

KOSHARE INDIAN
MUSEUM, INC.

Summer
2009

**IMPORTANT
DATES**

JULY Visiting Artist:

Tim Deibler

AUGUST Visiting Artist:

Gordon McConnell

SUMMER SHOWS

JULY @ 7:30 PM

**4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 15, 18,
19, 25,**

JULY 30 (Alumni Show)

LOOKING AHEAD

*Koshare Christmas Dinner:
December 26 @
Thyme Square*

*Alumni Show
(Winter Ceremonials)
December 27 in Kiva.*

Koshare News

"The world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."

Getting Down to Business

Since spending most of 2008 preparing for our 75th Anniversary, the Koshare organization found itself regrouping in 2009. After all, one can only party so long and then it is down to business.

There was much to do this year. 2009 found us finalizing the IRS non-profit status of our new Koshare Foundation, Inc. and writing multiple grants for operating expenses and for the dancer program — especially for the girls who now have a new, comprehensive advancement program. We have received two local grants for the girls' program: one from WalMart and one from Otero County. We appreciate this local support.

The collection was our other area of concentration this year. The Museum Board, Koshare staff, local volunteers and experts have been studying the collection of over 14,000 pieces of art and artifacts. The Board directed staff to do a complete study and assessment of the entire collection, including new pieces that have been donated in the past few years.

The Board also directed staff to seek restoration grants for the murals and other large pieces. To date, the Colorado Council on the Arts has awarded the Koshares a \$3,900 to cover the partial cost of hiring an expert to assess the full collection and appraise certain pieces. This will assist the Board in determining the true value for insurance purposes, providing a schedule for restoration and de-accessioning pieces that do not fit the mission of the Museum's Southwestern Plains and Pueblo Indians. Two other grants (one state and one federal) are pending for mural restoration work and others are being sought.

Coming Up Taller



The Koshare Dancers were one of 50 national finalists for the **Coming Up Taller Award**. The award is presented by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities and its partner agencies, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The letter states: "We are highly impressed with the successful work your organization and the other semi finalists have accomplished in youth after-school and out-of-school arts and humanities learning."

450 nominations were received for this award, so the competition was very stiff. Unfortunately, we were not selected as final winner, but the Koshares will be featured in all the *Coming Up Taller* printed materials as a semi-finalist. We are proud of our Koshare dancers' hard work and accomplishments.

Board of Directors**President:***Rick Wallner***Vice President:***Janet Berg***Committee Chairs****Collections:***Jon Kolomitz***Facilities:***Jim Rizzuto***Finance/Budget:***Janet Berg**Jim Rizzuto***Discipline:***Scott Eckhart**Ken McNerny***Remaining Directors:***Robert Fowler**John Gonzales**Nancy Harrison**Dan Hyatt**Steve Irvin***Legal Advisor to Board:***Philip "Dean" Malouff***Koshare Foundation****Trustees****President:***Kate Shand Larkin***Vice President:***Art Wilkonson***Treasurer:***Mark Driscoll***Secretary:***M. Jon Kolomitz***Remaining Trustees:***Sally Inge Buikema**James Dillard**Lynn Griffie Post**James T. Rizzuto*

From Our Board President . . .

Rick Wallner

"Tell me and I'll forget.
Show me and I may not remember.
Involve me and I will understand."
~ Native American Saying

Pursuing the study of Southeastern Colorado's heritage was the passion behind the creation of the Koshare Indian Dancers. Seventy-six years later, the importance of keeping tradition and heritage alive and protected is vital. From protecting our sacred Indian burial grounds and cave writings, to preserving dinosaur tracks and digs, to preserving the wonderful and rich culture of our earliest Native and pioneer inhabitants, pursuit of this purpose is a noble endeavor.

The Koshare Dancers have made quite a splash in heritage circles the past couple years — not only for what they have accomplished for seven decades in their own program, but for their passion and leadership during Colorado's Saving Places Youth Summits. "We enjoy working with history by fighting to protect our favorite landmarks and places," commented one of the youth participants.

