**Celebrating Traditional Food and its Role in Native American Culture**

**Revitalizing Connections between Tribal Lands, Food, and Culture**

**Wednesday, November 6, 2024**

**Panelist Bios and Links**

**Secretary Speaker Series:** <https://resources.ca.gov/About-Us/Secretary-Speaker-Series>

<https://resources.ca.gov/>

**Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency**:

<https://resources.ca.gov/About-Us/Who-We-Are/Secretary-for-Natural-Resources>

**Celebrate Native American Heritage Month with Us!**: <https://resources.ca.gov/nativeamericanheritagemonth>

**Author of Chími Nu’am: Native California Foodways for the Contemporary Kitchen Sara Calvosa Olson**

Read her book "Chími Nu'am, Native California Foodways for the Contemporary Kitchen": <https://www.heydaybooks.com/catalog/chimi-nuam/>

Visit her website: <https://akihsara.com/>

Recommended reading:

Tending the Wild: <https://tendingthewild.com/tending-the-wild/>

Sara Calvosa Olson is a Karuk home cook and author, who specializes in Indigenous Californian foods. She blends culturally sound and updated techniques using traditional Indigenous plants and animals, offering a fresh perspective on California's oldest foods.

She is the author of cookbook "Chími Nu'am, Native California Foodways for the Contemporary Kitchen". Meaning “Let’s eat!” in the Karuk language, Chími Nu’am shares the author’s delicious and inventive takes on Native food styles from across California. With over 70 recipes, the book is designed as an accessible entry for people beginning their journey toward a decolonized diet.

She is an Indigenous Californian with expertise in editing, writing, and community development.  Her work dwells at the intersection of storytelling, Indigenous food systems, security, sovereignty, reconnection, and recipe development. She seeks opportunities in tribal food sovereignty projects. Her writing has appeared in News from Native California and Edible Shasta-Butte.

**Member of the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians Patty Franklin**

Bio: <https://www.artsmendocino.org/staff-board/patricia-ray-franklin/>

Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians: <https://www.scottsvalley-nsn.gov/home>

Pomo BigTime Festival: <https://www.record-bee.com/2024/08/28/scotts-valley-band-of-pomo-indians-hold-11th-annual-big-time-celebration/>

Pattys Acorn Bread Recipie: <https://lakeconews.com/news/63462-mensam-mundum-world-table-cuisine-in-our-backyard-acorns>

Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Program

Patty Franklin is the Scotts Valley Environmental Director. Gifted in beading, sewing, and creating Pomo ceremonial items, Patty Franklin is also a member of the Lake County Tribal Health Board, the recently formed United Pomo Nations Board, and the Scotts Valley Band Pomo Council. She is a member of the Scotts Valley Council’s Self-Governance, Cultural and Enrollment Committees, and has also been involved with Consolidated Tribal Health, and as a board member of Rez Life Ministries and Women’s Ministry. Franklin has assisted in organizing and participating in a variety of events including health fairs, healing gatherings, Pomo “Big Time” festivals, elders' gatherings and fundraising events.

**Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture Karen Ross**

Karen Ross CDFA Bio: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/SecretaryBio.html>

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/>

Karen Ross is Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA); initially appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in 2011, she was re-appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom in 2019. Before joining CDFA, she was chief of staff for US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, and prior to that appointment, she served as president of the California Association of Winegrape Growers and as vice-president of the Agricultural Council of California.

She has strengthened partnerships across government, academia, and the nonprofit sector in the drive to maintain and improve environmental stewardship and to develop adaptation strategies for the impacts of climate change. She has initiated programs to provide greater opportunities for farmers and ranchers to engage in sustainable environmental stewardship practices through water conservation, energy efficiency, nutrient management, and ecosystem services; and she has worked to provide greater access to farm-fresh foods at school cafeterias through CDFA’s Farm to Fork Program.

In addition to her membership on the Public Policy Institute of California’s Statewide Leadership Council, she has served on numerous boards and committees in California agriculture and with various academic institutions. She has a bachelor’s degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is a graduate of the Nebraska Ag Leadership Program.

Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/>

Farm Equity Office: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/farmequity/>

Farm to Fork Program: <https://cafarmtofork.cdfa.ca.gov/>

Community Food Hubs: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/exec/Public_Affairs/Press_Releases/Archive/pr.html?id=23-211>

CDFA Grants: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/grants/>

**Deputy Secretary Tribal Affairs at the California Natural Resources Agency Geneva E. B. Thompson**

Geneva E. B. Thompson (she/her/hers) joined the California Natural Resources Agency in June 2021 as the Deputy Secretary for Tribal Affairs. In this role, Geneva will cultivate and ensure the participation and inclusion of tribal governments and communities within the work of the California Natural Resources Agency.

She recently served as Associate General Counsel for the Yurok Tribe, where she practiced environmental and cultural resource law and represented the Yurok Tribe in tribal, state, and federal forums. She also served as Staff Attorney for the Wishtoyo Foundation and clerked with the Department of Justice Indian Resource Section, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Earthjustice, and the Tribal Law and Policy Institute.

Geneva graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law, with specializations in Critical Race Studies and Public Interest Law and Policy. She has published several law review articles and has served in leadership positions across multiple bar associations, including the National Native American Bar Association, California Indian Law Association, and the American Bar Association. Geneva is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and enjoys beading, gardening, and hiking with her spouse in state and national parks.

CNRA Tribal Affairs Page: <https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Tribalaffairs>

Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Program - <https://resources.ca.gov/Tribal-Nature-Based-Solutions-Program>

Join us in celebration of Native American Heritage Month: <https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Equity-and-Environmental-Justice/Celebrating-Cultural-Diversity/Native-American-Heritage-Month>