



*Julia Parker frequently gives instruction at MAPOM classes, usually in coiling techniques of the Pomo and Sierra Miwok.
Photo by Wallace Murray*

Julia Parker Receives National Award

In June, the National Endowment for the Arts announced the 2007 recipients of the NEA National Heritage Fellowships, the country's highest honor in the folk and traditional arts. Twelve fellowships, which include an award of \$20,000 each, are being presented to honorees chosen from among 259 nominations on the basis of their artistic excellence, cultural authenticity, and contributions to their field.

Julia Parker, in receiving this award, is recognized for her outstanding work as a basket weaver over many decades. Two other honorees working in traditional Native American arts are Pat Courtney Gold (Wasco), an Oregon basket weaver, and Irvin Trujillo, a blanket weaver of Chimayo, New Mexico.

Julia Parker has spent most of her years living and working in Yosemite Village in California. Although she was born in her native Pomo territory, her early teachers were elder Indian traditionalists and basket weavers of the Sierra Miwok and Mono Lake Paiute people. In 1960, Park

continued on page 3

Looking back at the creation of Kule Loklo 30 years ago and MAPOM's contribution

by Sylvia B. Thalman, MAPOM board member and co-founder

It was an archeological site in northern San Rafael that led to the creation of Kule Loklo, the replica Coast Miwok village near Olema, in the mid 1970s.

San Rafael's Dixie School District personnel had been involved since 1969 in archeological investigations on the grounds of Miller Creek Middle School, on Las Gallinas Avenue. Charles Slaymaker, then a graduate student at San Francisco State, received permission to excavate in the old village of Cotomkotca, on the school grounds.

Among the Dixie people taking an interest were: Don Thieler, a school

principal; Ray Riley, an assistant superintendent; and Sylvia Thalman, a school librarian. Third grade teachers were taken to the site to help them teach about local Indians. Don and Sylvia became closely involved and began working as volunteers on Saturdays at the site, and together with others, formed MAPOM, the Miwok Archeological Preserve of Marin.

During Slaymaker's preliminary research, he found a scholarly paper recording interviews conducted in 1930 and 1931 by an anthropology student at the University of California at Berkeley, Isabel Kelly, with two elderly Coast

continued on page 3



The round house under construction in 1983, seen from the low-roofed entrance way. Photo by Charles Kennard

Commemoration for Mission San Rafael at 190 Years

In December 1817, more than 200 Coast Miwok, accompanied by five soldiers and two priests, left Mission San Jose and the chilly Mission Dolores to the sanitorium that was to become Mission San Rafael. Following the first mass, celebrated in two languages on December 14, Chief Marin served as a godparent during the baptism of 26 Coast Miwok children.

A commemoration of this event, including a mass, is planned for Saturday, December 15, beginning at 4 p.m. at the church in San Rafael, with demonstrations by basket weavers, prayers in Coast Miwok, a reading of the names of those baptized at the first mass, and addresses by tribal chairman Greg Sarris and MAPOM director Betty Goerke.



Fine baskets such as this Hupa or Karuk example may be found at the Marin American Indian Art Show

photo by Charles Kennard

Indian Skills Classes September 15–October 20

This fall's class line-up features eleven California Indian skills, including basket weaving, flintknapping, cordage and atlatl-making and others, taught by experts in their fields. Full details can be found at www.mapom.org. Look out for the Spring 2008 series, running April through June.

MAPOM to Participate in Marin American Indian Art Show, February 23–24, 2008

Thanks to the gracious support of show director Kim Martindale, MAPOM will have a table at the Marin American Indian Art Show the weekend of February 23rd and 24th, 2008. This is the largest Native American art show in the nation and features antique and contemporary Indian art.

The show is held at the Marin County Civic Center's Marin Center exhibit hall and in the adjacent Embassy Suites Hotel in San Rafael. This is the third year that Kim has provided MAPOM with a space where we sell

books and DVDs, and educate the public about MAPOM's role in accurately presenting the rich culture of California Indian people.

