



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 CA.

**March
2023**

Chalon Indian Nation Tribal Council

2023 Board of Directors

Audrey Alvarado	Chairwoman
Natalie Garcia	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

The 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 healthcare services to Native Americans.

Upcoming Events

The Council board meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 via zoom. Contact us at chaloncouncil@gmail.com to access our meeting.

- ◆ March 14 Chalon Council Meeting via Zoom
- ◆ March 24-26 Equinox Ceremony at Pinnacles Park
- ◆ April 11 Chalon Council Meeting via Zoom
- ◆ April 23 Elections and General Meeting at Jastro Park
- ◆ May 9 Chalon Council Meeting via Zoom

**March 24-26, 2023 Equinox Ceremony
at Pinnacles National Park**

CHAIRWOMAN'S CORNER



Greetings to all my family and tribal members. It is hard to believe that we are in the first quarter of the year already. I am pleased to report that the Chalon Council and tribe had a very successful financial and programmatic year in 2022. We look forward to sharing our progress during the upcoming election and general meeting scheduled for Sunday April 23, 2023 at Jastro Park. Information about this meeting is included below.

Our next equinox ceremonies for 2023 are scheduled at Pinnacles National Park on March 24-26 and September 22-24, 2023. Why should you attend? The Pinnacles is *our* home, the heartland of our ancestors. Our ancestors roamed freely as they lived off the land that offered shelter, food and community. They offered gifts to the Great Spirit in gratitude of what was provided. We must stake our claim in this sacred land by restoring our traditional practices and accepting our tribal responsibility as guardians and stewards. It is a place where we can find a sense of belonging and connection. I hope you will join us in solidarity and gratitude for what we, as Chalon people, have received from our ancestors and what we in return can give to them.

Audrey R. Alvarado, Ph. D.

Chairwoman

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“When I was with her I knew I belonged, and that in this circle of belonging I had a place in the stories. Everyone needs this kind of place, this feeling of kinship; without it we are lost children wandering the earth our whole lives, without a sense of belonging. Even a country can be like a lost child because it may have no roots in the earth on which it has established itself”. (Pg 11)

From Joy Harjo, Warrior Poet: A Memoir, W.W. Norton & Company, 2021, NY, NY.



March Equinox Friday March 24 – Sunday March 26, 2023

The Chalon Council invites you and family members to participate in the upcoming Equinox ceremony at Pinnacles National Park. We have reserved two large group tent spots. The ceremony will be held near our tent sites (same location as September 2022). Please bring your tent, sleeping bag, eating utensils, chairs, and a snack to share for the ceremony. The Council will provide all meals for attendees. **If you plan to attend the ceremony only and not camp, please arrive no later than 1:00 on Saturday March 25.**

For those attending for the weekend we will conduct public educational programs for the park visitors/ staff on Friday at 5:00pm and Saturday at 9:00-11:00am. You are invited to attend these activities (we are looking for volunteers to participate!). The tentative schedule is as follows:

Friday, March 24 at 5pm Chalon Public Presentation for all park visitors at the Amphitheater highlighting our history and connection to Pinnacles.

Saturday, March 25 at 9-11am Public Presentation for all park visitors at the Amphitheater showcasing our ancestors' village life, plant harvesting, games, hunting/fishing, and rituals (such as medicine bags).

Saturday, March 25 at 1:00 PM Equinox ceremony at group campsite followed by dinner.

Please note that there is plenty of room in our shared site for tents. RVs/Trailer sites are full. **ALERT** - For those of you planning on attending our September Equinox we have scheduled it for Friday September 22 -24, 2023. If you plan on attending, we advise you to make your RV/Trailer reservations in March (sites are available for reservations 6 months prior to the event).

PLEASE let us know if you plan to attend. We need a headcount for planning purposes. Send an email to chaloncouncil@gmail.com or call/text Audrey Alvarado at 202-669-2567 by **MARCH 14, 2023**. Hope to see you!



Holiday Gathering December 11, 2022

Approximately 70 plus Chalon tribal and family members were in attendance at the Holiday Gathering. It was held in the newly renovated office of the Bakersfield American Indian Health Project. We had quite a spread with the main dish cooked by **Lawrence Salcido Sr and Jr.** Lots of delicious side dishes and no end to the sweets!

