



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

**Mar
2024**

Chalon Indian Nation Tribal Council

2024 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.

Spring Equinox Ceremony in Bakersfield at Pyle Boys Camp near Lake Ming Park on Saturday March 23rd from 10:00am– 8:00pm.

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 meetings.

- ◆ March 9 Women's Sweat Lodge Ceremony
- ◆ March 12 Chalon Council via Zoom
- ◆ March 23 Equinox Ceremony in Bakersfield
- ◆ April 9 Chalon Council via Zoom
- ◆ April 21 Election/General Meeting in Bakersfield
- ◆ May 14 Chalon Council via Zoom

CHAIRWOMAN'S CORNER

Blessings to all -

Your Council recently met to discuss our 2023 accomplishments and future plans. It was a moment that allowed us to step back and say not bad. We reinvigorated our tribal connections through events and gatherings; we sought and secured funds to support our work; and we learned more about our tribal traditions, history and customs. We updated our 5-year strategic plan with ambitious goals such as securing our own private land near Pinnacles, our homeland. As a Council we recommitted to our mission, core principles, and focus on the key priorities that will strengthen our tribal knowledge, programs, and pride. I would like to express my deepest appreciation to your Council Members—***Bridget Escalera, Natalie Garcia, Sonya Dorado, Esther Hernandez, Julian Behill and Larry Lopez*** for their unwavering commitment to YOU. I also encourage and seek ***YOUR*** input, guidance, and involvement.

Audrey R. Alvarado, Ph. D.
Chairwoman
chaloncouncil@gmail.com



Mohawk Prayer

Oh Great Spirit, Creator of all things;

Human beings, trees, grass, berries.

Help us, be kind to us. Let us be happy on earth.

Let us lead our children to a good life and old age.

These our people;

Give them good minds to love one another.

Oh Great Sprit, be kind to us.

Give these people the favor to see green trees

Green grass, flowers, and berries this next spring;

So we all meet again.

Oh Great Sprit,

We ask of you.

Winter Solstice 2023

THANK YOU

The Chalon tribe would like to thank all that participated in the Winter Gathering. The Chalon Board—*Audrey, Natalie, Bridget, Sonya, Esther, Julian, Larry* and *their families* did a great job of putting the Winter Gathering together. We had a **FULL** house. There is a lot of work involved and it takes a great team to be successful. We appreciate them and all before them.

We had a visit from the Grinch (thank you *Adam*). Thank you *Lawrence Salcido Sr.*, for preparing the shredded meat and the “kitchen and decorating teams”. Thank you to the *Elder's Council* for their donation of goody bags for the children.

Thank you, *Yvonne*, for putting those together, your donations and all the donations you collect always make the raffle a success. Thank you to everyone that contributed to the raffles.

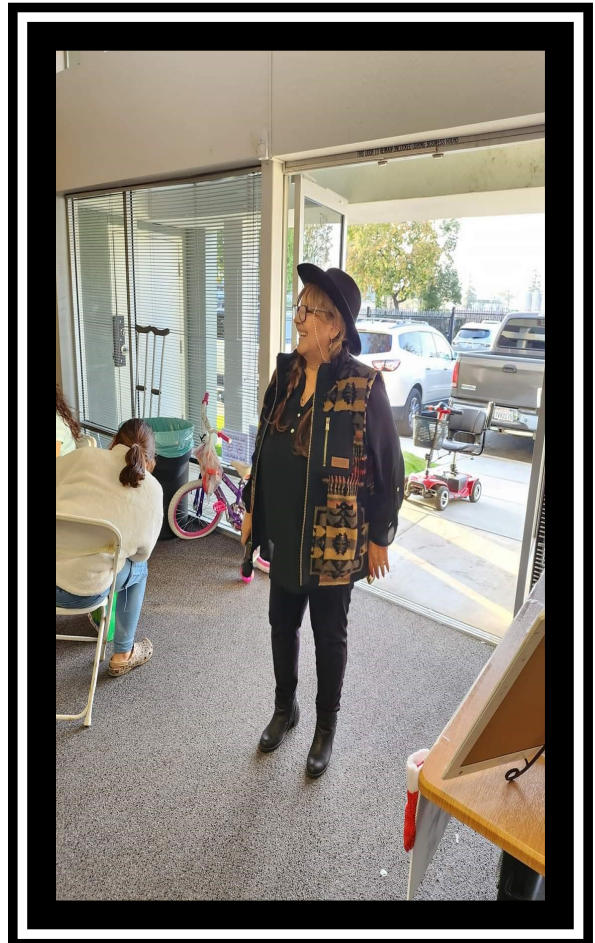
Thank you to *Owens Valley Career Development Center Bakersfield* for allowing us to use your space.

