



P.O. Box 902  
 Bakersfield, CA 93302  
[www.chalontribe.com](http://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.*

**Sept  
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
Julian Behill	Sargent-at-Arms
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](mailto:chaloncouncil@gmail.com) to access our meeting.

- ◆ Sept 12                      Chalon Council Meeting via Zoom
- ◆ Sept 23                      Equinox Ceremony at Pinnacles National Park
- ◆ Oct 10                        Chalon Council Meeting via Zoom
- ◆ Nov 14                        Chalon Council Meeting via Zoom
- ◆ Dec 12                        Chalon Council Meeting via Zoom
- ◆ Dec TBD                      Annual Holiday Event

**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. Fall is in the air as this summer comes to an end we plan our end of the year events.

The Council hopes you will attend the equinox ceremony scheduled for Saturday, 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*. We hope you will join us for this special and appropriate recognition. I looked for something special to mark this occasion and came across the poem below. I think it quite accurately describes the special significance of our ancestor's land to our people and the fact that we are "connected like the blood which unites one family". The Chalon family.

Audrey R. Alvarado, Ph. D.  
Chairwoman



You must teach your children that the ground beneath their feet is the ashes of our grandfathers. So that they will respect the land, tell your children that the earth is rich with the lives of our kin. Teach your children what we have taught our children, that the earth is our mother. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. If men spit upon the ground they spit upon themselves.

This we know. The earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the earth. This we know. All things are connected like the blood which unites one family. All things are connected. —Chief Seattle



## 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 #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](mailto:chaloncouncil@gmail.com) or call/text Audrey Alvarado at 202-669-2567 by **September 14, 2023**. Hope to see you there!



# Chalon Elders Gathering August 5, 2023



On August 5th our Tribe held a Elders Gathering in Bakersfield, California at Hodels restaurant. Tribal Council had agreed to sponsor this event for our Elders. We wanted to bring the Elders together to break bread once again and allow for our Elders to share about the past and present. We had over 25 people show up to our gathering most of which were Elders. This was the first time we gathered like this in a while.

As we advertised for the gathering we also asked for people to come and bring some pictures or items to share with others. This project was a huge success. Not only did we have photos from long ago but we also had documents from the early 1900's and items from the 50's.

At the gathering Ernie and Vickie Morin honored some members of the Tribe with handcrafted Prayer sticks. The Prayer sticks had some traditional materials/medicine added to them. It was such a surprise and honor.

During our gathering we also shared on some upcoming events and received feedback of the gathering. Everyone really enjoyed the gathering and said that they hope we can continue to do things like this.

Here are some pictures from the Gathering and some of the items shared.





NOTE TO PARENTS OR GUARDIAN

Please examine, sign and return this card to the teacher. You are not really permitted to make forward credit to the school until you get the teacher's approval regarding your child's school work.

Please urge your child to give more attention to the studies in which he is backward. Read written notices to the teacher for help, criticism or assistance. Please remember that the teacher is not a disciplinarian. Her job is to instruct, guide and help the children do their best. We ask you to do all you can to send your child very best school to his studies.

D. W. NELSON, Superintendent.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN

First month .....

Second month *Nov. 4, 1917* .....

Third month .....

Fourth month .....

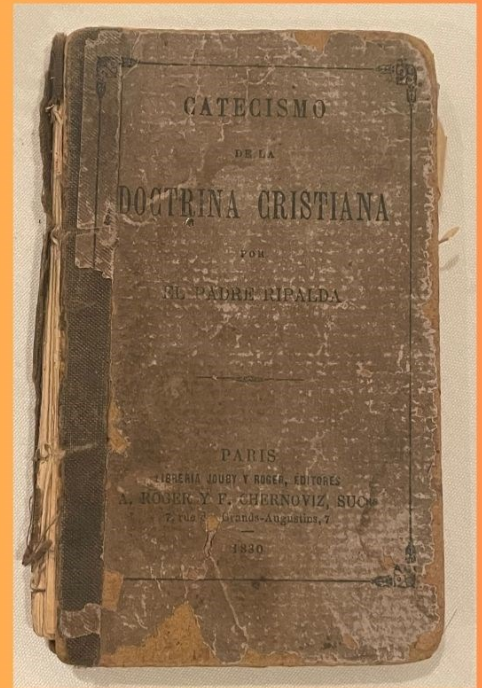
PROMOTION CARD

This certifies that *Polly Rejic* has completed the required work in the *4th* year, and is hereby promoted to *5th* the *4th* year.

*Hoke Lockidge* Teacher,  
*May 25, 1917*

D. W. NELSON, Superintendent.

Pupils must present this card at the beginning of next term



## Items Shared at Gathering



## Seeking Volunteers for Fry Bread Event

The Chalon Indian Council of Bakersfield will once again cook frybread for the Bakersfield American Indian Health Project's (BAIHP) upcoming GONA event. It will be held on Saturday **October 7, 2023** at the headquarters of BAIHP at 501 40th Street Bakersfield.

We need volunteers to help set up, cook, assemble, distribute, and clean up. Whatever time you have available for this all day event is welcomed! Please contact Natalie Garcia at 661-345-5267 or Sonya Dorado at 661-319-5395 to sign up. **WE NEED YOU!**



## **Scholarship Fund—APPLY NOW**

### **SPREAD THE WORD**

The Chalon Elders and Council have established a scholarship fund with the objective of helping members of the Chalon tribe and the San Joaquin Valley's indigenous youth achieve their academic goals through higher education.

