



P.O. Box 902  
 Bakersfield, CA 93302  
 www.chalontribe.com

*We are descendants of the Chalon and Esselen survivors of Mission Soledad whose traditional homelands encompass significant portions of Monterey and San Benito counties, including all of present-day Pinnacles National Park. Some of our people reside on or near our tribal homelands, while many others found refuge and subsistence in the distant regions of the city of Bakersfield, Kings county and elsewhere in California.*

**June  
 2022**

## Chalon Indian Nation Tribal Council

### 2022 Board of Directors

Audrey Alvarado	Chairwoman
Vacant	Vice Chair
Bridget Escalera	Secretary
Sonya Dorado	Treasurer
Esther Hernandez	Sergeant-at-Arms
Julian Behill	Member-at-Large
Larry Lopez	Elders Rep.

### Elders' Council

Gloria Medina	Chairwoman
Irene Soto	Vice Chairwoman
Yvonne Estrada	Purser
Richard Suniga	Sergeant at Arm
Larry Lopez	Elders Rep.

## Our Mission

**T**he mission of the Chalon Indian Council of Bakersfield is to develop tribal resources, protect and preserve Native American heritage and cultural traditions, seek Federal recognition for our descendants, assist Native Americans in pursuing higher education, assist members seeking tribal affiliation, and to promote and refer healthcare services to Native Americans.

### Upcoming Events

The Council board meets the second Tuesday of the month via zoom. Contact us at [chaloncouncil@gmail.com](mailto:chaloncouncil@gmail.com) to access our meeting.

- ◆ July 12                      Chalon Council Meeting via Zoom
- ◆ August 9                    Chalon Council Meeting via Zoom
- ◆ September 13            Chalon Council Meeting via Zoom
- ◆ September 16-18        Solstice Ceremony at Pinnacles Park



## CHAIRWOMAN'S CORNER

Greetings to all my family and tribal members. I am honored and excited to serve as your Chair for the next two years. The Council board has been working hard these difficult past two years to build on the work of our Elders. We will seek input from our family and tribal members to guide our activities. We will have more in person gatherings as the Covid Virus subsides and look forward to seeing you at future events.

I strongly encourage you to attend our Fall Solstice gathering at Pinnacles National Park on ***Friday September 16th through Sunday September 18th***. Our celebration will be held on Saturday September 17th. This is a time to come together as a tribe and honor our ancestors and teach our young ones the traditions and practices of our people.

Blessings—

Audrey R. Alvarado, Ph. D.

Chairwoman



**Elders who attended the Election and Appreciation Luncheon on April 24, 2022**

## Note of Gratitude



Taking on the role of Chair of the Chalon Council is an honor to be sure, but it comes with a lot of responsibility, hard work, and commitment. Our former chair not only served as Chair these past two years but in previous years as well. Ariane Chow-Garcia has served our tribe with distinction and honor. She embodies our commitment to our elders, our history, and our traditions. Looking outward she has outreached to other tribal leaders, Pinnacles Park staff, educational institutions, experts in linguistics and archeology. More recently she has created edible gardens at CSUB and Bakersfield America Indian Health Project. It is with deep appreciation that the Chalon Council Board honor her contributions and commitment. We look forward to her continued involvement and leadership to our tribe and the interests of Native Americans in our country.

## Prayer of Gratitude

*Creator, open our hearts to peace and healing between all people.*

*Creator, open our hearts to provide and protect for all children of the earth.*

*Creator, open our hearts to respect for the earth, and all the gifts of the earth.*

*Creator, open our hearts to end exclusion, violence, and fear among all.*

*Thank you for the gifts of this day and every day.*

*Mi'Kmaq prayer*

# CSUB Native Edible Garden

By Arianne Chow-Garcia

Chalon Tribal Citizen and CSUB undergraduate student

In February 2022, Christina Contreras and I worked with Dr. Jason Watkins at California State University of Bakersfield (CSUB) to bring a native garden to the CSUB campus. We recognized there were no native resources for students or staff. After delivering a 45-minute presentation on the importance of inclusivity on campus and building a future relationship to improve the current native demographics of only 47 identified native students out of 9,500 on campus, we finally were approved to use one 4x8 raised flower bed for native plants.

