

# The Acorn

Newsletter of the Miwok Archeological Preserve of Marin

## Scrape the Willow Until It Sings

### The Words and Work of Basket Maker Julia Parker

*Book review by John Littleton*

Deborah Valoma has woven a thoughtful blend of engaging narrative and scholarly research. The heart of her text reflects the life, the community and the work of national treasure and famed basket weaver, Julia Parker (Coast Miwok/Kashia Pomo). The writing shines through the thoughts and experiences that Julia expresses. Her eloquent yet simple words speak for themselves and remind us of our connection with the natural world:

"So when we gather, we are always told to give offering - no matter what we have. If I have money or if I am sitting there eating strawberries, I just throw one out there. That is paying back to the earth with the respect of a thank-you. So you follow all those rules. You don't take more than you need. And you do song, prayer, and offering. It is about knowing the plants - feeling close to the plants - that they are your friends."

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*Photo by John Littleton*

Four generations of Parker Family basket weavers: Lucy, Naomi, Ursula, and Julia

## MAPOM Will Be at Marin Show

### We Hope to See You There!

The Marin Show - Art of the Americas is the largest and best show of early California Indian art in the nation. Besides large numbers of antique California Indian baskets, you will find pottery, beadwork, rugs and countless other items for sale. It will be held at the Marin Center, 10 Avenue of the Americas, in San Rafael this coming February 22- 23. The show runs from 10 to 6 on Saturday and 11 to 5 on Sunday. In addition, just across the foot bridge from the Marin Center on the first floor of the Embassy Suites Hotel, contemporary Native American art is offered as well. Admission is \$15 per person and this gets you into both the antique and contemporary shows. Both shows are spectacular. You can learn more about the Marin Show at [www.marinshow.com](http://www.marinshow.com).



*Photo by Erik Gordon Bainbridge*

Janice Cunningham and Fran Jaekle at the Marin Show

MAPOM will have its wonderful table at the Marin Show. We will have a large selection of the best California Indian books, as well as information on our many classes. MAPOM board members will be there to answer your questions and meet you. It is always a pleasure to meet MAPOM members and chat. Please plan to attend and stop by our table.