The young people participated in strategic planning sessions in areas of preservation, tourism development and improved interpretation. It was a wonderful education for them as well as the adults as they consulted with federal and state agencies, tourism officials and non-profit organizations. They advised these agencies how youth can be better engaged in heritage education, public land policy, tourism and archaeology — leaving recommendations for venues as diverse as Mesa Verde and Denver's historic buildings.

"Teaching kids preservation is like teaching them a new language. You can start when they're older, but if you start when they're younger, they will become more fluent and enjoy it more." This was a quote from another of the youth participants. Most of them agreed that **"preservation is preserving the past so we can have a future."**

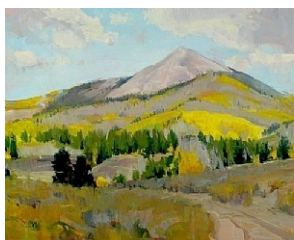
As Buck envisioned so many years ago, a hands-on experience is the best teaching tool. Pursuing your passion and fighting to keep what is important to you and your community are the seeds of great leadership. Today's Koshare dancers have taken up the mantle with pride.

Rick Wallner is the Chief Ranger for the National Park Service at Bent's Old Fort.

Artists of the Month

The Koshare Galleries have been full of life this year with exciting artists and incredible art work. Each artist brought something a little magical with them — appealing to our patrons and young dancers in a different way.

Our June artist, **Michael Untiedt** (born in Lamar, CO and residing in Denver), says of his artistry: “I am a believer in the brotherhood of man, of the common truths that are important to and affect and bind us all together. That is what my painting is about, of the universal things.”



Colorado
Autumn

Tim Deibler (born in Oklahoma and residing in Walsenburg, CO), our July artist, started painting when he was 13, teaching himself to paint from photographs. “It used to frustrate my teachers because I wouldn’t copy the photo exactly,” he reminisced. “I always used a photograph just as a starting place, not as a finishing place. Photos show details, but no emotion.”

Colter's
Country



Gordon McConnell, former Koshare and La Junta native, will be returning to the Museum as our August *Artist of the Month*. Creating paintings inspired by Western movies, Remington and Russell, he is truly a son of the West. (He now resides in Billings, Montana.) Gordon studied art at Baylor University, California Art Institute and received his Masters at Colorado University, Boulder. For two decades he worked as curator for the Yellowstone Art Museum and has been a full time painter and independent curator since 1999.

The
Bugle



Many other artists graced the walls of our gallery this past year. Returning by popular demand last December was **Carla Romero**. Carla’s roots are in Southeast Colorado. Currently residing in Pueblo West. She paints mostly in watercolors, but also works with acrylics on canvas. Pictured to the right is her painting: *Journey Home*.



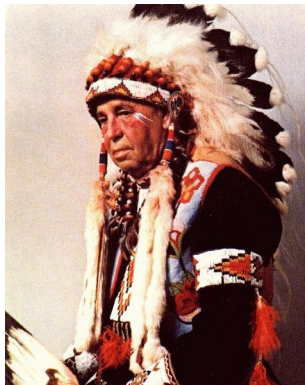
Veronica Gifford Jacoby specializes in pencil and charcoal. Her pencil drawing *Refuge* is pictured to the left.

Cassandra Sharon has developed her own unique, stylized animal forms. Each horse exudes an attitude and horse sense.



Buck Turns 100 ~

This July, James Francis "Buck" Burshears, the founder of the



Koshare Indian Dancers, would have been 100 years old. His spirit and passion for the Native American experience was uncompromising. He, along with several of his early Scouts, formed a new organization the likes of which had never been seen. The history of the last 76 years ebbed and flowed with triumphs and hard times, yet this one man rose to any challenge and lived his life so that others might better theirs.

"It is important that we honor him this year," said current Program Director, Jeremy Manyik, "so that our dancers today know that everything we have here today was established years ago." He also pointed out that Buck's legacy still draws tourists and Scouts to Southeastern Colorado and still brings commerce to our area.

