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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”

### Autumn 2011

Mark your calendar: Bring in your stuff for the Museum Members’ Sale  
Now throughpp October 12 Museum Members “5 Sales! 1 Location!”

- August 20 Museum Roadshow
- October 8 Rotary “La Bella Vida”
- October 15 & 16 ECVGMS Rock and Gem Roundup
- October 31 Happy Halloween

Please note: The Museum will be closed September 3<sup>th</sup> for Labor Day.



# MUSEUM NEWS

## Heritage Happenings

Heritage of the Americas Museum  
12110 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon

Visit our Web site at <http://www.cuyamaca.edu/museum>

Autumn 2011 ~ Happy Labor Day!

## “FIVE SALES! ONE LOCATION!”

### Museum Members’ Rummage Sale, Art Sale, Jewelry Sale, Gems and Minerals Sale, and Fossils Sale

Yes! This is your sale to raise money to  
support your Museum.

NOW through October 12th

This is the **Museum’s annual extravaganza** to raise money to support our many programs for children, i.e., the **Field Trips** for over 4,000 students, the **Outreach Program** where volunteers take artifacts out to the schools, and our summer **College for Kids** camps. Please remember, this is a **Museum Members’ Sale**, so it’s your stuff we need to sell. So now, it’s time to start going through your kitchen, garage, jewelry box, toy box, rock garden, etc. for all of the donations you can come up with. Because of the space they take up, we prefer no clothing or furniture. Remember, the Museum is a non-profit educational foundation, so we will give donation cards for tax time. And please tell your friends and neighbors. We all need to spread the word (and we accept donations from anyone!). In fact, anything you can do to help us let the public know, e.g. hang up and pass out flyers, take flyers to any groups to which you belong, etc., would be enormously appreciated. We need all the shoppers we can get.

Our **Museum volunteers** have already started bringing in their stuff, so now we’re ready to add your donations. Last year, it was really fun. Because it lasted so long, everyone kept bringing in more and more treasures. That kept people returning and returning to donate, see what new items had been added, and, of course, buy, buy, buy. In 2009, FSOL brought in \$3,548.45; in 2010, the kids’ programs benefitted from \$6,381.00. Now that’s fantastic! This is our one big fund-raiser of the year. The details are on the enclosed flyer. We do appreciate tremendously your support of your Museum.

## Director's Report

The children are getting ready to go back to school, so it's time for the **Museum** to shift gears and get ready for the yellow buses! We have definitely become the destination of choice for teachers and students because our volunteer docents are fantastic. Last year, teachers brought 121 classes to the **Museum**. That's 3,625 students! The children brought along 897 parent chaperones. The field trips have become a great way to introduce the **Museum** to adults! We encourage the students to bring their families back to give their own personal tour of the **Museum**. It must be working, because Saturdays have become very busy with students guiding moms, dads, grandparents, sisters and brothers, etc. through the four wings. It's really great to watch.

Our docents are spread pretty thin, so September is our designated **"Volunteer Recruitment Month."** Right now we have 31 active volunteers. During the 2010-2011 school year, they gave 4,965 volunteer hours. **WOW!** Thank you, our beloved volunteers. We sure could use more help. Please give us a call if you have any spare time that you could give to the **Museum**.

August, September, and October are busy months for the **Museum**, with a great variety of activities.

Scheduled up to this moment in order are: **the Museum Roadshow, Museum Members' "Five Sales! One Location!," La Bella Vida,** and the **El Cajon Valley Gem and Mineral Society Rock and Gem Round-up.**

Throughout this *Heritage Happenings*, you'll find articles about these events. You'll also find flyers with the important information. And be sure to check the back of each flyer. We're conserving.

**Kathleen Oatsvall**

## Volunteer Recruitment Month

With the new school year upon us, we're putting out our annual call for volunteers. There are basically two ways to volunteer, i.e., as a docent and/or as a receptionist. Both are fun. I know! I was a docent for years. Now I get to jump into the Reception Area and enjoy the **Museum** visitors whenever one of our volunteers has a time conflict. For more information, check the enclosed flyer. Please give me a call and we'll find out if we can find just the right fit for you.

## Volunteers – Our Museum Treasures

The **Heritage of the Americas Museum** is filled with treasures from all over the world, but the most precious of these are the wonderful volunteers who give so much of their time, energy, and experience. September is our **"Volunteer Recruitment Month"** because we always need more volunteers as we begin the school field trips.

