Auyikee - Hello CIBA members,

I am a proud Karuk Tribal member and currently the Chairwomen of California Indian Basketweavers Association (CIBA). Over the past four years, I have had the privilege of working with a culturally diverse group of board members to support basket weavers throughout California. I am honored to be a part of this organization, listening to weavers’ concerns and advocating for weavers’ needs and expectations. Because of my love of basket weaving culture, I am working hard to enhance and carry on our traditions of gathering, planning, and preparing basket weaving materials.

I hope this letter finds you and yours well, while staying safe during this pandemic. Due to our current situation gatherings, ceremonies and dances are being cancelled. We are working on alternative ways of staying connected, which can be challenging since weaving brings us together as a community. With that in mind, we are working on virtual programming that will bring us closer together, including online workshops, story sharing, and other ways to connect with you. We also know that many of our artists are struggling financially, so we are fortunate to be able to offer a COVID-19 Assistance Grant. You can find the application on our website at ciba.org. We are continually updating our website and Facebook page with additional COVID-19 grant opportunities from other organizations, as well as other timely information. In addition, we are waiving CIBA membership dues through June 30, 2021. Hopefully this alleviates some financial hardships for our members.

Native people are profoundly resilient, resourceful and strong. I see us coming together as we teach our cultural values, joining together as we pray, and looking forward to a strong future together.

Please feel free to reach out to me with questions or concerns.

Thank you for being a CIBA member!

Yoot’va-

Alice Lincoln-Cook
CIBA-Chairwomen
Outgoing Executive Director’s Report

Over the last two and a half years, I have had the pleasure of serving as the Executive Director for CIBA. Four years ago, our former Chairperson, Carrie Garcia, reached out to me during what can only be described as a delicate time for our organization. CIBA, like many small non-profits, was facing a decline in our funding. This was affecting the quality and frequency of the programs we were able to offer, and in turn, our membership. The past few years have been a time of great excitement, program growth and personal satisfaction and I have treasured this time. In the past two years, our organizational revenue has increased over 36 percent, we have launched new youth centered programs and membership levels, our Annual Gathering attendance rates have skyrocketed and most importantly, we have been able to expand our ability to provide basketweaving workshops and educational opportunities, through directly sponsoring small scale gatherings in high need communities.

At the start of this year, I informed our CIBA Board that I would be moving onto the next stage of my professional career. I am proud to be working as one of the founders of the first ever, statewide, California Tribal Fund. Now, more than ever, it is vital that we address inequalities in funding to our California tribal communities. It is my goal to build on the rich experiences and network that I have created while working with Tribes and tribal populations and continue to support the work that our California tribal cultural practitioners are doing in this state, simply on a larger scale.

I look forward to seeing the CIBA Board of Directors and staff, continue to set and actively manage the priorities for our organization, continue to build and support the strong, transparent, and mutually accountable space which we have worked on creating these past few years. Most of all, I look forward to continuing to be an advocate and supporter of CIBA’s Vision, “To preserve, promote and perpetuate California Indian basketry traditions.”

Respectfully,
Rebecca Tortes, MPA
Mountain Cahuilla/Luiseno/
Assiniboine Sioux

Incoming Executive Director’s Report

Ayukîi! I am honored to serve as CIBA’s incoming Executive Director. I am from the Karuk Tribe and have been weaving for over ten years now. One thing that my weaving teacher, Wilverna Reece, has impressed on me is that basketweavers have a responsibility to pass our knowledge to future generations. As such, my goals as the new Executive Director are to uphold CIBA’s Vision and create opportunities for California Indian weavers to share their knowledge with new learners, as well as to advocate for safe access to traditional gathering sites. Please reach out to me if you have any questions, and I look forward to meeting all of you when we can safely gather together. Yôotva!

--Carolyn Smith, PhD
Karuk

Carolyn Smith, PhD
Karuk

CIBA Staff:
Carolyn Smith, PhD
Karuk
Executive Director
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CIBA Vision Statement:
The purpose of the California Indian Basketweavers Association is to preserve, promote and perpetuate California Indian weaving traditions.