The Council plans to have regular gatherings throughout the year as well as the 2024 Spring and Fall Equinox and Winter Solstice events. **Keep informed by visiting our website, www.chalontribe.com or joining our Facebook page or Instagram @Chalon_Tribe.**

Winter Solstice 2023



Thank You All for Your Participation!





MARCH 2024 Equinox

The 2024 Spring Equinox ceremony will be held in the Bakersfield area. The Council hopes this will accommodate tribal members who would like to participate in this sacred ceremony, especially our elders.

The equinox ceremony will be held on **SATURDAY MARCH 23, 2024** at the Pyles Boys Camp Group Picnic area near Lake Ming.

Location: Pyles Boys Camp—Group Picnic
13375 Lake Ming Road

Date: Saturday, March 23, 2024

Time: 10:00am—8:00pm

The Council will provide main dish and non-alcoholic drinks. Attendees are invited to bring side/dessert/snacks. Please no drugs or alcohol allowed.

We ***need volunteers throughout the day*** to help with set up, building sweat lodge and circle, craft activities, conducting ceremony, and clean up. We encourage you to dress in regalia.

To volunteer and get more information contact the Council at chaloncouncil@gmail.com

Activities are planned throughout the day for ***all ages***. See next page for time of events.



Equinox Ceremony (continued)

You are invited to come for the full or part of the day's activities. Flow of events:

- 8:00 am-10:00am Set up sweat lodge and circle. Come learn how to construct a sweat lodge. **We need volunteers to help.**
- 10:30am-12:00 pm Women only sweat lodge (view protocol next page)
- 11:00am-12:30pm Crafts, song, and dance
- 1:00—3:00 pm Equinox ceremony with special invited guests **amah ka tura dance group**. To enter the circle women must wear skirts and not be on their moon (menstruation). Fasting is suggested but not required.
- 3:00 pm—4: 30 pm Community meal
- 4:30pm-5:30pm Elder's RoundTable Discussion
- 5:30 pm—7:30 pm Community (men and women) sweat lodge (view protocol next page)
- 8:00pm-9:00pm Clean up

Come join us to dance, sing, create craft work, and connect with fellow tribal members and friends. Coffee/drinks and snacks available throughout the day.

We hope to see you on March 23rd.

If you are interested in helping in this event please contact the council at

chaloncouncil@gmail.com.

Protocol for Participating in a Chalon Sweat Lodge

For indigenous people, such as Chalon, a sweat lodge has spiritual, cultural, and practical purposes. It is often used for purification, prayer, and healing and is a sacred space where we can connect with the spiritual world. Tribal member Jesse Behill has constructed a sweat lodge in Bakersfield for Chalon and others' use. We are blessed to have him and his wife Josephine share their knowledge and teachings. You have three opportunities in March to participate in a sweat lodge. The Chalon Council hopes to have regular sweat opportunities throughout the year.

March 9 at 10:00am. Women-Only. Location will be shared to those who reserve a spot. Contact Bridget Escalera at 661-333-8903 or Josephine Behill at 559-878-0055 for more information and to RSVP.

March 23 at 10:30 am (women only) and **5:30 pm** (both men and women) during our Equinox ceremony at Pyles Boys Camp Group Picnic area near Lake Ming.

Overview

We will be entering the lodge much like entering a church. Low voices, modest attire, and stoic presence are required. The sweat leader (water pourer) will gently guide you through the process. S/he will instruct you on how to enter and/or exit the lodge, how to ask for permission to enter and/or exit, lead you in song/prayer, pour water over the hot boulders, and answer questions and ease concerns you may have. For women we are givers of life and have strong energy and connection to Mother Earth as such we wear long skirts to capture the energy arising from Mother Earth.

