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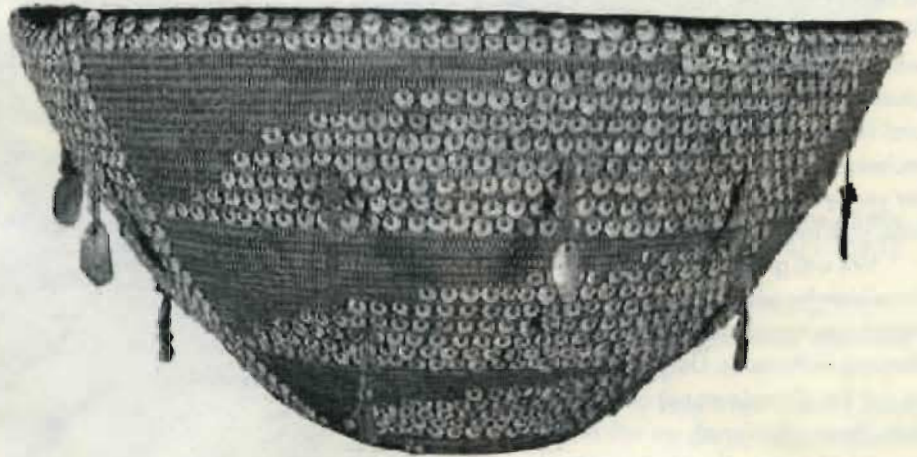
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SPECIAL INSERT
MAPOM Spring 2006
California Indian Skills Classes

SPECIAL INSERT
Indian Baskets of Central California
publisher's flyer



An exceptional Coast Miwok basket with olivella shell disc beads, from the Museum of Anthropology and Ethnology, named after Peter the Great, St. Petersburg, Russia (#570-97. Courtesy of Chuner and Natalia Taksami)

Indian Baskets of Central California A New Book by Ralph Shanks, M.A.

MAPOM is proud to announce our new publication *Indian Baskets of Central California* by basketry scholar and MAPOM Vice President Ralph Shanks. The baskets described and illustrated in this new book are incredibly remarkable, beautiful and fascinating. There are tiny Pomo miniature baskets so small they can sit on the head of a pin. You will see huge Maidu feast baskets so big that when filled with acorn mush several strong men were needed to lift them. There are jewel-like Ohlone and Coast Miwok bowls covered with fantastic designs using shell beads. Vibrant Pomo and Patwin feather baskets are shown amidst the array of lovely culinary baskets from many central California cultures. Some types of baskets are almost unknown, including fascinating but rarely seen categories such a fish plunge trap, an ash skimmer and a mud ball sling basket. Over 95% of the baskets described are illustrated for the first time.



Readers can learn to identify baskets, appreciate their fascinating uses, recognize weaving techniques and appreciate this great living art. You can also learn native plant uses in basketry with extensive tips on how to identify the plants used in baskets from throughout the state. Art, anthropology, archeology, linguistics, history and botany all are interwoven with basketry studies in a highly readable, clear way.

Indian Baskets of Central California covers Native American basketry from the San Francisco Bay and Monterey Bay areas north to Mendocino and east to the crest of the Sierras. Basketry of the Coast Miwok, Pomo, Ohlone (Costanoan), Maidu, Sierra Miwok, Yuki, Wappo, Patwin, Lake Miwok, Plains Miwok, Esselen, Huchnom and

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NEW Spring 2006 California Indian Skills Class Family Day at Kule Loklo with Tamara Wilder

Bring the kids or grandkids and spend great family time with instructor Tamara Wilder learning Native skills on Saturday, May 13, 2006. Highlights of this class include a fun time learning how to make California Indian string from the fiber of Dogbane (and/or other materials which are easier to work with in certain situations). We extract and twist these natural fibers into string using one of several techniques (varying from extremely basic for very young kids to advanced for older kids, with lots of other levels in between).

We will grind and drill Native American beads, a fun activity which introduces traditional stone and wood shaping techniques. Using soapstone (a soft but durable stone) and bull pine nuts (*Pinus sabiniana*), we will make beads to hang on the string made of native plant fibers.

Most kids are able to take home either a bracelet or necklace which they



A young student learns to drill a clamshell bead with a handdrill.

will be very proud to have made by themselves "from scratch."

Activities include target practice, which is an extremely popular and safe activity with adult supervision. The hunting tools available are:

- **Rabbitsticks** The oldest and most widespread of weapons. In Australia, it evolved into the boomerang for hunting birds, but most rabbitsticks are non-returning.

- **Handspears** One of the most basic of hunting weapons.

- **Bow & Arrows** Probably the most familiar hunting weapon, the bow and arrow was an extremely successful invention which is still used in many different forms today.

- **Atlatls (spear throwers)** Atlatl is an Aztec word. Spear throwers enjoy a long and diverse history as the weapon used worldwide to hunt mammoths, mastodons and other megafauna. In the Old World, they were replaced by the bow & arrow long ago, but in the Americas, the bow and arrow only made its appearance as recently as 1,000 years ago in some areas; therefore, North American spear throwers reached a higher level of design

than those of the Old World. The Aborigines in Australia never adopted the bow and arrow and even today still prefer to use the spear thrower (woomerah).

