

# Yose DEIA Newsletter

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DEIA COUNCIL

As the effects of global warming become increasingly visible, so does the environmental movement. Society is analyzing environmental issues from new angles and uplifting voices that have been historically silenced. The movement is evolving in exciting ways, incorporating aspects of social activism and economic justice. The focus is no longer solely within the natural sciences, but expanding to include the stories of people and culture.

To explore this further, the focus of this month's newsletter is intersectional environmentalism (IE). Simply put, IE is an inclusive approach to environmentalism that advocates for the protection of both people and the planet. In this issue, you can learn about IE by exploring relevant events, an infographic, and articles on related topics.

The information on IE has been informed by 'The Intersectional Environmentalist', a book by Leah Thomas. Leah advocates for environmental justice and inclusivity through her Intersectional Environmentalism Platform. [Click here](#) to learn more about Leah's work.

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YOSCOMMUNITY  
WEBSITE TO LEARN  
MORE ABOUT THE  
DEIA COUNCIL

# UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV 1 12-1pm

## INTEREST MEETING FOR A DISABILITY EMPLOYEE RESOURCE GROUP

Are you a part of the Yosemite community and have a (visible or invisible) disability? A disability is any physiological, mental or psychological condition which substantially limits one or more major life activities. Come join us for a conversation on the best ways to support employees with disabilities and to gauge interest for a new Disability Employee Resource group. To RSVP and receive the meeting link, email [yose\\_accessibility@nps.gov](mailto:yose_accessibility@nps.gov).

NOV 2 12pm

## WOMEN'S ERG BROWN BAG LUNCH

Join the Yosemite Women's Employee Resource Group for a brown bag lunch discussion on intentional journaling and inner reflection. All are welcome! To receive the article and meeting link, email [yose\\_dei@nps.gov](mailto:yose_dei@nps.gov).

NOV 5 All day

## 18TH ANNUAL YOGA JAMBALAYA

A day of yoga, wellness, and community at the Yosemite Bug! This annual event features yoga classes, access to the Spa, and an immersive sound healing experience. You can register online by visiting [Balanced Rock's website](#).

NOV 8 12pm

## TRIBAL CONSULTATION WEBINAR SERIES

The Tribal Consultation Webinar series is being offered for NPS employees looking for an introduction into the Tribal consultation process, or those who want to refresh their skills or ask experts for advice on best consultation practices for managing park resources. The November webinar will focus on cross-cultural communication, and attendees are encouraged to join the Consultation with Tribal and Indigenous People discussion forum on the Common Learning Portal. [Click here](#) to register for the webinar series.

NOV 16 9am-1

## DEALING WITH OFFICE POLITICS TRAINING

This course deals with navigating the perceptions, dynamics, and interpersonal relationships that impact office politics. You will learn how to communicate effectively, recognize office political structures, and raise your standing in the workplace with superiors, colleagues, and subordinates. [Click here](#) to register and learn more about the course. Registration closes on 11/3 at 4pm.

Every  
Monday

## COMMUNITY YOGA WITH BALANCED ROCK

Join Balanced Rock's local instructors for community yoga every Monday at the El Portal Community Hall! These classes are donation-based, volunteer-led, and welcome to all levels.

**CHECK OUT THE  
YOSCOMMUNITY**

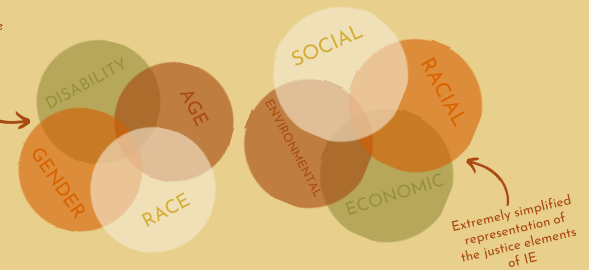
**WEBSITE EVENT CALENDAR TO SEE A  
REGULARLY UPDATED LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

# INTERSECTIONAL ENVIRONMENTALISM (IE)

## INTERSECTIONALITY

"The complex, cumulative way in which the effects of multiple forms of discrimination overlap or intersect, especially in the experiences of marginalized individuals + groups."