The CSUB Garden coordinator, Joel Kirksey has been by far the biggest supporter and educational resource for our native dream garden. Joel works relentlessly to plant smart, improve the garden, and teach so many others! Joel is so genuine and caring to the native endeavors, I can't thank him enough for his dedication. CSUB has several instrumental volunteers each week that make the garden a success: thanks Heidi and Nathalie for the care you give our native bed. Just this week, Viviana and the Chicken Coalition built their first chicken coop on campus for fresh eggs at the Campus Pop-Up Produce Pantry. I saw pictures of the first 2 chickens to arrive on campus, they were super cute. With Joel's help, the Campus Pop-Up Pantry produced over 4,000 lbs. of CSUB food from the garden harvest that is given to students and staff. Now that is amazing work!!!

Although we are only starting with 1 bed, it is with hopes we continue to grow into another raised flower bed. Christina and I along with both the Indigenous Faculty and Staff and the newly started Native and Indigenous Student Coalition planted our own traditional "Three Sisters." This is a Native gathering of corn, squash, and beans developed by the Haudenosaunee tribe. It is believed that the 3 vegetables are the mythological three maidens or in other agricultural words, companion plants. However, we only had room to plant 1 "Three Sisters" in our flower bed. Fingers crossed for next semester for another bed.....for maybe sage, sweet grass, and native herbs.

For more information on the CSUB program or if you are interested in signing up to volunteer go to <https://www.csub.edu/basic-needs/edible-garden> . It is a place to help heal our spirits in Mother Nature's Garden and provide food for the people.



## Meet Your Council Board



### **Audrey Ramona Alvarado, Chairwoman**

I am the daughter of Ramona and Robert Alvarado, granddaughter of Claudina Duchie Valenzulea Urrea, who was the daughter of Ramona Feliz Valenzuela, who was the daughter of Jose Feliz, who was the son of Maria Olivera, who was the daughter of Josefa Piu-uina, who was the daughter of Pedro (Piquina) born Rancheria de Chalon in 1742. Imagine that, we can document our presence in the California region for 280 years.

I am proud and humbled to have been elected as Chair of the Chalon Indian Nation Council. I have served on the board since 2019 in the capacity of member-at-large and had been involved previously as an advisor to the board.

I worked in the nonprofit sector for over thirty-five years directing city, state and national based nonprofit organizations and the University of Colorado Denver. I have served on numerous boards at the state and national level and was named a top 50 nonprofit leader for 6 years while serving as the Executive Director of the National Council of Nonprofit Associations (now called National Council of Nonprofits).

I received degrees and training from Bakersfield Community College (AA), University of the Pacific (BA), University of Utah (MA and PhD), and University of Denver (post PhD). I lived outside of California for much of my professional life – Utah, Colorado, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Washington, DC. My wife Katie Loughary and I are pleased to be back West living in Eugene, Oregon and Bakersfield.

### **Bridget Escalera, Secretary**



Haku. My name is Bridget Escalera (Canez). Daughter of Frank & Vivian Canez (Valenzuela). Been a proud Chalon-Esselen American Native for the last 63 years. Born and raised right here in Bakersfield California. Was and still is a Eastside girl. Attended Foothill High School back when it was “Cool to be a Trojan”. Like past and present citizens who have been board members - we understand the importance of keeping our vision for recognition on going. Invite members to consider getting involved and participate in this collective goal. It will happen. So is has been my honor to be your Tribal Board Secretary on and off since 1990. Previously held the Elder’s Representative position. Married to Raymond for 36 loving years. Widowed in 2018. Together we raised 2 beautiful children Gabriel and Marie. Blessed with 2 grandchildren Landon & Kalani Burrell. Also, a Board of Director for the Bakersfield American Indian Health Project. Serving the medical, dental and mental health needs for the indigenous native community from this urban area. Served in the Armed Forces for 3 years,

