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

Giving Thanks

The Mitchell Museum of the American Indian is a unique resource that has served Evanston and the Great Lakes region for 39 years. With your support the Mitchell Museum will continue to work to promote and share a deeper understanding and respect of Native American peoples representing over 1,100 sovereign American Indian tribes and First Nation bands throughout the United States and Canada.

We greatly appreciate the donors who have answered the call: Ivan & Shelly Berk, Will Linder & Janette Bowers, Sarabess & John Cahill, Joyce & Bruce Chelberg, Jan and Frank Cicero, Truman Combes, Jane Friesema, Loren Ghiglione, Joe Hagee, Frances Hagemann, Daniel Hidding, Kof Kwarteng, Jacquelyn McGuire, John & Linnea Mead, Joyce (& Allan) Niederman, Jennifer N. Pritzker, Timothy & Susan Salisbury, and Jonathan & Eutichia Stern.

We would also like to thank the organizations that have continued their sponsorship of our programs and operations: Central Street Business Association, Duxler Tire & Car Care Center, St. Augustine’s Center for American Indians, and John J. Cahill, Inc.

We also must acknowledge the generous foundations that have contributed to the museum: the Daniel and Janet Hidding Foundation, Norman L. Sandfield Charitable Fund of the Dallas Jewish Community Foundation, and The MacArthur Funds for Arts and Culture at The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation.

Save the date for our Donor Appreciation Party from 6-8pm on February 25th where we will honor all the donors who have generously and continuously given to sustain the museum’s independence.

Connecting Cultures: 40 Years at the Mitchell Museum

While the Mitchell Museum was founded in 1977, it only separated from Kendall College to become an independent not-for-profit organization in 2006. As we celebrate this ten year milestone, a decade of independence, and lead into our 40th anniversary celebration in 2017, we reflect on the museum’s history, the people who made it possible and the fabulous collections available for future generations.

Opening in February, this new exhibit, “Connecting Cultures: 40 Years at the Mitchell Museum,” showcases the breadth of the museum’s collection that covers over 1,100 unique cultures from throughout the United States and Canada. This broad scope provides unrivaled opportunities to demonstrate both the uniqueness of each culture and also the common threads of their stories.

Looking at a spectacular sampling from the museum’s collection, visitors can hear the stories from the people who created the pieces, collectors who supported these artists, the donors who saw the value in sharing these pieces with the public, and finally the staff, volunteers and board who built the bridges for the Native and non-Native people to experience these diverse cultures. Join us February 25th as we celebrate the museum-its rich collections and the donors who made it possible at our members preview and Donor Appreciation Party.

Notes From the Director

Once again, we raised the bar this fall with our new and expanded programs. The Patricia Michael’s Fashion Show; Dr. Carlos Montezuma Honorary Lecturer and Awards recognizing attorney John Echohawk, quillwork artist Yvonne Keshick, and community leader Louis Delgado; and our rebranded Native Fine Art Holiday Market drawing artists from New Mexico to Minnesota, all received rave reviews.

Sadly, in October, we lost long time Board and Council member and Native arts collector, Allan Niederman. Allan and Joyce have been steadfast supporters of the museum since its founding, sharing their vast knowledge and collection with the entire Mitchell Museum community. Through all of this good work, the Mitchell Museum is changing how the public views American Indian peoples, their art and culture. While Allan leaves big shoes to fill, we hope you will actively join our mission as your support makes this all possible.

Visit us at www.mitchellmuseum.org and like us on Facebook!
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<th>February</th>
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| **Spotlight Tours: Materials in Fashion**  
  Every Saturday 10:30-11:00 AM & Wednesdays 4:00-4:30 PM | **Spotlight Tours: Pottery**  
  Every Saturday 10:30-11:00 AM & Wednesdays 4:00-4:30 PM |
| **Coyote Art & Winter on the Northern Plains Stories**  
  Coyote Puppet, Howling Coyote, & Star Quilt crafts for all ages  
  Every Saturdays 11:00 AM - Noon & Sundays 12:30 - 1:30 PM | **Porcupine Quill Art & Stories from When the Ice Breaks-Up**  
  Porcupine Puppet, Quill Boxes, & Maple Sap Basket (makak)  
  Every Saturdays 11:00 AM - Noon & Sundays 12:30 - 1:30 PM |
| **Flute Group, Alternating Thursday 6:00 - 7:45 PM**  
  Contact museum for meeting location | **Flute Group, Alternating Thursday 6:00 - 7:45 PM**  
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**The Mitchell Museum will be closed on December 31, 2015 & January 1, 2016 for New Years’ Eve & Day.**

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| **Spotlight Tours: Jewelry**  
  Every Saturday 10:30-11:00 AM & Wednesdays 4:00-4:30 PM | **Calling all Girl Scouts!**  
  Sign your Girl Scout up to learn more about Native culture and jewelry making. Make a Native inspired necklace and earn a fun badge for participating. Fee $12 /girl. Register at: http://www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/activities-events. For troop tours throughout the year, call Visitor Services at 847-475-1030. |
| **Bear Art & Stories from Spring Awakenings**  
  Bear Puppet, Bear Fetish & Fish Decoy crafts for all ages  
  Every Saturdays 11:00 AM - Noon & Sundays 12:30 - 1:30 PM | **Free Admission Day**  
  Friday, Apr. 1  
  Free Admission Day  
  Saturday, Apr. 23  
  1:00– 2:30 PM |
| **Flute Group, Alternating Thursday 6:00 - 7:45 PM**  
  Contact museum for meeting location | **Collections Connection**  
  Put on white gloves and explore facets of the Mitchell Museum’s collection with Executive Director, Kathleen McDonald in this talk and unique hands-on program. $12/$15 fee Member/Non-member  
  Saturday, March 19  
  6:30 PM |
| **Spring Break: All Day D.I.Y. Crafts**  
  10:00 AM - 5:00 PM | **2016 Annual Benefit, “A Decade of Independence.”**  
  The Wilmette Golf Club. RSVP by Mar. 11.  
  Call 847-475-1030 or email rsvp@mitchellmuseum.org  
  March 29-31  
  10:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
  Free with regular admission |