It is a great opportunity for MAPOM members to meet our board members who staff the table and to talk about our organization, our classes, our publications and how you can participate more fully in MAPOM.

The show itself is much like visiting a museum featuring both old and new Native art. Often this will be a one-time chance to see many of the fine art objects, especially in the antique section. Among the attendees are scholars, California Indian artists, and others deeply involved in the subject. In the contemporary section, you can meet Native American artists and discuss their wonderful work.

Baskets, pottery, rugs, jewelry, carvings and many other beautiful things are offered for sale. Please don't miss this event and be sure to come by the MAPOM table and say hello. All our table's profits go directly to MAPOM and this is one of our most important and enjoyable fund raising activities. Remember, Saturday, February 23rd from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, February 24th from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.



**MIWOK
ARCHEOLOGICAL
PRESERVE
OF
MARIN**

MAPOM News is produced and distributed semi-annually by the Miwok Archeological Preserve of Marin. MAPOM is a volunteer based, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and welcomes new members and public input. We also encourage members to join our Board of Directors and help our ongoing mission to educate with MAPOM programs such as the California Indian Skills classes, and through our publications.

Annual MAPOM membership fees are \$10 for seniors, full-time students and first-time MAPOM students; \$20 for individuals; and \$25 for families. MAPOM News is received as a membership benefit. For more information and to join MAPOM, visit our website at www.mapom.org, or call Sylvia Thalman at 415.479.3281.

MAPOM Board of Directors Officers
Ralph Shanks, President
Gae Canfield, Secretary
Gene Buvelot, Treasurer

Charles Kennard, MAPOM News Editor
Laura Lee Miller, MAPOM News Designer

Kule Loklo

continued from page 1

Miwok people, Tom Smith and Maria Copa. Kelly inquired into every possible subject: place names, people, religion, ceremony, buildings and so on.

When Point Reyes National Seashore administrators became interested in building an Indian village at Point Reyes, to mark the national bicentennial, they sought the help of MAPOM. A committee was formed that considered several sites for Kule Loklo (the name, chosen by Don Thieler, means Bear Valley in the Coast Miwok language). The site chosen was within easy walking distance of the visitor center; it was relatively flat; protected from the weather by a grove of eucalyptus trees (a non-native species); near a fresh water stream; and surrounded by food trees and plants, particularly tan oaks and California bay laurels. An archeologist tested the area to ascertain whether it had ever been used as a village site. Although there were almost 100 known

Julia Parker Fellowship

continued from page 1

naturalist Douglas Hubbard wanted to revive demonstrations of Indian basket weaving at the Yosemite Museum and Julia volunteered. With master elders as her teachers, most significantly her husband Ralph's mother, Julia was soon demonstrating basket weaving in the park. She also revived the practice of making acorn meal and mush, which in the traditional way uses a basket for the cooking process. Julia's work has been featured at the National Museum of the American Indian, the Heard Museum, and the National Museum of Natural History. In 1983 when Queen Elizabeth II visited Yosemite, Julia gave her one of her baskets and today it is in the Queen's Museum in Windsor Castle. Julia has been a central figure in the organization and ongoing activities of the California Indian Basketweavers Association.

"They dreamed about the roundhouse, in the way many decisions are arrived at by traditional people."

archeological sites in the Point Reyes National Seashore, including one within 300 yards of the village, the only artifact found at Kule Loklo was a single obsidian spear point.

A junior high school archeology teacher from the Dixie School District, Marilyn Licklider, was hired to build the village and act as interpreter-ranger for the first year, and she moved into a trailer near the site. Guided by Kelly's notes, some photographs of Pomo tule houses and some other resources, Marilyn began work on the sweat house. Tule houses and redwood bark houses were soon added.

Finally work was begun on a round house. Kelly's notes did not provide details such as the size of the support posts, and specifics of the roof construction of the semi-subterranean building. Students, armed with abalone shells and baskets, dug the first pit. Ten posts were arranged in a circle and rafters laid from the edge of the pit to the center. Three roundhouses in succession were built in this way, but none was very satisfactory; a third one burned down in an arson fire.