US Army ranking of S4. Stationed in Grafenwoehr West Germany. After 33 years , I retired in 2012 from the Bakersfield Superior Court as a Judicial Courtroom Assistant. Dabbled in a few part-time jobs for fun, but now just enjoy spending my time with family and friends. Traveling, eating out, game nights and glamping with my girls. Enjoy our tribes gatherings, learning our ancestral connections and language. And my favorite pow wow moment...making frybread with family. Your Chalon Tribal Council continue to meet monthly by Zoom. Stay informed through our social media sites, read the newsletter and if I can be of any assistance – feel free to reach out to myself or any council member. Aho

## Sonya Dorado, Treasurer



Hello my name is Sonya Marie (Alvarado) Dorado. I am the daughter of Ramona (Urrea) and Robert Alvarado. Ramona is the daughter of Claudina (Valenzuela) Urrea. Claudina is the daughter of Ramona Feliz. I am currently employed with Kern County Superintendent of Schools as a case manager for Community Connection for Child Care. I was born and raised in Bakersfield, California. I am a graduate from Foothill High School class of '79 and from Bakersfield Community College class of '98. I previously served on the Chalon Board as secretary, participated in our First Equinox ceremony at the Pinnacles and taken a lead in the Frybread Taco Sales fundraisers. I value family and Father God with respect to all, especially our elders, living and deceased. I am married to my high school sweetheart, Frank and we were blessed with three wonderful children, their spouses and partners and the joy of our lives six grandchildren (five on earth). I strive to make my people proud and to set an

example for our children and grandchildren. I hope by serving on the board I may be closer to completing this goal.

## Julian Behill, Member-at-Large

Hello, my name is Julian Frank Behill. I am the son of Rose Behill, who is the daughter of Frank Behill Sr., who is the son of Julian Peter "Babe" Behill. Currently I work for Owens Valley Career Development Center's Nüümü Yadoha Language Program as the Kern County Language Coordinator. I oversee



Kerns Language and Cultural programming that provides cultural activities and support to the community. I am also certified in multiple Native American curriculums including Positive Indian Parenting and Gathering of Native Americans. I also co-own Inyana Creations with my girlfriend which is a small Native American business. We create unique handmade jewelry and vinyl products. I was born and raised in Bakersfield on the eastside and graduated from Highland High School, GO Scots! I am a student at Bakersfield College. I have worn many hats with the tribe including Chair, Vice-Chair, Member at Large as well as assisted with committees like Public Relations, Elec-

tions and some fundraising. As a traditional practitioner I am always willing to share our traditional ways and values with all our people. I believe in always trying to help others and giving back is one way to help us stay balanced. Some of my hobbies are learning new skills and trades (both traditional and modern) like fishing, camping, traveling to the beach and being near bodies of water! I look forward to serving our Tribe once again as a Council Member. May Creator continue to allow us to help lead our people in a good way and bring many blessings to all!"

## Esther Hernandez, Sargent-at-Arms



President of Avani Customized Staffing, LLC Specializing in business development, contract negotiation, recruitment and talent acquisition. Over 25 years in customer service, sales and human resources. Driven in helping both clients and employees reach their professional goals. Extremely passionate about the work I do and how it plays in the "Bigger picture". Born and raised in Bakersfield CA, I love beach trips and spending time with family and friends.

## Larry Lopez, Elder Representative

Born 1956, second of nine. Five sisters three brothers. My father Ronald (Larry to some) Lopez orphaned at seven and was raised by Aunt Katie and Uncle Bart Delcid. His father Robert Lopez died the year he was born. His Mother Ida Feliz died when he was eight. My Mom Helen Behill, daughter of Julian (Babe) and Virginia Behill.

I attended Williams Elementary, Compton Jr high and East HS. After HS I joined the US Air Force and



served 13 years. Stationed at Luke AFB AZ, Lowry AFB CO, Camp New Amsterdam Holland and Canon AFB NM.

