



# Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria



## Yurok Language Basket Class 2011



Baskets play a vital role in the local traditional community's way of life including ceremony, food gathering and preparation, health practices and natural resource management. Women learning and continuing to uphold this ancient way of life is of fundamental importance in the continuance of culture. The Yurok Language Basket Weaving Class is designed to provide a forum for sharing this important women's tradition shared by the Yurok, Hupa, Karuk, Tolowa and Wiyot people.

The class is designed as a series of six week sessions. Each six week session includes field trips to gather materials, basic language instruction and basic skills in weaving. The class is open to all interested members of the community whether Tribal Members at the Rancheria, members of other federally recognized and non-recognized Tribes or non-Indians alike.

With generous support from the Humboldt Area Foundation's [Native Cultures Fund](#), Center for [Indian Community Development](#) (CICD) and the [Native Women's Collective](#) the Rancheria offered two six week sessions of the class in the spring of 2011. We had a maximum enrollment of 20 per session and we received 40 applications. Because of the immense interest we chose to break the class into two, once a week sessions in order to accommodate all of the applicants.

We were also able to add a concurrent men's session to the class thanks to the generosity of David Gensaw who volunteered his time to mentor the small group of men who applied. Over the course of two six week sessions, each of the participants completed at least one project; with some completing several (see attached CD of photos).

Our local indigenous people are world renowned for their fine basket work. And making basket has always been a community activity, whether it be gathering, peeling sticks, or trading materials. As our great-grandmothers once taught our grandmothers to weave, speaking our own language, we aim to reconnect that knowledge and provide a space to come together, with a good heart, as a community of women.

The Trinidad Rancheria wishes to thank Kathleen Vigil; Kateri Masten and David Gensaw as well as the Native Cultures Fund, CICD and the Native Women's Collective for their support and expertise. You have made our goal a reality.

**Wok-'hlew, Wok-'hlew, Wok-'hlew!**



[www.trinidadrancheria.com](http://www.trinidadrancheria.com)

1 Cher-Ae Lane • PO Box 630 • Trinidad, California • 95570 • 707.677.0211 • 707.677.3921 (fax)