A special thanks to **Frenchie Turner** for organizing the raffle and gifts for the younger attendees, **Esther Hernandez** for the photo booth and **Julian Behill** shared his knowledge about making clappers. **Sonya Dorado, Natalie Garcia** and **Peggi Alvarez** did an exceptional job with setting up for the food and memory table. Everyone had a great time.



Chalon Council Elections

April 23, 2023, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Please consider running for one of three positions that are available on the Council. The positions are Vice-Chair, Sergeant-at-Arms or Member-at-Large. Contact **Lawrence Salcido Jr.**, (lawsalcido@gmail.com or 661-805-5091) Chair of the Election Committee for more information and to submit your letter of interest.

We will have a general meeting during elections and share the 2022 annual report to our Chalon citizens. Plans are underway for a dance/song lesson for attendees. All are welcome. Please bring a potluck dish as the main dish will be provided by the Council.



CHALON INDIAN NATION
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ELECTIONS**

Positions Available: Vice-Chair
Sergeant-at-Arms
Member-at-Large

April 23rd
Jastro Park
2900 Truxtun Ave.
3 PM - 10 PM

Potluck - Please bring food!
Main dish provided

Find more information at chalontribe.com



Available Services for Tribal Members

Karina Proffer, Program Manager/Cultural Specialist from the Kern Regional Center recently outreached the Chalon Council to invite our tribal members to utilize their services. They are interested in serving the Native community in the region.

They Center offers a full lifespan of services from prenatal to elder services. This link provides a list of services that may be provided: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/rc-services/>

Contact Ms. Proffer directly at kproffer@kernrc.org or call her at 661-852-3267.



Bakersfield American

B·A·I·H·P

Indian Health Project

Our Feathers Soaring Higher

Did you know that the Bakersfield American Indian Health Project has a service that can help you or your family in the areas of: *transportation, medical case management, youth prevention program, nutrition classes, pharmacy, diabetes or behavioral health*. They serve American Indian/Alaska Natives residing in the Bakersfield, Arvin, Lamont, and Oildale.

Eligibility for services are: federally recognized tribal member or Bureau Indian Affairs issued certificate degree of Indian blood card OR a CA judgement roll descendant of any of the two listed criteria OR your Chalon ID card. Give them a call at 661-327-4030.

Don't you have your Chalon ID card? Give Yvonne (Frenchie) a call at 661-369-6722 to find out what you need to do to get one.

On Chalon Mythology

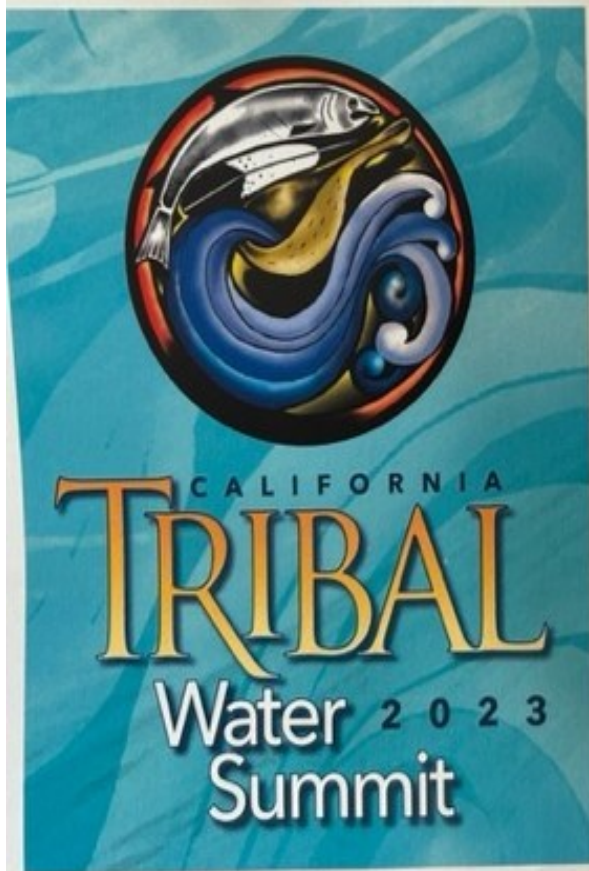
By Charles Ettner, Ph.D., Tribal Anthropologist, Chalon Indian Nation



All cultures of the past and present have mythologies, most common are myths about the creation of the world and/or the universe. Anthropologists have described myths as, *Sacred narratives* [we call them stories] *believed to be true by the people who tell them*. The Christian "Adam and Eve" narrative (story), which originated in southern Europe, is a well-known myth widely accepted by many. Like other myths, it is not and does not need to be scientifically proven, but it is *believed to be true by the people who tell it*. A second definition of myth, *A widely held but false belief or idea*, does not apply specifically to mythology and creation myths.