I was married during the first year of service to Lorraine Martinez. We had Lawrence II and Candace. We ended our marriage in divorce the year I left the Air Force.

With my AF training in electronics I began fixing X-ray equipment, it only lasted two years. Then I began my career in the Kern County Sheriff Department. After twenty years I retired, great times in uniforms both AF and Sheriffs met many great people. I married again to Barbara Riehl we have two children Andrew and Zachary. Two step children Kirstina and Thomas. I have 14 grandchildren and one great granddaughter. I was a Technical Sergeant in the AF, a Senior Deputy in the Sheriff's Dept. but the best title I ever

earned is Poppa (grandpa).

My hobbies now are golf and genealogy. The thing that keeps me up at night is the history of our people and what so little that is known. AHO

## Gloria Medina, Chair Elders Council



I am the daughter of Marion (Mongie) Urrea Bonilla, the eldest daughter of Claudina Valenzuela Urrea, and John Bonilla. I married Raymond Medina and we were blessed with 5 children and 12 grandchildren and many grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren. I was born in Bakersfield and have been involved with the Chalon Council since its inception. I am proud that I went back to school and graduated from high school after having my children. I was involved with the Catholic Journey program and catechism with Tom and Virginia Valenzuela and proud that I had a role in supporting the growth of high school students during my time in the program. My life was made better having been involved with the development of youth. I define myself as a HAPPY person. I have been part of the Elder's Council for many years. I am strengthened by my faith and prayer.

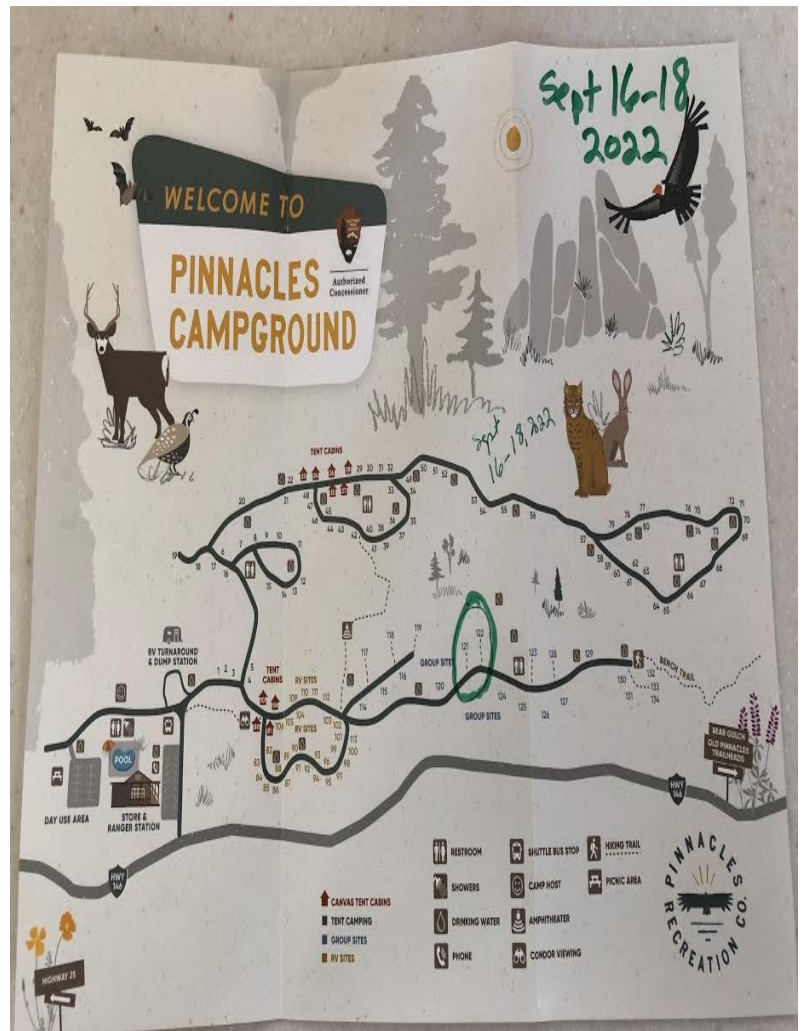


## Get Your Chalón Aprons

Don't be left out! As a fundraiser for the Chalón Indian Nation we are selling "Got Frybread" aprons. Contact Bridget Escalera at 661-333-8903 to order your apron today. Cost \$22.

