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*Heritage of the Americas Museum
12110 Cuyamaca College Dr. West
El Cajon, CA 92019*

Heritage of the Americas Museum “Heritage Happenings” May/June 2010

Mark your calendar:

May 9 – Happy Mother’s Day

May 14 – ECVGMS* Meeting

May 29 - Closed for Memorial Day

June 11 - ECVGMS* Meeting

June 20 – Happy Father’s Day

June 29 – July 5 Closed for Independence Day

*El Cajon Valley Gem and Mineral Society

May/June 2010

Storytellers – A Special Exhibit



In celebration of Mother's Day, we are very happy to have a special exhibit throughout the month of May of Storytellers. Two time-honored Native American traditions, telling stories and working with clay, have merged in modern times into an art form that has captivated thousands of people: the Storyteller. Building on a rich heritage of figurative pottery, the Pueblo Native Americans of New Mexico began in the 1960s to create images of seated "Storytellers" swarmed over by small children, and in the process created a dynamic new artistic tradition. Originally, Storytellers were men, then women were added. Now there is even more variety, with animal Storytellers. A Storyteller with an open mouth, indicates that he/she is singing to the children. The Storyteller on the right is a male with 19 children. It was created by Helen Cordero of the Cochiti Pueblo.

The collection on display at the Museum is a fine representation of this intriguing and delightful art form. For example, we have a Storyteller by Marilyn Henderson holding children who are helping her make a clay pot. In another, by Carol Pecos of the Jemez Pueblo, children are holding their stuffed animals. We also have a mother singing to her newborn baby. This piece was created by Stella Teller of the Isleta Pueblo. We have a great turtle by Mary Romero of the Jemez Pueblo with children and a dog and cat on its back. These are only examples. Don't miss this great collection.

Also in celebration of Mother's Day, the Museum offers free admission on Saturday, May 8. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring the whole family to enjoy this special Storyteller exhibit and wander the Museum at the same time.

Staff Report

The **Spring Garden Festival** is now in the past and it's time to shift gears to **College for Kids**. Of course, we continue to have our daily field trips, so the **Museum** is always a very busy place.

We are very happy to have a special exhibit in the **Museum**. For the month of May, we have a wonderful collection of **Storytellers**. Please do stop by to see them. We think it is a nice way to celebrate **Mother's Day**.

Last year the **Museum** memberships were down. We didn't even make budget! This year we've had many new memberships, renewals, and people joining at a higher level. Thank you all so much for this support. Our great programs for children do cost the **Museum** a lot of money so your support is always needed and appreciated.

Have a great summer and be sure to visit your **Heritage of the Americas Museum**.

Kathleen Oatsvall, Patrice O'Halloran and Flo Parks

Meet the Neighbors

It's amazing to realize that the **Spring Garden Festival** is over. Every year we begin having meetings in October with our neighbors from the **Water Conservation Garden**, the **Ornamental Horticulture Department**, and the **College**. Fortunately for us, the meetings are held at the **Museum**. It's a great group of people to work with, so the lead-up is part of the fun. We do hope you'll continue to visit our **College** neighbors.



The Water Conservation Garden



Ornamental Horticulture Nursery

The **Water Conservation Garden** curves around the **Museum** so it's very easy to visit both on the same day. It's open every day from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It's a great place to wander and relax. But it also should be your first stop for a new landscape or for new ideas for older plants. After visiting the **Garden**, the next stop should be the **Nursery** at **Ornamental Horticulture**. It's student-run and offers the healthiest plants at the lowest prices. How fun is that!

Spring Garden Festival

The **Spring Garden Festival** really is always a huge success for us. Most importantly, it brings many people to the **Museum** who might otherwise not even realize we exist. It's always great to see the looks on peoples faces when they realize what a truly amazing collection we have in our beautiful **Museum**. The **Spring Garden Festival** always results in new members and many future visitors.

The **Spring Garden Festival** is a great group effort and we want to thank all of our many **Museum** volunteers. Leading up to the event and day-of, everyone pitches in and makes it all come together. We also want to thank everyone who participated in **Artifacts Alive**. The displays this year were truly outstanding. It was definitely a beautiful day in the neighborhood and an outstanding day at the **Museum**.

We also want to extend a special "thank you" to our major contributors to the **Spring Garden Festival**. The **Museum** could not continue without the ongoing support of **Ron Raymond** and his business, **Valley Casework, Inc.**, the **County of San Diego**, and the **Cuyamaca College Foundation**.

Five-Choices Dream Raffle

Congratulations to the winners of the Five-Choices Dream Raffle.

Choice 1 – Amethyst and Quartz Crystals

– **Joe Cochoit** -

Choice 2 – Framed Arrowheads, etc.

– **Randy West** -

Choice 3 – Native American Artifacts

– **Walt Yahn** -

Choice 4 – Bud's Dream Lithograph

– **Michelle Sickels** -

Choice 5 – Museum Store Gift Certificate

– **Lee Gower** -

College for Kids

We are so looking forward to **College for Kids**. This is a great opportunity to have children who will be going into grades five through nine get to know the **Museum** and learn some valuable skills. These classes always fill up and get rave reviews from both students and parents.

Mike Wake, Roy Hastings, and Diana Kam are already busy planning for the classes and buying supplies. The course descriptions are on an enclosed flyer. All three instructors are so very good at what they do we decided it would be fun and interesting to get to know them a little better. Consequently, we asked each to give us a very informal autobiography. These are on the reverse side of the course descriptions. Thank you, **Mike, Roy and Diana**, for sharing your "Up Close and Personal" sides.

We appreciate so much the time, effort, and expertise our instructors give to **College for Kids**. We also greatly thank our volunteers who come in and help out with these classes.

Please also note that we are no longer part of the College Community Learning Department, so please help us advertise these great classes.

A Scavenger Hunt

The children have always come to the **Museum** for a "Treasure Hunt." Now adults (and some children) enjoy going on our **Museum Scavenger Hunt** that takes you through all four wings of the **Museum**. **It's great fun!**

Participants enter their **Scavenger Hunt** forms in a drawing. At the end of each month we draw one and the winner gets a \$10 gift certificate for the **Museum Store**. Past winners are:

June – Morgan Vandervict and Melanie Russel

July – Chelsea Dubs

August – Zachary

October – Jessica Hansen

November – Isabelle Rivera

December – David Gibson

January – Tamara Fisher

February – Kandyce Baker

March – Prudence Langer

April – Eva Dreyer

Congratulations!

Happy Parent's Days

Because this is a May/June newsletter, we want to wish our Moms a **Happy Mother's Day** and our Dads a **Happy Father's Day**.

Museum Members Rummage Sale

October 22 and 23rd. This helps fund our Field Trips and Outreach Program for elementary students. Please start saving your household items for donation now. Remember, it's your stuff we sell, so the more our members bring in, the more the **Museum** makes! We only have two fund-raisers a year, the **Spring Garden Festival Raffle** and the **Fall Rummage Sale**. We appreciate your support enormously. More information will follow in the next **Heritage Happenings**.

Dates to Remember

Please note: The **Museum** will be closed on May 29th in honor of Memorial Day. We will reopen on Tuesday, June 1st. We will be also be closed the entire week of Independence Day, June 29th through July 3rd. We will reopen on July 6th.