CIBA Board of Directors:
Alice Lincoln-Cook Karuk
Chairperson
Diana Terrazas Paiute
Secretary
Diana Caudell Luiseño
Treasurer
Gracie Dick Paiute
Jennifer Malone Wukchumni
Fred Briones Pomo
Cristina Gonzales Chumash
Clint McKay Wappo/Pomo/Wintun
Mary Clark Wylacki/Pomo/Konkow

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As a federally registered 501(c)3 contributions to CIBA are tax deductible. CIBA membership is open to the general public.

Membership applications available at ciba.org.

Newsletter Design by Tiffany Jackson
www.Tiffanyhopejackson.com

Summer 2020—Issue No. 65
Meet the Board

Alice Lincoln-Cook (Karuk): Chairperson
Alice has proudly served on the CIBA Board for two terms. She is a Karuk Tribe member and has worked over 20 years as an independent artist, making traditional jewelry and weaving Karuk baskets. Alice was instrumental in reviving CIBA’s Following the Smoke program, building partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies.

Diana Terrazas (Paiute): Secretary
Diana is a member of the Bishop Paiute Tribe and has been weaving for seven years. She serves as the Community Outreach Manager at The Autry Museum and has served on the Board for two terms. One of Diana’s goals is to bring awareness about the environmental impacts facing land, water, and plant materials that basketweavers use.

Diania Caudell (Luiseño) – Treasurer
Diania is a member of the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians and has served multiple terms on the Board since 2001. She has served as CIBA’s Treasurer for over 15 years. Diania works with several San Diego county-based tribes and schools and represents CIBA as a member of the Tribal Pesticide Program Council.

Jennifer Malone (Wukchumni)
Jennifer is from the Wukchumni tribe and has been weaving for 25 years. Jennifer is active within her tribal community, teaching both basketweaving and Wukchumni language. Jennifer works with several organizations and serves as cultural advisor for Sequoia National Park’s annual Go Native event. Jennifer has served on the CIBA Board for over a decade.

Fred Briones (Pomo)
Fred is an enrolled member of the Big Valley Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians. Fred has been weaving baskets for the past 20 years and works as a business strategy consultant for First Nations Development Institute and the Regenerative Ag Foundation to build the Native American Fiber Program and Indian Hemp Economy.

Gracie Dick (Paiute)
Gracie is from the Paiute Tribe and served on the Board for two years. She is a descendant of basketweavers from Mono Lake. Gracie has taught basketweaving and language in her community, and planned basketweaving gatherings in the Bishop Paiute community. She makes jewelry, baskets, and beadwork, and founded Tubape Numu, organized to save pine nut trees and mountain cedar.

Cristina Gonzales (Chumash)
Cristina is a member of the Coastal Band Chumash Nation. Since attending her first CIBA Gathering in Lemoore, Cristina has worked primarily with dogbane and has taught dogbane cordage classes throughout the years in the Central Valley. Cristina is a cultural practitioner and museum professional. This is Cristina’s first term on the CIBA Board.

Mary Clark (Wylacki/Pomo/Konkow)
Mary is Wylacki, Pomo, and Konkow and has been weaving for over 20 years. She has taught numerous classes all over northern California. Her goal is to teach as many elders and youths possible, so that basketweaving is carried on and not lost. She has served previously on the CIBA Board for two terms.

Clint McKay (Wappo/Pomo/Wintun)
Clint, who is Wappo, Pomo, and Wintun, is an enrolled member of the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians and a descendant of well-known Pomo basketweavers and culture bearers, including Laura Fish Somersal and Mabel McKay. Clint formally served as Chair of CIBA for many years and looks forward to again serving a statewide community of weavers.
Over the last several months, CIBA had asked our members to submit photos of baskets they made throughout the year because we wanted to provide a showcase, in lieu of our in-person at the Annual Gathering, which we canceled this year due to the pandemic. This showcase serves as a reminder to all of us that we have persisted through times of great hardship before and do so now, as evidenced in the weave of our baskets. Our baskets come from our lands, through generations of knowledge, and provide records of our fortitude and strength. We are California.

Keeping Safe While Keeping Our Traditions Alive

Amanda O’Connell
Tolowa, Chetco, Tututni, Yurok and Hupa
My most recent project is this doll basket which I am making for my 5 year old daughter, Lola (pictured). It is made completely of hazel sticks. The final steps will be to wrap with spruce roots and add a beaded lifeline.