The lodge is a willow structure covered with a heavy tarp. There is an opening to enter and exit. In the center of the lodge are hot boulders and water will be poured onto the boulders causing steam and heat in the lodge. It will be dark and very warm but not steaming hot. You may ask permission to leave the lodge at ANY time you feel you must leave. The following are guidelines for both men and women—

Prepare up to three days by reflecting and prayer. We seek to keep our "medicine" to ourselves and not open ourselves to receiving bad "medicine" or energy from others. We ask for calming medicine to be open to the experience of the healing nature of the sweat. We should agree with our spouse, partner and/or family that we are preparing for this spiritually oriented experience, and they support our participation (continued next page).

(Sweat Lodge Protocol Continued)

- >No makeup, wear your hair down.
- >Cotton clothing that can absorb moisture; sports bra without metal; no jewelry or if you cannot take off a ring turn the gem to the inside of your hand, men wear loose fitting and moisture absorbing clothing.
- >Women cannot be on your their period as that is the time you have your strongest medicine.
- >No alcohol, tobacco, and drugs.
- >Barefoot in the lodge.
- >Wear modest clothing (covering cleavage and shoulders) with a skirt (preferably a long skirt that reaches the ground) as a skirt captures the medicine/energy from Mother Earth.
- >Do bring a change of clothes, a small gift to the water pourer (leader), and a food item to share. You will be provided with tobacco as an offering to the fire.
- >Fast before the sweat although some may eat if required for medical and health reasons.
- >Bring a couple of towels to cover yourself in the lodge (if you sit Indian style) and to dry off.

- >A community meal usually follows the sweat.

When you pray in the lodge you ask the Great Spirt and Grandfather/Grandmother to take away bad energy, feelings and give you good medicine. When you ask the spirits to take something away ALWAYS ask them to give you something good in return. For example, “Grandmother please take away these feelings of angry that limit my growth and replace that feeling with contentment and joy.”

There are usually four “rounds” during the sweat. A round may include prayer and/or song. First round is for ancestors; second round is calling in those that can heal you; third round is healing round for women and children; and fourth round is the cleanup round any last-minute requests to go in peace and receive protection medicine and to say good bye and express gratitude to the spirits. After each round the tarp is open to let in air and light. There is no set time limit for a sweat but you can expect about 1 hour.

EXAMPLE OF A SWEAT LODGE



Women's Sweat

**SATURDAY
MARCH 9, 2024
10:00AM**

Chalon Indian Nation
"Maksene Wayas Oniyet"



**RSVP FOR ADDRESS WITH
BRIDGET @ 661.333.8903
OR
JOSIE @ 559.878.0055**

**POTLUCK - CEREMONY
SOUP PROVIDED**

**BRING YOUR CHAIR, TOWELS,
CHANGE OF CLOTHES AND
LONG SKIRTS MUST BE WORN
IN THE LODGE**



UPDATE: Tribal Elections and Voting for New Logo

**SUNDAY April 21, 2024 11:00am-3:00pm at Pizzaville, 700 Oak Street,
Bakersfield**

Chalon Indian Council of Bakersfield

TRIBAL ELECTIONS

SUNDAY
APRIL 21, 2024



LOCATION/TIME:
TBA



POSITIONS AVAILABLE ARE:

CHAIRPERSON SECRETARY TREASURER

**Nominations are accepted from
February 21st - April 6, 2024**

**For more information contact Elections Committee Chair,
Lawrence Salcido Jr. at lawsalcido@gmail.com**

www.chalontribe.com

New Chalon Indian Nation Logo

During the last quarter of 2023 the Chalon Indian Council of Bakersfield had a subcommittee; consisting of **Bridget Escalera**, **Esther Hernandez**, and Larry **Lopez** with assistance from **David Silva**, worked on updating our current logo. There are three options (see photos below). All tribal members are invited to help us decide which one they prefer. A vote will be taken at the Elections and General Meeting scheduled for **Sunday April 21, 2024 at 11:00am-3:00pm at Pizzaville on 700 Oak Street**, Bakersfield. Drop by for a piece of pizza and to vote!



Three options for new logo



The Chalon Indian Council of Bakersfield and Elder's Council have set up a scholarship fund with a goal of helping members of the Chalon Tribe and San Joaquin Valley's indigenous youth achieve their academic goals through higher education or post high school training. Deadline for 2024 applications is May 31, 2024. Go to our website for information on how to apply and submit your application.