## September Equinox at the Pinnacles

Reserve your spot at the upcoming equinox ceremony at Pinnacles National Park on September 16-18, 2022. We have reserved two tent sites that can accommodate up to 40 people. Fun and educational activities are planned for all ages. For more information and to reserve your tent spot contact us at [chalonconcil@gmail.com](mailto:chalonconcil@gmail.com). Travel stipends available.





## Oral History Project Update

Chalon Indian Council of Bakersfield is partnering with Professor Joseph Florez and Christina Contreras from California State University Bakersfield (CSUB) to conduct an oral history project that will begin in late July. The information gathered through interviews will be used to create a repository of our elders' shared memories and knowledge as well as learn more about our long history in California. The project will launch with a group interview that will ask elders about their memories and recollections of our families – traditions, practices, and gatherings. The Council reviewed and approved interview questions and identified elders to participate. Dr. Florez and Christina will begin reaching out to elders in the coming weeks to confirm their interest in contributing to the project.

### *Chalon Indian Nation ID Cards*

Do you have your Chalon ID Card? If so, can you help members of your immediate family obtain theirs? Please contact Yvonne (Frenchie) Turner to help us reach your immediate family members to apply for their citizenship card. The process is easy and streamlined to make it easy for those on our tribal list to get their OFFICIAL ID card. Your involvement is critical to help us gain federal recognition and to reach our tribal members to better serve you and your needs.



## JULY 30-31 CULTURAL MONITOR TRAINING

Join us for a great weekend learning about Tribal monitoring, cultural and natural resources, and fieldwork instructed by Dr. John Pryor. Field trip hosted by Haslett Basin Traditional Committee.

**Please make sure you dress accordingly for the field trip and bring plenty of fluids to hydrate yourself!**



REGISTER AT  
[CTUAP.ORG](http://CTUAP.ORG)

CLASSROOM TRAINING  
ON JULY 30 AT  
4974 E. CLINTON WAY  
SUITE C200  
FRESNO, CA, 93727  
559-478-6022

FIELD TRIP TO  
HASLETT BASIN  
ON JULY 31 FOR  
HANDS-ON TRAINING

DON'T FORGET TO  
PACK A LUNCH  
FOR THE FIELD TRIP TO  
HASLETT BASIN

CERTIFICATES OF  
COMPLETION  
ISSUED BY  
CAL TERRA

PRESENTED BY  
DR. JOHN PRYOR  
HASLETT BASIN  
CAL TERRA

FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
PLEASE VISIT:

[WWW.CTUAP.ORG/CULTURAL-MONITOR-TRAINING](http://WWW.CTUAP.ORG/CULTURAL-MONITOR-TRAINING)

## COVID TESTS AVAILABLE

Are you on Medicare? If so you can obtain 8 covid tests for FREE at your local participating pharmacy. Just show your Medicare card and you can receive up to 8 tests each MONTH.

In addition, every home in the US is eligible to order a 3rd round of 8 free at-home tests. Order yours today at [www.covid.gov](http://www.covid.gov).

## Bakersfield American Indian Health Project

The Chalon Indian Nation continues to have an ongoing partnership with the Bakersfield American Indian Health Project (BAIHP). Their office is relocating to a larger and modern facility with an edible garden that will be available to our citizens and others. Watch for more details about their upcoming grand opening.

## Chalon Indian Nation

### Representation and Engagements

**Arianne Garcia** was renominated to represent the Chalon Indian Nation on the **Native American Archaeological Technical Advisory Panel (NAARTP)** of Monterey County. Arianne's involvement ensures citizen input on land use issues.