**Friday, Feb. 5**  
Free Admission Day

**Thursday, Feb. 25**  
6:00 - 8:00 PM

**Donor Appreciation Party & Exhibit Preview “Connecting Cultures: 40 Years at the Mitchell Museum”**

Join us for food, drinks and an exhibit preview tour as we honor our donors  
RSVP by Feb. 16  
Call 847-475-1030

**Saturday, Feb. 27**  
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**New Exhibit Public Opening:**  
**Connecting Cultures: 40 Years at the Mitchell Museum**
On Saturday, January 30, Christine Red Cloud (White Earth Ojibwe) and Eli Suzukovich III (Little Shell Band of Chippewa-Cree) will restore the birch bark lodge located on the second floor of the museum.

Unlike the larger dome shaped wiig-i-waam (Ojibwe) or wâs-kây-i-kan (Cree), the lodge at the Mitchell Museum is a conical shaped structure known as a ba-eesh-ka-o-gaan (Ojibwe) or mi-kee-wah-p (Cree). This type of lodge is commonly made for temporary purposes, such as hunting and fishing camps. The lodge is constructed of rough birch and boxelder limbs and covered with sheets of birch bark. The lodge has been in the museum since 2008 and needs cleaning and some repairs. Birch bark is a durable material and can last for many years, with a little maintenance.

Come see the restoration and learn about birch bark, its qualities and uses, birch forest ecology, and its tremendous significance among the Native Peoples of the Midwest, Northeast, and Subarctic regions.

**Mîsahikewin Wâskayikan (Restoring the birch bark lodge)**

**Friends of the Mitchell Museum**

Jan Berkson has been an instrumental part of the Mitchell Museum family for more than a decade. In 2003, she became the Mitchell Museum’s Board President; a position she held through our separation from Kendall College.

Upon finishing her tenure as Board President, she served on our advisory council from 2008 until 2014 when she rejoined the board as Vice-President and Governance Chair. We are excited to announce that as of January 2016, she will once again be taking the helm as Mitchell Museum Board President during our 10th anniversary year as an independent museum.

Jan’s first career was as an occupational therapist and in her second chapter Jan followed her passion for art. She graduated with an MFA from the Art Institute of Chicago where she now serves as part-time faculty teaching a variety of classes in painting and drawing. She is an accomplished artist and her work has been exhibited throughout the Chicagoland area, and this past fall she had her very first exhibition in New York City. Join us in welcoming Jan back as Board President.

**Winter Wild Vegetables and Fruit**

Winter is not a time when we think of harvesting fruits and vegetables, however many Native Peoples of the Midwest have, and still, harvest many of these winter treats.

**Nodding** (*Allium cernuum*) and **Textile/Prairie Onions** (*Allium textile*), both native to the Chicago region, will grow throughout the year, even under snow cover. Winter harvested onions have a softer taste due to the reaction of sugars breaking down via the colder temperatures. They can be cooked, eaten raw, or dried.

**Downy Hawthorn** (*Crataegus mollis*) and **Red Chokeberry** (*Aronia arbutifolia*) produce their bright red berries in the fall and will last through winter. They have a slight apple taste. They are high in Vitamin C and become sweeter after the first frost. They can be eaten raw, but are best made into jam or jelly. The dried berries make a great tea.

While not a native plant species, the **Dandelion** (*Taraxacum officinale*) has made its way into the diet of many Indigenous Peoples in North America. Dandelions grow very well under snow cover or during a damp winter. The leaves can be cooked like spinach or eaten raw. They are high in vitamins A, B, C, and D, and minerals, such as iron, potassium, and zinc.
Join the Mitchell Museum for Fun Programs and Events!

Wish List

**Rolling Storage Shelves:** $125
We’re making great progress in expanding space for new collections, but we still need your help in funding more shelves.

**Podium:** $300
The museum brings notable native guest speakers from all over the nation who contribute their knowledge for the enrichment of our museum patrons. We have borrowed podiums thus far but would really like one of our own.

**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.

**Craft Supplier:**
Help us keep our craft supplies well stocked. We need beads from unwanted or broken jewelry, yarn, spare cloth, felt, glue, craft scissors, needle-nose plyers, animal hides, and other supplies to keep our ongoing craft program running smoothly.

Contact museum for more info on needed items.

Annual Benefit: “A Decade of Independence”

Join the Mitchell Museum staff, patrons, volunteers and American Indian culture enthusiasts for elegant cuisine, a silent auction and a stimulating presentation celebrating the Mitchell Museum’s decade of independence. Support the museum and its programs while having a night of fun, music, and festivities.

**“A Decade of Independence” – EVENT DETAILS:**
When: Saturday, March 19 6:30-9:00 PM
Where: The Wilmette Golf Club
Tickets: $135/person, call 847.475-1030 to purchase

Tables available in advance, $125/person (seats 8)
Purchase a table by February 20 to be listed in the program.
Call 847.475-1030 or email rsvp@mitchellmuseum.org

If you are interested in sponsoring this event, contributing to our silent auction, or serving on the host committee, please contact Executive Director Kathleen McDonald at mcdonald@mitchellmuseum.org or 847.475.1030.