



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.

**June
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	Member-at-Large
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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.

- ◆ June 13 Chalon Council Meeting via Zoom
- ◆ July 11 Chalon Council Meeting via Zoom
- ◆ August 8 Chalon Council Meeting via Zoom
- ◆ Sept 12 Chalon Council Meeting via Zoom
- ◆ Sept 23 Equinox Ceremony at Pinnacles National Park

September 23, 2023 Groundbreaking of new entrance sign and Equinox Ceremony at Pinnacles National Park

CHAIRWOMAN'S CORNER



Greetings to all my family and tribal members. Our equinox ceremony held at Pinnacles National Park on March 25 was a wonderful experience for those who participated. A summary of our activities is included in this issue.

Our next equinox ceremonies for 2023 is scheduled for September 23, 2023. There will be a special unveiling of a new park entrance sign, Pinnacles National Park—Heartland of the Chalon People *Maksene Wayas Oniyet*. I hope you will join us for this special and appropriate recognition.

I recently visited a museum exhibit that were quite meaningful and inspirational. Near Sacramento is a small but powerfully displayed museum, *Maidu Museum and Historic Site at Maidu Regional Park* in the city of Roseville. Oroville, CA is part of the ancestral home of the Maidu people. For more than two thousand years the Maidu people have lived in this area. Traditional Maidu boundaries begin in the north with Mount Lassen and Honey Lake, stretch westward to the Sacramento River, reach south to the American River; and climb east to the crest of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The Maidu lived much like our ancestors, in peace and harmony with their environment. The exhibit provided an excellent overview of how they lived as well as the atrocities, displacement and violence their ancestors were exposed to. This museum provides an example of what the Chalon people can create near our ancestral home. Imagine a n interpretative center in our heartland, Pinnacles National Park, that accurately tells our story. Written by our people for all to see, share and appreciate.

Audrey R. Alvarado, Ph. D.

Chairwoman





September 23, 2023 Equinox

The Chalon Council invites you and family members to participate in the upcoming Equinox ceremony at Pinnacles National Park. We have reserved a large group tent spot. The ceremony will be held at campsite #121 (usual spot). The campsite is available from Friday September 22 (starting at 1:00 pm) —Sunday September 24 (ending at 11:00 am) for those wishing to camp out. 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 or attend the sign unveiling ceremony, please arrive no later than 2:00 on Saturday September 23.**

Saturday, September 23, 2023 at 10 am Pinnacles Park staff, dignitaries, and Chalon tribal members will participate in an official unveiling of the new east side park entrance sign. The new sign will include ***Pinnacles National Park—Heartland of the Chalon People Maksene Wayas Oniyet.***

Saturday, September 23, 2023 at 2:00 PM Equinox ceremony at group campsite f#121 followed by dinner.

Please note that there is plenty of room in our shared site for tents. RVs/Trailer sites reservations should be made by tribal members. Note these sites fill quickly so you should reserve early.

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 **September 14, 2023**. Hope to see you!

Spring Equinox Ceremony—Highlights

Friday March 24, 2023

Theme: *Pinnacles: A Sacred Place for All*

Chalon tribal members and allies presented an informative and engaging session. Visitors were smudged by elders, prayer led by former Chairwoman **Arianne Chow Garcia**. Songs were offered by three talented young men. The young men included our youth leader **Cameron Garcia** and his two friends, **Malachi Payne** and **Elijah Swanson**. **Blanca Alvarez Stransky** welcomed the visitors and **Dr. Timothy Babalis** provided an overview of the significance of Pinnacles to the Chalon people. **Dr. Ken Hansen**, advisor to Chalon Indian Nation, shared information about the boundaries of the Chalon people and their early practices. **Dr. Audrey Alvarado**, Chairwoman took on the persona of our matriarch, Piu-Úina and told her story. Two talented Chalon young leaders, **Lawrence Salcido, Jr.** and **Kalani Burrell**, wrote personally powerful poems (see below) about their connection to the land and to our people. The three singers were joined by **Lawrence Salcido, Jr** and spoke in the Chalon language (with translation) about two brothers going fishing. The audience was invited to share their own stories about their connection to Pinnacles and the evening ended with gifting prayer balls to all participants, as well as handouts about the Ohlone Mythology Story and Piu-Uina.

