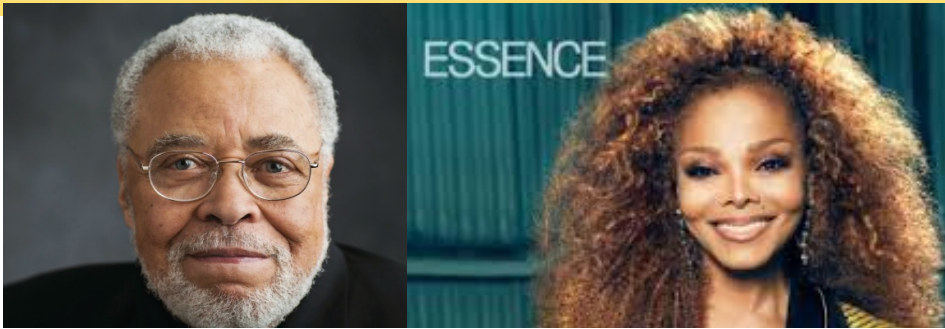


# NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER NEWSLETTER

Title VII: Native American Indian Education Program



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH



James Earl Jones  
Cherokee & Choctaw

Janet Jackson  
Blackfoot & Choctaw



Aaliyah  
Oneida

Della Reese  
1/2 Cherokee

## PLEASE SHARE!

Send us your birthdays and any announcements that you would like us to include in our newsletter. If you have any artwork, photography, or poetry that you would like to have published in our newsletter please email it to [drivas@stocktonusd.net](mailto:drivas@stocktonusd.net) or call (209)933-7425 x 8083

## CALENDAR

### SPRING BREAK

March 16th-20th

### PSAC

March 4th

5:15 p.m.-6:15 p.m.

### Cultural Class

March 3rd 6 p.m.- 8 p.m.

March 10th 6 p.m. -8 p.m.

March 24th 6 p.m. -8 p.m.

March 31st 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

## NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER

**Location:** Edison High School

100 W. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
Stockton, CA 95206

Portable 105

**Phone:**

(209) 933-7425 ext 8083

**Hours:** 7 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

# RECIPES

The last time I was in Louisiana I had the pleasure of visiting the Sovereign Nation of the Chitimacha commonly referred to as the most powerful tribe of the Northern Gulf Coast. This tribe was able to maintain its ownership of part of its aboriginal land. The Swamp Cane Baskets made today are virtually indistinguishable from baskets made hundreds of years ago. They only use three colors; red, yellow, and black. Those dyes are made from the same roots and walnuts that their ancestors used through cultural preservation. For all these reasons the Chitimacha are famous for their Swamp Cane Basketry. During my visit following the traditional conversation we talked a lot about food. While there, I learned about many surprising recipes that were created by the Native American people. Did you know multiple tribes have strikingly similar recipes for Fried Green Tomatoes? The Seminole use lard while the Cherokee utilize oil. Either way the result is an undeniable delicious recipe with very few ingredients. And an ingenious way to use the unripe tomatoes that were at times in danger of being killed by an early frost.

## Seminole Fried Green Tomatoes

4 large green tomatoes  
1 teaspoon salt  
pinch black pepper  
2 cups coarse ground yellow cornmeal  
lard or vegetable shortening

Slice green tomatoes into 1/2 inch slices and sprinkle generously with salt. Let stand for 10-15 minutes. Blot dry with paper towels, and sprinkle with pepper.

Now dip the tomato slices into the cornmeal. In a large skillet heat the lard until it begins to smoke, and fry the tomato slices until brown on both sides. Serve immediately.

## Cherokee Fried Green Tomatoes

4 Large Green Tomatoes  
1 teaspoon Salt  
Black Pepper to taste  
2 Cups Coarse Ground Yellow Cornmeal  
4 Tablespoons Oil for frying

### Directions

Slice the green tomatoes into 1/2 inch slices and sprinkle with salt. Let stand for 10-15 minutes. Blot dry with paper towels and sprinkle with pepper. Pour oil into a large skillet and heat it on medium high until the oil is very hot. Pour cornmeal into a pie pan. Coat both sides of the tomato slices with cornmeal. Carefully place the tomato slices in the hot oil. Fry until golden brown on both sides. Serve immediately.



# California



# EVENTS

## URBAN NATIVE ERA & THE NATIVE AMERICAN HEALTH CENTER INDIGENOUS RED MARKET OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

### PERFORMANCES

**SUPAMAN**  
LIV THE ARTIST  
CALPULLI COATLIEUE  
IFH YOUTH DANCERS  
ALL NATIONS • SPECIAL GUEST

### WHEN

**SUNDAY  
MARCH 1**  
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

### FOOD

WAHPEPAH'S KITCHEN  
BIGFOOT INDIAN TACOS  
COCINA DEL CORAZON

### WHERE

**FRUITVALE  
CEDAR CENTER**  
3124 INTERNATIONAL BLVD  
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

### LIVE ART

**KEITH SECOLA, JR**  
JACKIE FAWN & AMEND TDK



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## 43<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE ON AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION

INDIAN EDUCATION:

# 2020 AND BEYOND

MARCH 15-17, 2020  
HILTON SACRAMENTO ARDEN WEST HOTEL  
SACRAMENTO, CA

## Stockton Community 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Benefit Pow Wow

February 29<sup>th</sup> 2020  
10:30 am- 8 pm

Head Staff: TBA



Edison High School  
Girls Gym – Use Center Street Parking Lot  
100 West Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Stockton, CA 95206