- **Hoop & Pole Game** is a very fun and instructional spear throwing game played in many areas of North America.

A **Firemaking demonstration** will use a hand drill for firemaking. Prepared hand and/or bowdrill kits are then supplied so participants can partner up and give it a try. Flint and steel firemaking may also be demonstrated.

Join this hands-on introduction to Native living skills for kids and parents alike, with lots of hands-on activities! Parents need to be present with their children to help the program run smoothly. Geared for kids aged 8-14.

Date: Saturday, May 13, from 10 am-4 pm. Cost: \$25 for one child and adult, \$35 for 3 people any combo, or \$50 for family of 4 to 6. Please bring your picnic lunch. For more information, visit our website at www.mapom.org, e-mail us at info@mapom.org, or call Sylvia Thalman at 415-479-3281.

— Lisa Woo Shanks
MAPOM Board member



MAPOM News is a newsletter produced and distributed quarterly 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 \$5 for a student, retired person or first-time member, \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a family. MAPOM News is received as a MAPOM membership benefit.

For more information and to join MAPOM, visit our website at www.mapom.org, or call Sylvia Thalman at 415.479.3281.

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MAPOM News is designed and edited by MAPOM board member Laura Lee Miller, editor@mapom.org.

Indian Baskets of Central California

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Nomlaki are all presented in detail. Until now, for most of these fascinating cultures little has appeared in print on their great basketry.

The California baskets selected for inclusion come from collections around the nation and from Europe. Rare and beautiful baskets from the Smithsonian, Southwest Museum, Phoebe Hearst Museum, the C. Hart Merriam collection at UC Davis, Grace Hudson Museum, the Field Museum and many other museums, private collections and galleries are shown. From Europe, basketry from the British Museum, Musee de l'Homme of Paris, Peter the Great Museum in Russia and several fine German museums are illustrated. Particularly nice additions are photos of beloved weavers Julia Parker, Laura Fish Somersal and others. Grace Hudson's beautiful paintings honor other great weavers.

This new book is the result of thirty years of research at over 50 museums and private collections across the United States and Europe. Ralph worked extensively with the late renowned UC basketry scholar Larry Dawson for over twenty years researching California and Oregon basketry. During this time Ralph also worked with many California Indian cultural leaders, weavers and elders.

The book is a treasure of nearly 200 full color photographs and drawings which illustrate great Native California baskets. This is a large format, 177 page



A rare Ohlone (Costanoan) basket with olivella shell disc beads, dating from the 1840s. (Monterey Museum of the American Indian, Monterey State Historic Park, #411-162-1)

book unsurpassed in its high quality printing and rich detail. The book is priced at \$45, plus shipping and tax (see order form).

This is volume one of three volumes

planned in the *Indian Baskets of California and Oregon Series* edited by Lisa Woo Shanks.

— Lisa Woo Shanks, Editor
MAPOM Board Member

MAPOM ANNUAL MEETING

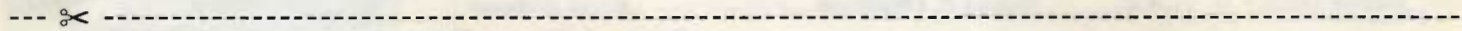
Author's Talk INDIAN BASKETS OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

April 20, 7-9pm Free Admission

Miller Creek School (library), 2255 Las Gallinas Ave., San Rafael

A lavishly illustrated slide presentation and talk on the history, uses, art and cultural importance of California Indian baskets in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. Learn about the baskets themselves, the plants and bird feathers that decorate them and the gifted and talented Native California people who made and used them.

Ralph and Lisa Shanks will be available to answer your questions and autograph your book. Help MAPOM fund raising by purchasing your copy at the Annual Meeting.



Indian Baskets of Central California is priced at \$45 and may be ordered from MAPOM at: P.O. Box 481, Novato, CA 94948-0481. Please make checks out to MAPOM for \$54 (includes shipping and California sales tax) for each copy ordered. Your order helps support MAPOM's programs of classes, book publishing, scholarships and other activities.

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SPECIAL INSERTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE OF

MAPOM News

Indian Baskets of Central California New Book
MAPOM Guest Lecture by Basketry Scholar & Author
MAPOM California Indian Skills Classes Spring 2006

The Board of Directors of MAPOM would like to humbly thank the following donors for their very generous Levels of Giving in response to our 2005 MAPOM Appeal Letter.

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These contributions will help MAPOM during 2006 with exciting Indian skills classes, college scholarships for California Indian people, MAPOM scholarly publications, newsworthy articles of interest, and support annual traditional events at the Kule Loklo village located at Point Reyes National Seashore.

Thank you again for your continued support of MAPOM and its various activities!

Tim Campbell, MAPOM President