Saturday, March 25, 2023

Saturday's activities included 5 workstations staffed by Chalon tribal members and a few friends. The stations included information about *Village Life, Plants, Rituals/Traditions, Hunting and Fishing, and Games*. Visitors took away kits to make their own dream catchers, medicine bags, and prayer balls. A gift of a Pinnacles/Chalon t-shirt was given to all visitors. Conversations with visitors and our presenters revealed that they had a good time.

The equinox ceremony was conducted by former Chairperson **Arianne Chow Garcia**, **Julian Behill**, and **Lizzie Arriaga**. Songs and drums set the stage for a meaningful experience. Thanks to all who organized the circle, which included fire in the center of the circle for the first time in a long while. After we completed their equinox ceremony, the Chalon woman's regalia was formally presented to Superintendent **Alvarez Stransky** and **Dr. Babalis**. The regalia was commissioned from the WNPA September 2022 grant. Once we receive feathers from the park staff, we can complete the man's and child's regalia. Special recognition and thanks to **Suzie Chow and Arianne Chow Garcia** for completing the regalia.

March 2023 Equinox Highlights







In this circle

By Kalani Burrell

In the worship circle, I hear the pounding of the rawhide drums, that match the beat of my heart

The coral shell necklace bangs against my chest, creating an unforgetting ring in my ears.

In the worship circle, I look up to the pale blue sky and see a red-tailed hawk

The hawk that once symbolized the protected spirit of my ancestors.

The warm grass tickles my feet, the natural protector for my ancestors

The sweet berries and nutty acorns settle in my stomach; food for my ancestors

I am suddenly overcome with a strong emotion, a sudden tightness in my chest

This was once a place of living for my ancestors

It was once a place of worship, love, spirituality, and pain

And yet here it stands, this circle

Waiting for me, just like it waited for my ancestors



Lawrence Salcido, Jr.

I hear you
In the wind behind my ear
In the water running through
In the birds welcoming me home

I see you
In the paths left behind
In the green that blessed us now
In the branches grown so wild

I smell you
In the mud from fresh rain
In the foliage given new life
In the absence of gas and industry

This is your land
This land was our land
That's what we were taught
But now

I feel you
In our history
On our land
The pain that was brought

I feel you
In my soul
On my own
The gifts I give to you

I feel you
My dear ancestors
And welcome home
To the Chalon

Chalon Indian Nation Tribal Enrollment Form and Tribal Enrollment Cards

Get Yours Today

TRIBAL ENROLLMENT CARDS



Cost \$5 for 18-49 yrs
Free for Tribal Elders
50 yrs and up



* Must have a
complete Citizenship
application on file

Enrollment cards can now be made on Fridays
from 1:00pm to 5:00pm by appointment

To schedule an appointment contact

Yvonne at 661.369.6722

www.chalontribe.com

Election and General Meeting

The Chalon Indian Council of Bakersfield held its annual Elections and General Meeting on Sunday April 23, 2023 at Jastro Park in Bakersfield, CA. We had a good turn out of tribal members, family, and friends. **Lawrence Salcido Jr.** and **Antoinette Sosa** did an exceptional job conducting the elections process. Congratulation and thanks for your service for two year terms— **Natalie Garcia**, Vice Chair, **Julian Behill** Sargent at Arms, and **Esther Hernandez** Member at Large. We appreciate your willingness to serve the Council and our tribe.

Special thanks to **Bridget Escalera**, **Vivian Canez**, and **Victoria Morin**, who shared their secrets to making fry bread and inviting all to “roll their own” frybread. **Tom Garcia**, **Nicole Alvarado**, **Angie Foust**, and **Frank Dorado** for helping. **Yvonne (Frenchie) Turner** and **Elaine Appodaca** had lots of wonderful items for the raffle. Special thanks to **ALL** who help make this event a success.



