the University of Illinois at Chicago Library, began volunteering in the Mitchell Museum’s library in March 2011. As a lifelong Native American art appreciator, Alex says, “Since I have a keen interest in the Pueblo tribes and felt that my library experience would be of use, I volunteered.”

Since starting, Alex has completed an inventory of over 3,200 books in the Mitchell Museum’s library and has begun helping to process the backlog of donated books. Because the museum has a moratorium on accepting book donations until the backlog is fully processed, his work is extremely helpful. Recently, Alex presented a collection analysis he compiled, helping the museum’s Collections Committee decide its next steps toward library improvement. As Alex said, “I enjoy helping shape a library that has a focus on Native Americans and working with books that pertain to them. I am very happy to be able to share my experience and to give back to a profession that has been my life.”

Outside of volunteering, Alex is a frequent traveler. He learned more about Native culture through his recent trips to New Mexico to visit friends at Zuni Pueblo, and Alaska where he visited a remote bird watching location near Siberia and learned about the Yu’pik peoples. Come visit Alex on Wednesdays at the Mitchell Museum and learn more about our growing library collection! Are you interested in volunteering? Contact Visitor Services at (847) 475-1030 or email us at visitor.services@mitchellmuseum.org today!