Each intersection represents a unique experience of discrimination + disadvantage



## ENVIRONMENTALISM

"The political and ethical movement that seeks to improve + protect the quality of the natural environment through changes to environmentally harmful human activity."

**IE**

= Inclusive approach to environmentalism that advocates for the protection of both people and the planet.

**Environmental Justice**

= The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of identity, with respect to environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

There is almost no difference! These terms are not in competition with each other. Rather, they are different expressions of the same mission. Having multiple approaches to this issue allows for deeper understanding and more meaningful engagement.



## WHY INTERESECTIONAL?

Those who are the least responsible for climate change are often significantly more vulnerable to its effects. These inequities need to be accounted for when pursuing environmental change.

- 71% of African Americans live in counties that are in violation of federal air pollution standards
- Latinx Californians are exposed to 39% higher levels of air pollution than white Californians
- Indigenous people in the US are the least likely to have access to safe running water
- Chinese and Korean Americans have the highest mean cancer risk from air pollution

## INTERSECTIONAL ENVIRONMENTALISM ESSENTIALS

- Create space for a complete + inclusive retelling of environmental + natural history
- Amplify historically excluded voices
- Foster an equitable, inclusive +restorative approach to environmental education, policy + activism
- Protect the planet + the people, both are oppressed by the same systems
- Intertwine social + environmental justic

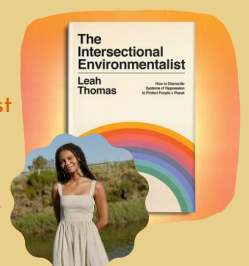
## ROOTS OF IE



The concept of IE is rooted in the evolution of the feminist movement and the development of misogynoir, intersectional feminism, and ecofeminism. IE builds on these concepts by incorporating environmentalism, and a wider range of social identities.

### To learn more,

- Follow @greengirlleah and @intersectionalenvironmentalist on Instagram
- Order a copy of *The Intersectional Environmentalist*
- Visit the [Intersectional Environmentalist website](#)



# *Importance of Oral History*

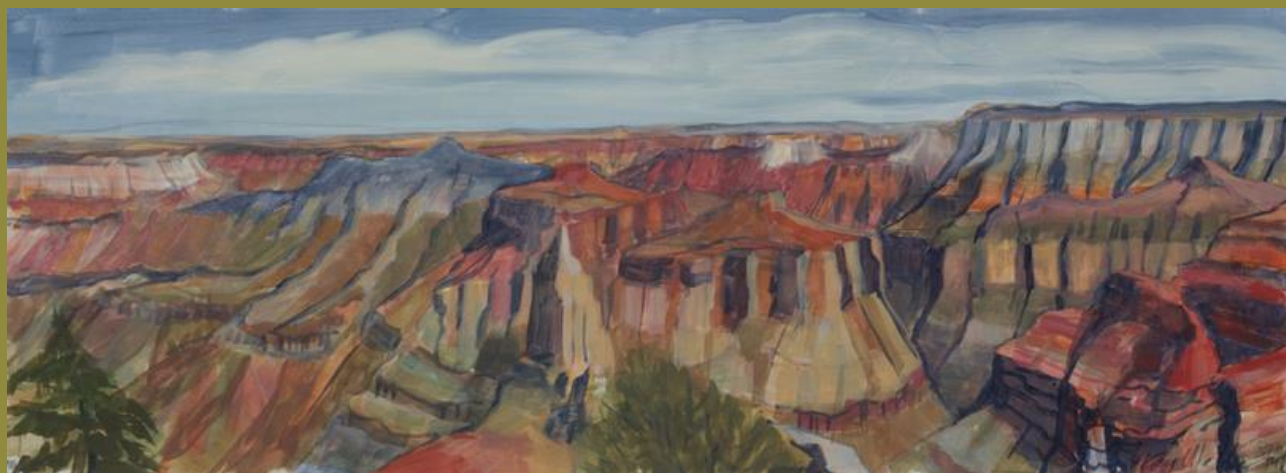
On October 13th, I had the opportunity to attend the California Truth and Healing Council's first in-person listening session in Yosemite Valley. At this meeting, the community was invited to hear from members of Yosemite's affiliated tribes and other California tribes who shared stories of their family's experience in the park and their relationship with government agencies. Their stories taught me a lot about the history of Yosemite's natural