Bob Inman, one of the founding boys from 1933, echoed that thought, "Buck dedicated his life to his "boys", his mother, and the city of La Junta. He was a selfless man."

Of course, along the way, there were plenty of stories about Buck's wit and humor — much of which was for the benefit of keeping the boys in line.

Brock Lowman (1972) had many remembrances of Buck. Here are a couple:

Walking across the stage and seeing Buck making another trip through the Round Room collecting empty pop cans. His standard comment: "I swear I'm gonna have pop cans in my grave in hell! If we didn't make so much money off the pop machines, I'd have 'em taken to the dump!"

Home from college one Christmas I was helping with the Winter Shows. In a conversation with Buck he found out I was working on a new set of beaded cuffs . . . "You kids drive me crazy! When you're in the club and doing shows I have to beg you to get your outfits done. Then you go off to college and build new stuff!"



Roscoe Champion, Sioux Chief, Class of 1948, said he first met Buck during the summer of 1945. He was 36 years old, "strong and filled with great vision and zeal, although they were quietly controlled. He was more than twice our age and I recall some of us wondering, 'What will happen to the Koshares if something happens to Buck?' Well, nothing did happen. He had another 40 plus years to establish his magnificent legacy. The foundation he laid was as strong as his will, and he left inspiration and challenge for thousands in the following generations. May the Koshare Spirit, which will forever be Buck's Spirit, live far beyond those of us who joyously followed him at 36."

"100 years after his birth, he is still impacting the world today."
 Jeremy Manyik

Happy 100th Birthday, Buck!!

Remembering His Legacy

100 Years from Now

*“One hundred years
from now . . .*

*It will not matter what my bank
account was,
the sort of house I lived in,
or the kind of car I drove.*

*But the world may be
different because I
was important in the
life of a boy.”*

Spoken often by Buck
from the essay:
Within My Power
By Forrest Whitcraft



Koshare Foundation Ready to Roll

The Koshare Foundation is now fully operational. Trustees have been meeting, planning, strategizing and preparing for the Koshares’ future financial sustainability .

Foundation Chair, Katherine Shand Larkin, spoke at the Koshare Christmas party in December. Larkin, a La Junta native, said she has spent 35 years practicing law around the United States, but has always been fond of her hometown Koshare Indian Dancers.

The Fundraising Subcommittee met in January to prepare background materials that will be used when meeting with potential funders for the endowment and capital campaigns. This Committee recommended, and the rest of the Trustees concurred, that the 2009 fund raising focus would be raising \$60,000 to match mural restoration grants. Restoring the Velino Herrera murals is a priority of both the Museum and Foundation boards.

The Foundation also met with local business and community leaders in April to introduce themselves and lay out future goals. They asked the community for their support in order to keep this community’s prized jewel operating successfully.

Now is the time to lay a *new foundation* for growth and prosperity for the Koshare organization, building upon the original foundation set by Buck and his boys. The Koshares did not get to be 76 years old by doing what was easy. Now, in these difficult economic times, all of us who love the Koshares and what they are working to preserve, who have a passion for serving young people and helping the economic growth of La Junta and the Valley — all of us need to summon Buck’s spirit and believe we can make it up this steep hill. We can continue to make a difference, and we can build for the future.

Koshare Staff:**Jeremy Manyik***Program Director & Curator***James McKnight***Assistant Program Director
and Handicrafts Supervisor***Karen "Susie" Sarlo***Director of Operations***Rebecca Goodwin***Collections Manager***Pat Malott***Accountant***Teri Erickson***Grant Writer***David Eckhart****Liz Montejano****Mark Randall****Kristen Rains***Trading Post Staff***Joe Talmich***Custodian***Web Page Managers****Originator***Aaron Root***History Web Site***David Balicki***Current Web Site Builders***Guy Randall**Eddie Guitierrez**Raiden Dillard*

Koshares

The Koshare dancers have had a busy year. Recruiting and training new dancers is always top on the list. In addition, they have taken several short trips this year:

- Fall Feast Days in San Ildelfonso
- October Festival in Kansas???
- Denver March Pow Wow
- Kwahadi Dancers this Spring

In addition, they danced at the Colorado Division of Wildlife's *Eagle Day* in Pueblo this Winter and will be performing at several festivals this summer and fall in La Veta and Kansas as well as the 50th reunion of the Girl Scout Jamboree this July. The Koshare danced at the original Jamboree in 1959.

