

SPECIAL
POINTS OF IN-
TEREST:

- Become a part of our living history. Document your story online. Visit kosharehistory.org.
- Shop On-Line
- Alumni needed to help mentor a new generation.

IMPORTANT
DATES

April

- 1: Kiva Presents 5 & 10: Annual School Shows
- 15: 75th Anniversary Surveys Due
- 27: Benefit Performance for Valley Farmers & Ranchers

May

- 5: Women's Day Luncheon & Fashion Show Benefit for Japan Trip
- 6: Kiva Presents
- TBA: Men's Night Out benefit for the Japan Trip

June

- 5: Koshares Leave for Japan Trip
- 6: Kiva Presents
- 9: Summer Shows Begin—Mini Shows 9, 16, 23 & Full Show on the 30th

Koshare News

115 West 18th Street in La Junta

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kosharehistory.org

Preparing for the 75th

Koshare Indian Board and staff are preparing for the 75th Anniversary celebration in 2008. **We want to know your thoughts** about this momentous occasion. Please fill out the anniversary survey.

Since 1933 the Koshare Indian dancers have followed the traditions of Native Americans and since 1949, the Museum has served as a cultural center for the Arkansas Valley, been home to scouts throughout the nation, and been a tourist mecca for international travelers.

Come back home in 2008 and celebrate.

The Museum and Koshare Dancers attract over 20,000 visitors a year.

Collection Reorganized and New Displays Planned

Staff and volunteers have been working diligently to prepare the building and collection for the 75th in 2008. All stored artifacts—including Marvin Holbrook's estate items—have been unpacked, shelved and referenced against Buck's card catalog. Special thanks to former Koshare

Board member, Robert Berg, and current Board member, Robert Fowler, for their shelving donations.

Our volunteer archivist, David Balicki (Head Chief, 1999) took on the daunting task of reorganizing the archives. Former Koshare Head Moms Nancy Baker and Nancy Martin have had some fun going through old newspaper articles and Koshare News to file them by year. Old news articles and pictures were instrumental in mounting the World War II display now on exhibit (see page 2).

Of course, having all the collection organized and visible as well as having better access to archives has inspired us to start mounting new displays. Paintings, murals, and artifacts have been resurrected for our visitors to see.

There is even a plan to dig out Buck's train set. The **Otero Museum** has graciously agreed to display the train set during 2008 so that visiting alumni can view it.

All the way around, we will be ready for your visit in 2008.

Did You Know?

- In 1937 the Koshare Indian Dancers participated in the International Scout Jamboree in England. They presented regalia to Prince Charles. An article written about the visit quotes a thank you note from Queen Elizabeth on behalf of her son.
- In 1950 John Chapman, one of the country's best known dramatic critics, gave rave reviews to the Koshare dancing at Red Rocks Theater. He said, "There is nothing in my memory to match."
- In 1981 retired State Planning inspector, Robert McPhee, wrote an article in the *Denver Post* entitled: "La Junta: Western Art Center Just Waiting for the Designation". McPhee argued that Coloradans should "choose La Junta, not Denver, as its Western art center" because of its historical significance with such sites as Bent's Fort, the Santa Fe Trail and the Koshare Indian Dancers and Museum.
- Otero Junior College Business Center and community leaders are providing leadership and management training for our current Koshare dancers.

Board of Directors**Chairman:***Kent Martin***Vice Chairman:***Janet Berg***Committee Chairs****Collections:***Jon Kolomitz***Facility:***Jim Rizzuto***Education:***Kent Martin***Finance/Budget:***Janet Berg**Jim Rizzuto***Directors:***Robert Benzin**Robert Fowler**John Gonzales**Dan Hyatt***Advisory Board:***Scott Eckhart (Tourism)**Cindy Ott - Jones (Bent's**Fort/National Parks)***Legal Advisor to Board:***Philip "Dean" Malouff***Program Director:***Jeremy Manyik***Assist. Program Director:***James McKnight***Operations Manager:***K.S. Sarlo***Trading Post Staff/Volunteers:***Nancy Baker**Francie Haberman**Jessica Hight**Nancy Martin**Loretta Paolucci**Diane Van Landingham**Mary Warren***Custodian:***Joe Talmadge*

To receive regular updates, please send your email address to info@kosharehistory.org.

The Kiva Presents . . .

During 2007 the Kiva Presents... series will focus on Koshare and Museum history. April brings Felix Lucero, La Junta Native and noted New Mexico artist, back home to showcase both his sculptures and his award-winning paintings. Ann Whitfield, Donna Abert and Eldon Warren return to the Museum to share their new art works.

The Manyik family: Jeremy (Head Chief 1995 and 1996 and current Koshare Program Director), his twin brother Jay (Sioux 1996) and mother Sherry, will have a special display in September. They will also conduct a master class the Saturday before the exhibit.

The Museum returns to its collection history for November and December when it displays Museum treasures that have been in collection storage for many years.

Visit the Museum the first Sunday of the month to visit with our talented artists. Admission is free for the Kiva Presents series.

April: Felix Lucero - sculptures and oil paintings, and **Ann Sullivan-McKean** - oil paintings

May: Julio Castillo - noted oil painter from the Mayan region of Mexico). Julio and his sponsors will conduct a seminar about the cross fertilization of Mayan and Pueblo cultures as trade routes were established.

June: Donna Abert - noted art teacher in the Arkansas Valley for many years will bring new and award-winning oil paintings to share.

July: Carla Romero - Fowler native will bring her oil paintings to display.

August: Ann Whitfield - pastels

September: The Manyik Family - acrylic and oil paintings and charcoal drawings.

October: Eldon Warren - impressionist painter of the Colorado and western landscape.

November - Museum Treasures

December - Museum Treasures & Silent Auction. The Auction will continue until the Winter Ceremonials are concluded in January 2008.

Museum Showcases Koshare History

During February and March the Museum mounted a special exhibit about the impact of World War II on the Koshare organization and the Arkansas Valley. Using archived newspaper articles, Koshare News, photographs and other displays, the story was told about the 90 Koshares who served during the War and the three who sacrificed their lives for our country.

Immediately after the War, Buck and his boys

started collecting artwork to commemorate the three fallen Koshares. *The Eagle Dancer* (by artist Woody Crumbo) was purchased in memory of Dean Strain; *The Chanters* (by artist Joseph Imhoff) was purchased in honor of Dean Kendall. The painting purchased in honor of Chester Ralston is unidentified at this time. If any alumni can assist us with identifying which painting was purchased in Chester's honor, we would appreciate it.

The exhibit also chronicles the process of building the

Kiva. Wood was acquired from the La Junta air base and used for the self-supporting roof and wooden floor of the Kiva and stage.

The community came together to help build the Kiva, which has served as the Valley's cultural center since 1949. You can view portions of the exhibit online and during the 75th Anniversary celebration in 2008.