I truly believe that our field trips give students an important educational experience. And the docents keep saying "yes" to more and more days for the same reason. It really is a gratifying experience to introduce students to the treasures of our **Museum**. Please consider becoming a **Museum** volunteer. The best part of all – you'll get to know the nicest people in the world, our current **Museum** volunteers. In the Reception Area we have a sign that reads, **"Volunteers are not paid! Not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless!"** We thank you all for your dedication and support.

## College for Kids

We've just completed another series of **College for Kids** camps. **Roy Hastings** taught two sessions of **"Survivor: Pioneer Skills in the Computer World"** and **Diana Kam** taught **"Art Stars"** and **"You, the Artist."** Assisting them were **Fred Hastings, Steve Hall, Linda Yeager, Dave Todd, Estelle Lauer,** and **Ron Anderson**. All are retired teachers and Museum docents. I wish there were a way to tell you how incredible these classes are and to tell them how much I appreciate their time, expertise, effort, and joy to be with. There simply isn't. **College for Kids** is the highlight of my year. I love it. I thank you all.



**Roy in the "woods" at Ornamental Horticulture**



**Diana at the Water Conservation Garden**

## Museum Roadshow

If you weren't at our first ever **Museum Roadshow** on April 16<sup>th</sup>, you really missed a cool event. I thought we might have about ten people, but 94 showed up. It was so interesting and so much fun that we're doing it again ~ Saturday, August 20th, 12 to 4.

It's our take-off on KPBS's Antique Roadshow. People (and you, hopefully) bring in interesting items that they found at a garage sale, in Grandma's attic, etc. to find out what they are and how much each item may be worth. **Craig Helm** is here to tell you. Craig is a certified appraiser and authenticator. As you can see on the enclosed flyer, Craig holds each item up for everyone to see, discusses the items history, tells what it is, and gives an estimated value. Rather than repeat everything that's on the flyer, I'll just leave it at that. I hope you can be here. And please help us spread the word.

## Five Sales! One Location!"

As the article on Page 1 said, we're setting up now for our **Rummage Sale, Art Sale, Jewelry Sale, Gems and Minerals Sale,** and **Fossils Sale** (that's why we call it **Five Sales! One Location!**). **Please remember, this is a Museum Members' sale, so it's your stuff we need to sell.** Please start going through your kitchen and garage, your jewelry box, and even the yard. Anyone can donate, so please let your friends and neighbors know about this event. This is our one big fund-raiser of the year, so please be generous. All of the proceeds are used for our programs for kids. The details are in the enclosed flyer.

## The Anthropology Wing

No one knows the Museum better than our volunteer docents. Sooooo, the past two newsletters highlighted particular wings of the Museum: First, **Jim Dobson** wrote about Natural History, and then **Fred Thompson** wrote on Archaeology. For this issue, **Roy Hastings** provides a visit to the Anthropology Wing:

Anthropology derives from a Greek word meaning person or human and is concerned with the study of all humanity (Genus Homo) during all time. The Heritage Museum devotes one whole wing to this broad and exciting discipline. Many beautiful and useful artifacts displayed here show the development and dissemination of knowledge and achievement by humankind, past and present.

You enter the wing with a mount of a buffalo head looking down on your left shoulder and a gigantic sculpture of two bald eagles disputing a fish on your right. A large two part mural enlivens the far end with the theme of trading what you have for what you want, need or covet. Cases on your left display clothing and artifacts beautified by feathers and beads in striking colors and designs. These were produced and used by many tribes living mostly on the central plains. On your right are cases exhibiting a variety of artifacts used in every day life.

Pause for a moment at the case that displays a black dress worn by a Northwest Native American to visit the White House at the invitation of President Theodore Roosevelt. Notice the yolk made from dentalium shells scooped out of the mud over one hundred feet deep in the Pacific Ocean.

The colorful mural at the end of the wing is separated by a chief's ceremonial robe made from a buffalo hide and decorated with ermine tails and glass beads manufactured in a factory in Italy and widely traded throughout the west after the 1830's.

A guest collection of rifles shows the advance from flint lock to repeater carbine and an adjoining case has a stone and steel tomahawk for contrast. Notice the heart-shaped symbol in the blade of the steel tomahawk!

Spend a minute at the case of one of the harshest habitats known to mankind - the land of ice, snow, rock, and water. Examine the frail kayak used to hunt walrus and whale on the open ocean with only a harpoon. Contemplate the canteen used to carry fresh water on the ocean and guess its origin.

As you exit this wing, ponder how far mankind has come and consider the limitless future.