Irene Roan
Chukchansi (Picayune Rancheria)
My trinket basket is redbud and sour berry sticks. The top will be chaparral, forming the circle, and a milkweed handle.

Carolyn Smith
Karuk
These three basket starts were made by me and Paula McCarthy in February. We were going to finish weaving them at the Karuk Basketweavers Gathering, which was cancelled in April. I am saving these little baskets for us to finish when we can finally get together safely.

Jennie Dick
Paiute-Shoshone
Jennie is Paiute-Shoshone from Coleville and has been weaving baskets for over 50 years. During the Covid-19 pandemic, she has been weaving various baskets from willow and chokecherry: winnowing, round baskets, full size and miniature baby baskets with buckskin, and beaded round baskets with designs. One good thing during these COVID times, she has been staying home and being safe and has worked on more baskets. She has almost used up her basket material supplies and is looking forward to the Fall, so she can go out and gather more willow and chokecherry branches after the first frost. She enjoys basketweaving and encourages others who want to learn.
Denise McKenzie
Tolowa/Yurok
dv-laa-ha~
My name is Denise McKenzie and I am a Tolowa/Yurok basketweaver. Before I start weaving I like to make sure my space is in order, and then I say my prayer: Creator, lay me down next to my sister roots, so that I may become something useful and beautiful.

Silver Galleto
Southern Pomo/Coast Miwok, enrolled on the Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California
I present this full sized cradle basket (18”x12.5”x10.5”) made entirely of dogwood (besides the oak hoop). This basket was made not for a child, but as a gift to our neighboring tribe, who generously donated funds to three Pomo tribes to buy groceries, during COVID-19 for our members.

Mary Clark
Wylacki/Pomo/Konkow
This is a Pomo baby basket for my first great grandson born March 2020. It is made from peeled willow and unpeeled oak ring of life, and cotton twine strap. Coil basket (not pictured) and is made with sedge root, redbud, peeled redbud, and willow stick. Made for nephew to put his medicine in for sweats.

Wilverna Reece
Karuk
It has been nice to have to have more time to weave right now. I have been taking time to do what I love, gathering and weaving. For all of our weavers, now is a good time to connect with your baskets.

Rhonda Garfield
Tachi Yokut
My name is Rhonda Garfield, from SRR Tachi Yokut Tribe. My belt is not finished but I will be mailing this basket tomorrow to my dearest Joseph Moose and wanted pictures. I appreciate Irene Roan and Pearl Hutchins for teaching the basket weaving.
Fred Briones
*Pomo*

It gives me great pleasure to write to you and share pictures of baskets that I made during the “2020 Lock Down.” The feathered basket is named Wind Rose and the brown skinned one with the NAFP tattoo is called RAF. I wove these from bulrush, abalone and Canadian duck, which I harvested at my home on the Big Valley Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians and at the Mendocino coast. To do great things for our Indian People has always been a dream of mine, and as a CIBA Board Member, I promise to work for you to bring resources to our community, so that we can carry our traditions forward for future generations.

Jennifer Malone
*Wukchumni*

Made by Jennifer Malone, 2020. This is made with redbud, burberry sticks, and white root. I enjoyed creating this during our stay home time. It was relaxing and kept my mind from thinking of the virus. Taptapihs, in our Wukchumni language. This basket was to hold our babies in while mother worked. It is very important for baby to start his life in this, being tied in and kept safe. Our future depends on these new generations. Grandma should be prepared to make this when she hears that she will be a grandma. I hope our people will carry on this tradition and keep on weaving. It is an honor to be a grandma. Our members can contact CIBA to learn from your weavers from your area. Keep on weaving.

Jennifer Malone
*Wukchumni*

Made by Jennifer Malone, 2020. This is made with redbud, burberry sticks, and white root. I enjoyed creating this during our stay home time. It was relaxing and kept my mind from thinking of the virus. Taptapihs, in our Wukchumni language. This basket was to hold our babies in while mother worked. It is very important for baby to start his life in this, being tied in and kept safe. Our future depends on these new generations. Grandma should be prepared to make this when she hears that she will be a grandma. I hope our people will carry on this tradition and keep on weaving. It is an honor to be a grandma. Our members can contact CIBA to learn from your weavers from your area. Keep on weaving.