## An Ancestry of African-Native Americans



This is an Excerpt of an Article published in the Smithsonian Magazine  
Angela Walton-Raji has been researching African-Native American genealogy for nearly 20 years and is the author of the book *Black Indian Genealogy Research: African-American Ancestors Among the Five Civilized Tribes*. She recently presented a series of genealogy workshops at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with the exhibit *IndiVisible: African-Native American Lives in the Americas*. Walton-Raji's

ancestors are Freedmen, African-Americans who were slaves of the Five Civilized Tribes – the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek and Seminole Nations – in Indian Territory, which became Oklahoma in 1907. The Cherokee freed their slaves in 1863, and after the Civil War, the other tribes did the same. All but the Chickasaw eventually granted Freedmen full citizenship in their tribe. In preparation for Oklahoma statehood, the U.S. Congress created the Dawes Commission, which was charged with dissolving collective tribal land ownership and allotting land to individual tribal members. Thousands of Freedmen came before the commission to prove their tribal membership and their right to a share of land. I spoke with Walton-Raji about her research.

### **What spurred you to start researching African-Native American history and genealogy?**

I was inspired to begin the research because it's part of my family history. I'm originally from western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma, right there on the border. My great-grandmother Sallie Walton was born in Indian Territory, in the Choctaw Nation. She died in 1961 – I knew her very well. She was my babysitter until I went to kindergarten. [Her Choctaw heritage] was widely known in terms of family history. And growing up in a city such as Fort Smith, Arkansas ... if you're on the north side of the city, you can look at the Cherokee Nation, and if you're on the south of the city, the bordering community is the Choctaw Nation.

I did have in my possession some family papers – a small land allotment record from [Sallie] that she had obtained from the Dawes Commission. I had been doing genealogy for many years but was curious, “Gee, is there more information out there to be found?” I really didn't know what there was to find. So when I moved to the Washington, D.C., area and had access to the National Archives ... I went and started looking and found family records, and I was just amazed.

### **What is your advice to people who want to start researching their African-Native American heritage?**

Your heritage is your heritage, whether it's white, whether it's black, whether it's blended, whether it's a family of immigrants or a family native to the Americas. Your family history is done using the same methodology, regardless of ethnicity. You're going to start with your oral history – you're going to sit down and talk with your elders, and you're going to talk with them more than one time. Transcribe those interviews. Even before you leave the house, you're going to look and see what you have in the house – for example, I had some documents that were folded up in little pieces in Samuel Walton's old Bible. There was Sallie's land allotment information with “Choctaw Nation” stamped at the top. At some point you will be ready to start obtaining those vital records, and the most important thing is that you don't skip back 100 years – you start with things that are more recent.



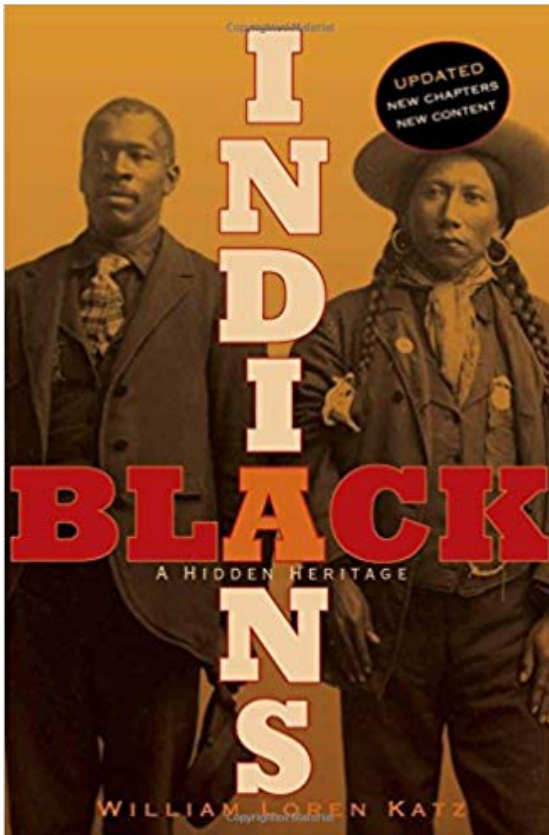
## Stolen Words Written by Melanie Florence

Illustrated by Gabrielle Grimard

The story of the beautiful relationship between a little girl and her grandfather. When she asks her grandfather how to say something in his language - Cree - he admits that his language was stolen from him when he was a boy. The little girl then sets out to help her grandfather find his language again. This sensitive and warmly illustrated picture book explores the intergenerational impact of the residential school system that separated young Indigenous children from their families. The story recognizes the pain of those whose culture and language were taken from them, how that pain is passed down, and how healing can also be shared, he admits that his language was stolen from him when he was a boy. The little girl then sets out to help her grandfather find his language again. This sensitive and warmly illustrated picture book explores the intergenerational impact of the residential school system that separated young Indigenous children from their families. The story recognizes the pain of those whose culture and language were taken from them, how that pain is passed down, and how healing can also be shared.

## Stolen Words

Written by  
Melanie Florence  
Illustrated by  
Gabrielle Grimard



## Black Indians

Book by William Loren Katz

The compelling account of how two heritages united in their struggle to gain freedom and equality in America. The author explores the little-told story of black Indians, defined here as people with dual African and Native American ancestry or African Americans who lived primarily with Native Americans. Using fascinating biographies and detailed research, Katz creates a chronology of this hidden heritage during the settlement of the American West. The first paths to freedom taken by runaway slaves led to Native American villages. There, black men and women found acceptance and friendship among our country's original inhabitants. Though they seldom appear in textbooks and movies, the children of Native- and African-American marriages helped shape the early days of the fur trade, added a new dimension to frontier diplomacy, and made a daring contribution to the fight for American liberty.





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