Finalizing the girls' advancement program and refining some procedures for the Boy Scouts took a good portion of the year. Our Program staff is excited about the positive direction these changes will make in the club for many years to come.

The dancers also participated in several annual fund raising events: the *Ballroom Dinner/Dance* and the *Ladies Who Lunch* (luncheon and fashion show). Our community kindly supported both these events and the young Koshares had fun dancing with some people who were among the original jitterbug crowd. It was nice to see the generations find some common ground.

The Koshares also hosted, along with Otero Junior College's heritage program, Native American Bill Miller. Miller, a Grammy-winning musician and member of the Mohican Indian Tribe,

performed before a packed house, blending Native American flute and drums, with western folk, jazz and blues. Miller, a talented storyteller, also took the opportunity to share some of his life experiences with the audience.



Prior to performing in the Kiva, he spent a full day in the Koshare Museum admiring the works of art. "As an art

student at the Chicago Institute of Art many years ago, I studied many of these masters," he said. What a wonderful experience it has been for me to come to this city, and the Koshare Indian Museum and Kiva, to finally see the original paintings." As a Native American, Miller said he felt a genuine connection to his ancestors in the Koshare Kiva and felt welcomed by those who attended his concert. Mr. Miller will perform again in La Junta in January 2010.

Twice this year, Koshare dancers participated in youth activities during the Colorado Saving Places conference and youth summit. As Buck knew so many years ago, preserving a community's heritage reflects the distinctiveness of the people and the lifestyle and history of the area. He also knew that promoting cultural heritage could play an important role in a community's tourism industry. Over the years, the Koshares have played a vital role in advancing economic development in the Lower Arkansas Valley.

on the Move



“Teachers are messengers from the past and an escort to the future.”

Albert Einstein

Pictures from the Saving Places Conference.



Koshares perform at La Junta High School.



Spring 2009 elections were held for the Koshare Indian Dance program. Advancing in rank were:

- **New Chief: Jason Schmelzer**
(La Junta High School)
- **New Brave: Tevin Lucero**
(La Junta Middle School)
- **New Brave: Brayden Martin**
(Rocky Ford High School)



Members of the Koshare dancers recently attended Scout camp. They received the **Delta Troop Award**, **Most Scout Spirit**, and the **Honor Troop Award**.

Koshare Indian Museum, Inc.

PO Box 580
La Junta, Colorado 81050

Phone: 719.384.4411

Fax: 719.384.8836

Email: kiva_clerk@ojc.edu

Web site: www.koshare.org



Events and Announcements

Museum Summer Hours
10 AM to 5 PM Daily
Open till 9 PM on Show Nights

Cost: \$5.00 for Adults
\$3.00 for Students (6 to 17) and Senior Citizens
Koshare Alumni and Museum Members Free

Summer Shows
7:30 PM in Great Kiva

JULY: 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 15, 25, 30

Cost:
\$10 /Adult
\$5 /Students * 3-18 years old
No Discounts

*75th Anniversary
Memorabilia for sale
in the Trading Post:*

Lapel Pins

Patches

Posters

Group Photos

Call 719.384.4411 to order

*Alumni
Show
Thursday,
July 30 @
7:30 PM.*

Museum Hours

This Fall

Monday

Wednesday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

Noon to 5:00 PM

Mark Your Calendar:

Koshare Christmas

Party ~ Dec. 26

@ Thyme Square

Winter Ceremonial

Alumni Show on

December 27, 2009

"In summer, the song sings itself."

~ William Carlos Williams