Costanoan (Ohlone) mythology is not well-known to the general public, nor is it well-known among Ohlone (Costanoan) people. Still, a few narratives have survived from among the eight major groups. Fortunately, much of the culture, not all of it, is often so similar that many stories differ very little from tribe to tribe. The following is one of the creation or *Beginning of the World* stories that survives. It involves a trinity of figures who are most important within Costanoan (Ohlone) mythology: Eagle, Humming-bird, & Coyote. The following segment begins mid-way into the story.

When this world was finished, the eagle, the humming-bird, and Coyote were standing on the top of Pico Blanco [*The northern tribes say it was Mount Diablo*]. When the water rose to their feet, the eagle, carrying the humming-bird and Coyote, flew to the Sierra de Gabilan. There they stood until the water went down. Then the eagle sent Coyote down the mountain to see if the world was dry. Coyote came back and said: "The whole world is dry." The eagle said to him: "Go and look in the river. See what there is there." Coyote came back and said: "There is a beautiful girl." The eagle said: "She will be your wife in order that people may be raised again. He gave Coyote a digging implement of abalone shell and a digging stick. Coyote asked: "How will my children be raised?" The eagle would not say. He wanted to see if Coyote was wise enough to know. Coyote asked him again how these new people were to be raised from the girl. Then he said: "Well, I will make them right here in the knee." The eagle said: "No, that is not good." The Coyote said: "Well then, here in the elbow." "No, that is not good." "In the eyebrow." "No, that is not good." "In the back of the neck." "No, that is not good either. None of these will be good." Then the humming-bird cried: "Yes, my brother, they are not good. This place will be good, here in the belly." Then Coyote was angry. He wanted to kill him. The eagle raised his wings and the humming-bird flew in his armpit. Coyote looked for him in vain. Then the girl said: "What shall I do? How will I make my children?" The eagle said to Coyote: "Go and marry her. She will be your wife." Then Coyote went off with girl. He said to her. "Louse me." Then the girl found a woodtick on him. She was afraid and threw it away. Then Coyote seized her. He said: "Look for it, look for it! Take it! Eat it! Eat my louse!" Then the girl put it into her mouth. "Swallow it, swallow it!" he said. Then she swallowed it and became pregnant. Then she was afraid. She ran away. She ran through thorns. Coyote ran after her. He called to her: "Do not run through that brush." He made a good road for her. But she said: "I do not like this road." Then Coyote made road with flowers on each side. Perhaps the girl would stop to take a flower. She said: "I am not used to going between flowers." Then Coyote said: "There is no help for it. I cannot stop her." So she ran to the ocean. Coyote was close to her. Just as he was going to take hold of her, she threw herself into the water and the waves came up between them as she turned into a sand flea (or shrimp). Coyote, diving after her, struck only the sand. He said: "I wanted to clasp my wife but took hold of the sand. My wife is gone." (Excerpts from Kroeber 1907, partially based on a Rumsen (Rumsien) text).



The California Tribal Water Summit Planning Team
in collaboration with the
California Department of Water Resources
invites you to **Save the Date** for
the 4th California Tribal Water Summit

April 11-13, 2023 in Sacramento

This is a convening of Tribal, State, and Federal leaders to discuss water issues and strategies towards watershed resilience of California's sacred waters. Your participation will help inform State water policy and advance issues of equity, access and incorporation of Tribal Ecological Knowledge in the California Water Plan.

Together we will:

Articulate a Vision for Climate Resilience

Support California's Regions and,

Integrate Equity

More information and invitations will follow.

General questions or to join the planning team contact:

TribalWaterSummit@water.ca.gov



2023 Scholarship Announcement

The Chalon Elder's and Council have established a scholarship fund with an objective of helping members of the Chalon tribe and the San Joaquin Valley's indigenous youth achieve their academic goals through higher education or post-high school training. Application forms and information available at www.chalontribe.com Contact chaloncouncil@gmail.com for more information. **DUE DATE MAY 15, 2023.**