landscape and the importance of Native American knowledge and conservation efforts in the park. I also learned a lot about the history of Native Americans in the park, including uplifting stories of community and resilience, and honest stories of displacement and oppression. I feel extremely fortunate to have learned about this history directly from members of the affiliated tribes, and I hope that the recorded narratives will effectively

inform the Council.

This listening session emphasized the importance of oral history, a topic that I have now explored quite deeply. Native Americans have worked to preserve, record, and pass down their history, culture, and beliefs through oral literature. Throughout time, Western leaders have worked to discredit oral history, claiming that information should be documented and written in order to be accurate and reliable. This discrediting ensured that white history remained the dominant narrative in Western culture. However, because of the strategic exclusion of non-white narratives, written and documented history has been relatively single-sided and inaccurate. A large portion of Western written history is littered with derogatory language,





unnecessary religious undertones, and an unintentional influence of the social conditions present at the time. The rigidity of written history, which is the primary argument for its validity, is ironically its main downfall. Because written history cannot adapt over time, it often irrelevant to evolved societal conditions. Written history continuously excluded the stories of underrepresented people and cultures, and still maintains countless gaps today.

Oral history helps us to fill these gaps to create a more holistic understanding of history that includes everyone's story. Oral history can grow and adjust over time to remain relevant, useful, and accurate. It can combine with the history of other groups, incorporate current experiences and information, and enhance the

information within written history. Most importantly, the recognition and acknowledgement of oral history facilitates the inclusion of omitted histories into the master narrative.

The California Truth and Healing Council works to utilize oral history and narratives to inform policy decisions. In 2025, the Council will submit a final report that will recount a holistic understanding of the relationship between California Native Americans and the state, and may also include recommendations for reparation, restoration, and prevention of future harm.

To learn more about the Council and future listening sessions, visit <https://tribalaffairs.ca.gov/cthc/>.

***November is National Native American Heritage Month, and November 25th is Native American Heritage Day! Check out the contemporary Indigenous art featured throughout this article and click the images to learn more about the artists. For more ways to learn about Indigenous heritage and culture this month, click here.***

N O V E M B E R

# Bucket List



## Election Day

November 8th is Election Day! Check out the links below for answers to all of your election questions.

- [Voting | USAGov](#)
- [General Election | CA SoS](#)
- [Vote.org](#)



## Dia De Los Muertos

On November 1st & 2nd, families in Mexico and other Latin countries celebrate Dia De Los Muertos to honor their ancestors. This holiday is based on the belief that the passageway between the real world and the spirit world is open, so our deceased loved ones can come back to visit us. [Click here](#) to learn more about this holiday and the culture and heritage behind it.



## Thanksgiving

Click on the steps below to learn about three easy ways you can celebrate Thanksgiving this year.

- [Read about the history of the holiday](#)
- [Give thanks with a gratitude exercise](#)
- [Cook delicious fall comfort food for dinner](#)

## Small Business Saturday

November 26th is a day to celebrate and support small businesses and all they do for their communities. This year, it is especially important to support small businesses as they recover from the pandemic. Try some of these stores in your area:



### Mariposa/Midpines

- Pony Espresso
- June Bug Cafe
- Castillo's
- Hideout Saloon

### Groveland

- Iron Door Salon
- The Grove Mercantile
- Hungry Bear Cafe
- Two Guys Pizza Pies

### Tuolumne/Lee Vining

- Mono Market
- Epic Cafe
- June Lake General Store
- Roberto's Cafe

### Wawona

- Pine Tree Market
- FishCamp General Store
- El Cid
- Kyoto Kafe

