

**Biography of
Georgiana Sanchez, Chumash Elder**

Georgiana Sanchez (Barbareno Chumash / Tohono O'odham) born in Long Beach, California. She has taught American Indian Studies at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) for over two decades. As a member of the CSULB faculty, she has served as Faculty Advisor for the American Indian Student Council. She is a nationally published writer, storyteller, and member of the California Indian Storytellers Association. She is very active in the preservation of California Indian Languages and Sacred Sites. Several of her poems have appeared in the anthology, *The Sound of Rattles and Clappers* and her latest creative essay, "Breathing the Ancestors," appeared in *Face to Face: Women Writers on Faith, Mysticism and Awakening* from North Point Press in 2005. Her poem, "I saw my Father Today," is one of a collection of twelve poems cast in bronze and placed at the North Embarcadero in San Francisco.



Photo by Victoria Sanchez

Georgiana believes there is healing that occurs through the process of storytelling. Chumash stories answer basic questions, about who we are and where we came from and relate to a very specific region in Southern California--Santa Barbara and Mount Pinos and Santa Cruz Island.