By this time, Langford (Lanny) Pinola, a great grandson of Tom Smith, was the ranger at Kule Loklo. Lanny had grown up at Kashaya, a Pomo reservation at Stewart's Point in western Sonoma County. His father was Pomo and his mother, Irene Smith Pinola, was Coast Miwok. Lanny had attended Brigham Young University and had a teaching credential.

When it came time to build a new roundhouse, Lanny consulted with elders at Kashaya. They dreamed about the roundhouse, in the way many decisions are arrived at by traditional people.

They said the roundhouse should be placed further east, much nearer the road, but the park superintendent felt that would be too far from the other buildings, and picked a site about half-way between that one and the site of the previous roundhouse.

This time excavation was done with a backhoe, the entrance facing east. Large bay poles formed the perimeter of the structure, and Douglas-fir rafters ran from the rim of the pit to four beams forming a square supported by four sturdy posts; in the center stood a large non-structural post. The roof was covered with brush and earth, which sprouted grass as soon as the rains began.

Lanny attracted many people to the village, Indian and non-Indian, thanks to his kind and helpful nature. He was one of three Indian rangers, the others being Milton "Bun" Lucas (who also had lived at Kashaya), and Kathleen Smith, Coast Miwok/Dry Creek Pomo. From the very beginning, Indians began coming to Kule Loklo to see what was going on, and sometimes offered suggestions. David Peri, a relative of Tom Smith's half brother, William, gave frequent advice and was sometimes quite critical: he disapproved of children helping to build the round house, believing this to be adult work.

In the 1980s, MAPOM began sponsoring classes in California Indian skills at Kule Loklo. These started with a flintknapping class and a class about the local Indians. Now 12 or 14 classes are taught each spring and fall

In recent years, the maintenance of the buildings at Kule Loklo has been carried out by volunteers under the guidance of Gordon Bainbridge and ranger Loretta Farley. They have rebuilt the round house, which is sometimes used by Indian groups for private events, and are currently rebuilding the sweat house. The summer Big Time Festival is co-sponsored by MAPOM, and includes traditional dancing in the shade of a giant bay tree.



MIWOK
ARCHEOLOGICAL
PRESERVE
OF
MARIN

PO Box 481, Novato CA 94948

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SAN RAFAEL, CA
PERMIT NO. 72

INSIDE THIS ISSUE OF

MAPOM News

Julia Parker NEA Fellowship Coast Miwok / Kashaya Elder and MAPOM instructor honored

The Creation of Kule Loklo MAPOM's Sylvia Thalman tells the story

Mission San Rafael Commemoration Ceremony planned

Who is

MAPOM?

Miwok Archeological Preserve of Marin

(MAPOM) is a volunteer based, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, founded in 1970 as the result of community involvement in the study of Coast Miwok culture in Marin County. Our goals are to help identify, preserve and protect the cultural and physical resources of the Coast Miwok, the indigenous peoples of Marin and southern Sonoma Counties, and to provide the public with accurate information about the tribe's rich history and current events. Some of our activities:



- Promote scholarly research and publish books, such as *Indian Baskets of Central California* and *Interviews with Tom Smith and Maria Copa*.
- Present California Indian Skills Classes at the Kule Loklo Indian Village Cultural Exhibit in the Point Reyes National Seashore.
- Participate in Coast Miwok (Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria) events, and educational festivals at Kule Loklo such as the Big Time Festival .
- Support cultural programs, exhibits and lectures, such as the *California Indian Conference*.



Help support us! We welcome new members and public input.

MAPOM membership benefits include our semi-annual newsletter, *MAPOM News*, a must-have with articles on local events and news. Annual MAPOM membership fees are \$10 for seniors, full-time students and first-time MAPOM students; \$20 for individuals; \$25 for families. To join MAPOM, call Sylvia Thalman at 415.479.3281 or visit our website at www.mapom.org.