**Cameron Garcia** was appointed by the Chalon Board to serve as our representative on the **California Tribal Emergency Response & Relief Agency (CalTERRA)** Advisory Panel. The mission of CalTerra is to provide outstanding service in emergency management. They have a training program in emergency management that offers career opportunities for tribal members throughout the US.

**Audrey Alvarado** will represent the Chalon Nation on the newly established **Coalition of California State Tribes**. The goal of the Coalition is to ensure non-recognized tribes have a stronger and unified voice in our state and nation.

## #LandBack and California Tribes

by Kenneth N. Hansen, Ph.D.  
Chalon Tribal Legal Consultant



There might soon be an opportunity for the Chalon people to get back a portion of the tribe's traditional land base, due to recent changes in state law, and in more funds becoming available for such purposes. As most Chalon people know, the pre-colonial tribal territory is mostly held by the Interior Department under the auspices of Pinnacles National Park (NPS), with surrounding parts of Chalon land in Monterey and San Benito counties privately owned and operated mostly as vineyards and ranches.

A recent trend has seen both federally recognized and non-recognized tribal governments re-acquiring more of their traditional land bases. Often these lands were previously in private hands. Nonprofit organizations, and now the state of California, are assisting tribal peoples in getting back some of their original lands that were illegally taken due to colonization and genocide. Some California examples include, 1) 2,325 acres of the Humbug Valley that was given back to the Mountain Maidu Tribe as a conservation easement by Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), 2) 2,000 acres of forests and prairie near Ke'pel Creek, a tributary of the Klamath River, that was given back to the Yurok Tribe, 3) a 700-acre coastal ranch given back to the Kashia Pomo, 4) a \$400,000 Prop. 68 grant to the Amah Mutsun land trust, and 5) a \$4.5 million Prop. 68 grant to the Esselen Tribe (with whom the Chalon share ancestry) to conserve land near Big Sur.

It was announced in March by the Governor's office that as much as \$100 million would be made available through the state of California's Truth and Healing Commission for California tribes to buy back traditional lands. The state currently has billions more than they know what to do with. They also have a serious problem with catastrophic fires resulting from climate change. Though most of the areas where the worst fires have occurred have been on federal land, there are still other places under the jurisdiction of the state government where policy directed from Sacramento could have a positive effect. However, state agencies, such as CAL-FIRE, lack the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) to restore healthy ecosystems. In other words, they need us.

The state government would prefer uninhabited places be restored and maintained to a pre-colonial condition by tribal peoples to help reduce the risk of climate-related disasters. State environmental laws—perhaps the strictest in the nation—allow them to do so. Amendments to these same laws also protect Native interests, including sacred sites and places of cultural, historical, and religious significance. The state has committed to conserving 30% of its land base by 2030 in its pursuit of carbon-neutrality. This is an ambitious goal that can only be realized by utilizing Native ways of maintaining ecosystems. What was once considered old is new again.  
(continued)

Since joining the Board a few years ago, Audrey Alvarado has been shepherding the Chalon Indian Nation's paperwork through a registration process (California does not have official state recognition of tribes) set up by the Native American Heritage Commission, a state agency. Once this process is complete, the Chalon may be eligible for the funds available from the Truth and Healing Commission to buy back some of the traditional homelands. Updating and approving the tribe's application was delayed by the pandemic. However, the fact that the Board is organized as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization under the tax code makes it eligible to own property and hold funds for purposes of maintaining such property. The tribal constitution also anticipates the eventual owning of tribal land. Given that the state has created a deadline, and that our Amah Mutsun and Esselen relations have also recently assumed stewardship over traditional lands with state funds, the opportunity for the Chalon to do the same has never been better. #LandBack

*Kenneth Hanson is Professor of Political Science and American Indian Studies at Fresno State.*



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# CHALON INDIAN NATION NEWSLETTER