Kat Nieto
*Yowlumni/Paiute/Wukchumni (Tule River)*

It is a cradle I completed this month for my grandson Gunner Luke Franco. His name sake is bittersweet, and is named after my nephews who both passed on this past year. I put my heart into every weave on cradles that I make, but this one was the most special because Gunner will be carrying on his cousins’ spirit.

Tima Lotah Link
*Shmuwich Chumash*

We don’t use a ton of feather work in our baskets down here in Chumash country—not like the Pomo weavers! We use the orange quill of flicker tail feathers or the white of egret tail feathers in small moments of coil weaving. And we hang or attach full feathers. Our old Chumash regalia and ceremonial things used hundreds of flicker feathers….but today those birds are so rare! I’m using a lot of flicker feathers in this basket hat I’m weaving: there will be 12 feathers inserted into the weave, bent over, and then pinned down with pelican sinew. The woman I’m weaving it for had to call in every favor she had to get that many flicker feathers! I’m honored to have a chance to work with so many at once.

I’m shaving down the inside of the feather shaft so it’s thin and flexible—I will use an awl to make a hole between my juncus stitches, insert the shaft into that, and bend forward so the feather lays along the front of the basket.
Leona C. Dick (1911-2010)
Leona (Paiute), an Elder, came from a long line of Paiute Basketweavers from Mono Lake. She enjoyed basketweaving and did this almost every day of her life. She made all kinds of baskets with willow: winnowing, sifting, burden, baby baskets, round baskets with design using red bud, black root and white root, plain round baskets, beaded round baskets, cooking baskets, strainers for buckberries, and so many more. The baskets were her pots and pans for traditional food and medicines. She made beautiful baskets, beadwork, and buckskin items. Before gathering or starting baskets, she would always say to have good thoughts and say prayers for what you are working on or making.

Ruby Pomona (1925-2019)
Ruby (Mono) passed away August 7, 2019 after a long illness. She was an accomplished basketweaver and teacher, having traveled far and wide sharing her knowledge. In 2006, she and two other Mono weavers were invited to participate in the Smithsonian Folklife Festival to demonstrate their basketweaving skills to thousands of visitors. She was one of the few remaining speakers of the Western Mono language. Her son, Gaylen Lee, who also passed in 2019, wrote “Walking Where We Lived: Memoirs of a Mono Indian Family,” which featured many of Ruby’s stories and childhood memories. Ruby participated at many CIBA Annual Gatherings and will sorely be missed.

Sally Oliver (1965-2020)
Sally Oliver “Sunwehunt” (Wuksachi/Choinumni) passed away May 22, 2020, she was 54 years old. Sally was an incredible weaver and was so generous with her time, teaching about her culture and about weaving. She was also an accomplished beader, gifting her beadwork to many. Sally participated in many CIBA Annual Gatherings. Memorably, in 2014, she displayed a beautiful baby basket that she had made from redbud, sourberry, and willow sticks. Even though she had only been weaving for three years at that point, she was very much a talented and gifted weaver. We will always remember her fondly because she was so very kind and caring.

COVID-19 Grant Assistance for CIBA Voting Members
Through the generosity of the NDN Collective COVID-19 Response Project, CIBA is proud to announce twenty-five (25) one-time grants for $250.00 to current or recent CIBA Voting Members. This grant is intended to support traditional artists, providing some financial relief to cultural bearers within our California Tribal Communities who have been economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Applications are available at: ciba.org/2020/07/29/covid-19-grant-assistance-for-ciba-voting-members/

Applications are due October 5th by 5:00pm.
Please submit applications by email to: ciba@ciba.org
Or by mail: CIBA, 428 Main Street, Woodland CA 95695
Help Create the Resource Directory!

Each week, our office receives calls from interested parties who are looking for California Indian basketweavers to weave baskets for them, help them identify a basket, teach and/or demonstrate their basketry and present on area specific, tribal cultural history. In the past, CIBA had created and printed a “Resource Directory” of CIBA members who were open to being contacted in relation to these types of inquiries. CIBA will be working on creating an updated 2020 California Indian Basketweavers’ Resource Directory and as such, we are currently seeking members who would like to be added to the directory.

If you or someone you know might be interested in becoming a part of the directory, please download the Resource Directory Interest Form at: https://tinyurl.com/y65vx2t7

We’re really looking forward to your input!