



• TAMÁSTLIKT •

CULTURAL INSTITUTE

72789 Highway 331, Pendleton, OR 97801 USA

NEWS RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Author and blanket expert Barry Friedman with his sons.

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Reservation Roadshow, taking place all day, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., October 28 at Tamástslikt Cultural Institute will offer collectors and Tribal members a chance to have their artifacts valued and examined for potential hazardous pesticides. Professional conservators will also provide advice on the best methods of preserving family heirlooms such as regalia items, beadwork and basketry. The event is free and open to the public.

“This is a service Tamástslíkt can give back to the community,” said Bobbie Conner, Tamástslíkt director. “We know families have artifacts and photographs they want to protect and conserve for future generations. It’s part of our mission to help them. It’s also a chance to have a community sharing time. It should be fun to see what people bring out.”

Blanket collector and dealer Barry Friedman, who in his other life is an Emmy-winning comedy writer, will examine and value blankets new and old.

Friedman knows his subject. The author of *Chasing Rainbows: Collecting American Indian Trade and Camp Blankets*, Friedman demonstrates his 30-year passion for finding and researching these highly coveted textiles in his definitive book. During the *Reservation Roadshow* at Tamástslíkt, Friedman can offer valuable information on the nuances of collecting: identifying and dating blankets, judging condition, finding blankets, and caring for them properly.

Friedman is a pioneer collector and dealer of vintage trade blankets and has bought and sold over 20,000 blankets. As a professional comedy writer in Hollywood he received six Emmy nominations for television writing. He also wrote stand-up comedy material for many comedians including Jerry Seinfeld, Richard Lewis, Jay Leno and Johnny Carson. Additionally, Friedman has had over 300 articles published in magazines and newspapers including the Los Angeles Times.

Richard Engemann, a professional curator, will advise on the conservation of old photographs and Thomas Fuller, a professional conservator, can advise on the care and conservation of a full range of objects. Neither of these experts will give appraisals.

Dr. James Nason, Curator Emeritus with the Ethnology Department, Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, Seattle, will analyze artifacts that may have been treated with hazardous heavy metal pesticides, using a state-of-the-art XRF machine from his museum. Dr. Nason’s analysis can protect today’s collectors and users from hazardous pesticides.

According to Randall Melton, Tamástslíkt Registrar, it was common in the last century to treat Indian artifacts, ranging from the feathers and leather of regalia, to the fibers in baskets, with pesticides to protect them. Beginning in the 1800’s heavy metal treatments infused such poisons as mercury, lead and arsenic into the artifacts. Even into the 1980’s such pesticides as DDT might have been applied. Museums were intensive users of pesticides for their collections.

“It’s a growing issue because of the return of Native objects under NAGPRA,” said Melton, “because Tribes may put these objects back in use.” Such uses could include wearing ceremonial masks or other regalia. NAGPRA, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, passed in 1990, is requiring the return of thousands of artifacts and human remains from museums to the tribes connected to those items.

As a cautionary note, Malissa Minthorn, Tamástslíkt archivist, added that any appraisals given “will be verbal approximations of value and not legal documents. The purpose of the appraisals is to add to the owner’s knowledge and is not meant to satisfy insurance, tax or estate appraisal needs. The information we’ll provide is meant to enhance the owner’s personal curiosity and interest. Actual buying and selling is not anticipated to happen at this event.”

Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute is located at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, 10 minutes east of Pendleton. From Interstate 84 take exit 216 and follow the signs five minutes to Wildhorse Resort and the Institute. Coming from the north, take the Mission exit from Highway 11 just northeast of Pendleton and follow the signs for about ten minutes to the Wildhorse Resort and the Institute. Tamástslíkt is open 7 days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition to exhibits telling the story of the three Tribes' history and culture, there is also a Museum Store and the Kinship Café.

For more information: 541-966-9748 or www.tamastslíkt.org. Direct dial the museum store at tollfree 1-866-282-2022. Tamástslíkt is owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

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