Chalon Hunting & Fishing Practices

Chalon hunting and fishing practices traditionally are carried out by young and adult male members of the family and/or village. The particular hunting or fishing method used often depends on the kind of animal sought and sometimes location determines the approach needed. For example, a double prong spear with one barb each works well when fishing along a river. A net is used to aid in the catch. Night fishing is enhanced by building a fire on the river bank, which tends to attract fish making the catch somewhat easier. Fishing in a creek can be done in the same manner, but another technique is to dam off a portion of the creek and then, to toss crushed Amole in the water, or "Soap Root" (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*) as it is commonly called, which paralyzes the fish whereafter they float to the top of the water where they can be netted easily or caught by hand.

Hunting practices also vary by the animal sought of which there are many. Most prized and most often hunted is the Coastal Black-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus columbianus*). Other animals include the black bear, puma, wildcat, dog, skunk, raccoon, mole, mice, rat, tree squirrel, snake, and tortoise. Birds hunted include hawks, doves, quail, and mud hen. Specific animals never eaten are eagles, raven, owls, buzzards, condors, and frogs.

Prior to a hunt, the men usually sweat in the communal sweat lodge. They refrain from sex prior to hunting or fishing. Deer hunting is usually conducted in groups with the hunters clad in deer skin and antler head disguises to aid in sneaking up close enough to shoot the deer with bows and stone-tipped arrows. Hunting other large game like bears, puma, and wildcat is also a group activity where the men use both bows and arrows and spears. If a bear cub is orphaned when its mother is killed, the cub may be held captive and raised penned up for a period to be killed at a later date. {continued}

Most small game can be shot with a bow and arrow, but several other methods are often used. A deadfall trap of a heavy rock or log can be used to fall on the prey. Twig cage traps, one end propped up, are also used to capture quail or similar small game. A bolas weapon made of string with a bone attached at both ends is thrown at birds to entangle and trap them. Rats nests can be burned to kill them or flush them out. Similarly, smoke can be fanned into ground squirrel holes with a feather fan or brush to kill or smoke them out. When they come out of the ground they can be clubbed or shot with a bow and arrow.

Communal drives using fire is another method that is often used in hunting rabbits, the foremost of small game hunted. A group of men will either encircle an area setting it on fire and forcing the rabbits into a closing circle and clubbing the rabbits or shooting them with arrows as they attempt to flee. A partial circle of fire can also be used to force the rabbits toward a wall or netted area where the trapped animals are dispatched with club or shot with arrows. Sometimes dogs are also used to assist in pinning down or driving prey into a trap. These are just some of the many commonly used Chalon hunting and fishing methods.





2023 KERN COUNTY COOLING CENTER LOCATIONS



Effective June 1, 2023 through September 22, 2023, Cooling Centers will be open to the public throughout Kern County when the temperatures are forecasted by the National Weather Service (NWS) to exceed certain highs. Centers will be open from 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Watch and listen for Announcements on your TV, Radio, and the Kern County Website (www.kerncounty.com). **ADDITIONALLY, ALL KERN COUNTY LIBRARIES will be open during their normal library hours.**

SAN JOAQUIN/KERN RIVER VALLEY AREA

(When temperatures forecast by the NWS to be 105 degrees or higher)

Arvin Community Center
800 Walnut Drive
Arvin (661) 854-3134

East Bakersfield Veterans Building
2101 Ridge Road
Bakersfield (661) 324-9392

The Mission at Kern County
816 E. 21st Street
Bakersfield (661) 325-0863

Kern River Valley Senior/Veterans Building
6405 Lake Isabella Blvd.
Lake Isabella (760) 379-8435

Gusher Hall
271 California Street
Maricopa (661) 769-9898

Walker Senior Center
505 Sunset Avenue
Shafter (661) 746-3303

Taft Community Center Activity Building
500 Cascade Place
Taft (661) 765-6677

MOUNTAIN AREA

(When temperatures forecast by the NWS to be 93 degrees or higher)

Frazier Park Recreation Building
3801 Park Drive
Frazier Park (661) 245-1649

DESERT AREA

(When temperatures forecast by the NWS to be 108 degrees or higher)

Strata Center
10350 Heather Avenue
California City (760) 373-3530

Hummel Community Building
2500 20th Street
Rosamond (661) 256-0557

IF YOU NEED TRANSPORTATION TO A COOLING CENTER, CALL 2-1-1

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

KERN COUNTY GENERAL SERVICES AT 661-868-7000 –OR–
KERN COUNTY AGING & ADULT SERVICES AT 800-510-2020

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