<https://chalontribe.com/>



Bakersfield College new Program Manager for the Native American Student Support & Success Program (NASSSP)

"I am truly honored to be part of an incredible team and to have the opportunity to support and empower all Native American students on their academic journey. I can't wait to make a positive impact and contribute to the success of the Indigenous Community and Indian Country.

Bakersfield College will be a safe destination for Native American students as I develop this program to support the academic success at the higher education level.

NASSSP Grant Goals:

1. Recruitment K-12 and Pathways
2. Academic Success
3. Develop Native American Leaders
4. Increase Tribal Mentors for Future Generations

I would need the help and resources that every tribe offers for your community. If you have tribal students, descendants, and family members looking for higher education including vocational - consider Bakersfield College".

Johnny Nieto (Tule River Yokuts Tribe)

Email: johnny.nieto@bakersfieldcollege.edu



Chalon Society: Beliefs and Ritual

Charles Ettner, Ph.D.

Tribal Advisor

The Chalon have always been a spiritual people. Most significant is the ancestral Spirit Trinity of Eagle, Hummingbird, and Coyote who dwelled in the regions of two mountain peaks, Pico Blanco and Gavilan Peak after all things emerged from the universal water at the time of creation. Hummingbird is the brother of Coyote who in turn is the brother of Eagle, the foremost Spirit being of the three.

Today, much of the spirit beginnings have been forgotten, confused, or replaced. For instance, some think of Coyote as only a 'trickster', but others know him also as the giver of culture to people, a very important Spirit being. Spirits, also called souls, live in all things amid the traditional belief system of the Chalon, a system much of which still exists among the people today. This system of belief is known as 'animism' (not animism) and is common among indigenous people worldwide. Other belief systems were introduced during the Spanish mission period, and it is rather common to find indigenous people whose beliefs and practices combine a bit of both. A common instance is when people speak of communications in their dreams with a grandparent or a parent who has crossed over to the ancestors, this too is a well-known part of Chalon culture, one also known as 'ancestor worship'.

In traditional Chalon society, by the time one reach adulthood they had already learned how to perform the traditional ceremonies and offerings, how to use herbs and treatments, social morals and more, thus there was no cultural need for a priest to teach spirituality, proper conduct, or sacred ceremonies. The society had one head person to lead in certain public affairs and only one specialist, the shaman, one who was only called upon to confront extraordinary circumstances that common prayers, offerings, or ceremonies could not resolve. The shaman was only called upon in situations that required a special ability to communicate with or to go to the spirit world.

A Shaman's life was burdensome and could be dangerous. He or she had to undergo a long apprenticeship with an elder shaman learning about practices, special herbs, treatments and remedies. Often shamans lived apart from the community and had to follow various dietary and or other restrictions. Shamans learned to talk, interact, and visit with spirits in the spirit world and he or she obtained performative powers from those spirits. Chalon shamans were herbalists and healers who could foretell the future, find lost things, and remove contamination and poisonous objects from patients. Sometimes bloodletting was used. Other shaman types include weather shamans who could make rain come or go, but they had no curing powers. There were also special Grizzly bear shamans could transform themselves into bears and back to humans, but they too could not perform healing.

Healing shamans had to be available at all times for especially serious and or suspicious matters. As to common ailments, most adults and village herbalists knew well how to care for everyday bumps and bruises, minor illnesses, setting a broken bone, and could conduct ritual offerings and ceremonies. Shamans were always paid for their services even if the treatment was unsuccessful. However, if a shaman were to fail repeatedly, and especially if several patients died in spite of his or her treatments, then that shaman might be shot with arrows and killed! That was a particular danger connected to being a shaman.

One point particularly important for us to bear in mind is that no matter how odd or suspicious traditional Chalon spiritual and healing practices might seem to us today, those practices satisfied the societal needs of the ancestral Chalon people enabling them to function well and to maintain a strong orderly society across many centuries long before Europeans set a foot on these homelands.



Call for Volunteers at Pinnacles National Park

Timothy Babalis, Historian and Cultural Resources Program Manager at Pinnacles National Park issued a call for volunteers to help build a fence at the one-room Bear Valley Schoolhouse (built in 1903) on the Park property. The date is Saturday May 4, 2024. If you happen to be in the area at that time join in.

For more information contact Timothy at timothy_babalis@nps.gov or 971-219-2832.