Funds remain available this **YEAR** for qualified students. Please visit our website at **chalontribe.com** for information and forms to apply. Deadline to apply is **NOVEMBER 3, 2023**.

### **Did You Know?**

“Native American students are a demographic group that has consistently been underrepresented in institutions of higher education in the US. Despite tremendous growth in the enrollment of these students in recent years, they are still underrepresented compared to other subgroups. While other minority students encompass about 29% of all US postsecondary students, Native American students account for about **1%**. Postsecondary education can help Native Americans overcome many employment barriers”. (Higher Education Issue Brief, Spring 2022)

The Elders and Council have long recognized the need to encourage and support our young leaders in their educational endeavors. We remain committed to this goal.



# **National Native American Heritage Month**

**November 1, 2023**

National Native American Heritage Month is celebrated on November 1 every year. November is dedicated to honoring and recognizing the culture, traditions, and history of Indigenous Peoples in North America. It is an opportunity to reflect upon the struggles that we Native Americans have faced throughout history, as well as our contributions and resilience. From our language preservation to cultural practices, there are many ways to learn more about and celebrate our indigenous culture

Celebrate your culture:

- ⇒ Visit the [chalontribe.com](http://chalontribe.com) website to learn about your tribe's activities.
- ⇒ Visit the gravesites of departed Chalon members, clean their headstones and take offerings.
- ⇒ Plan a visit to Pinnacles National Park the land of the Chalon People.
- ⇒ Call and/or visit Chalon elders and listen to their stories about family practices/gatherings.
- ⇒ Read articles/stories about our people which were part of the great Ohlone peoples in Central California.
- ⇒ Volunteer to participate in upcoming Chalon events/activities.
- ⇒ Get you Chalon enrollment card and officially enroll as a citizen.

# Chalon Indian Nation Tribal Enrollment Form and Tribal Enrollment Cards

Get Yours Today

## TRIBAL ENROLLMENT CARDS



Most \$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](http://www.chalontribe.com)

## Chalon Village Life

### Villages

In the time before the Spanish invasion in what is now called California, the Chalon people lived in small villages amid the Central Coastal valleys and mountain ranges. The Chalon homelands encompassed the lands east of the Salinas River, across the Gabilan mountains eastward close to present-day I-5 interstate highway. The northernmost area is approximately midway between the towns of Chular and Gonzales, and the southern territory is situated near to Kings City. However, boundaries were somewhat flexible and everchanging. The village boundaries were usually recognized by natural landmarks.

In the late 1700s, there were an estimated 900 Chalon speakers living in small villages throughout our traditional homelands. On average, most Chalon villages were comprised of between 60 and 90 people who lived in dome shaped dwellings that housed between 4 and 24 nuclear or extended family members. Chalon villages are always situated close to water, a creek or a river which could be found 3-5 miles apart and sometimes further. Very few large villages, between 100-300 people, existed across the coastal regions, but small villages of approximately 40 individuals were more common.

Chalon lived in temporary thatched houses that were dome or cone shaped. They were constructed using tule reeds, willow and sometimes slabs of redwood bark. Each house had a fire pit in its center. The door or entrance was rectangular in shape and was covered with thatch of tule or grass and was on level ground facing water with no smoke hole. There was no stone platform outside the door. Unlike other tribes, the Chalon did not follow a prescribed method of setting up our dwellings, such as doors facing a certain direction.

Beds were made of crotched willow posts and cross poles, possibly dating from mission times. Skins, possibly bearskins, were used for bedding. Earth oven was inside the house and was separated from a fire for woman and baby after childbirth. Various soft plants were used for (toilet) wiping.

In addition to the family dwellings, at the center of each village would be situated a much larger structure for public gatherings and events. Other structures included shade canopies under which usually women and children processed foods and completed other tasks. (continued)

Shade canopies were made with four posts that supported a flat matted shade roof. Every village always had one or more sweat lodge structures consisting of an excavated pit with a slightly arched roof made up of logs and branches, a variety of filler materials to seal the top. The sweat lodge entrance way was closed off with either a matted cover or animal hides. Many of the family dwellings have a smaller structure nearby where women remain secluded during their menstrual period and for a short time after giving birth. If a separate structure did not exist, women during such times secluded themselves in a corner space of the dwelling.

Essential structures for storing nuts and acorns as well for drying foods or hides were also commonplace. A storage cache for acorns and nuts was a tall circular structure constructed with reeds tied around support posts and a conical roof and an elevated base or floor level at least two foot high or more to prevent access to small animals. A storage cache somewhat resembled a skinny residence dwelling or sometimes like a giant mushroom. Certain foods and animal hides were hung on an upright wall structure made up of two support posts set in the ground and connected on top by a linking crossmember. A network of small branches were attached to the frame to which the foods or hides were hung or attached.

## **Community Life**

The communal work of the villages contributed to our livelihood and safety. When our ancestors left for the mission much of this stability was destroyed, forcing many of them to seek the "protection" promised but not delivered by the missions and its soldiers. Chalon villages moved twice a year creating summer and winter villages. In addition, temporary sites were created where small groups stayed during the period of collection and processing of acorns or other foods. For example, hunting parties sometimes worked out of temporary camps away from our home village when game herds were at a fair distance away. (continued)

[Photos below from: A Gathering of Voices: The Native Peoples of Central California Coast and Giacomo, R.D., Ohlone Teacher's Resource, Magnifico Press, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, 2022]

