



CHALON INDIAN NATION NEWSLETTER

PO. Box 902
Bakersfield, CA 93302

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.

**Dec
2024**

Chalon Indian Nation Tribal Council

2024 Board of Directors

Audrey R. 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

Victoria Morin	Chairwoman
Nora Alonso	Vice Chairwoman
Olivia Freeman	Secretary
Yvonne Estrada	Purser
Richard Suniga	Sergeant at Arm
Larry Lopez	Elders Rep.

Spring 2025 Equinox Ceremony in Bakersfield at Lake Ming Campground on Saturday March 22, 2025.

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 promote healthcare services to Native Americans.

Upcoming Events 2024-2025

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.

- ♦ Dec 8 Holiday Gathering 12-4 American Legion Hall
- ♦ Dec 10 Chalon Council via Zoom
- ♦ Jan 14 Chalon Council via Zoom
- ♦ Feb 11 Chalon Council via Zoom
- ♦ March 11 Chalon Council via Zoom
- ♦ March 22 Equinox Ceremony Bakersfield Ming Park
- ♦ April 8 Chalon Council via Zoom
- ♦ April TBD Elections/General Meeting

CHAIRWOMAN'S CORNER

Blessings to All

As we approach the end of the year, I reflect on the accomplishments of our Council and tribe in 2024. We have had numerous opportunities to gather, celebrate the traditional practices of our ancestors, learn new skills, and connect with each other as fellow tribal members—Cousins, as we call ourselves.

Being connected allows us to express our humanity and concern for each other, as well as for others in our lives. Let us pray to our ancestors and the Great Spirit to continue bestowing blessings and good health upon us and the world.

We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events. Please let us know how we can better serve you and the tribe.

Audrey R. Alvarado, Ph.D.

Chairwoman

chaloncouncil@gmail.com





CHALON INDIAN COUNCIL
OF BAKERSFIELD

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL

Winter Gathering



SUNDAY DECEMBER 8, 2024

12:00PM - 4:00PM

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 26
2020 H ST BAKERSFIELD 93301**

**BRING A SIDE DISH OR DESSERT TO SHARE. MAIN
DISH PROVIDED BY COUNCIL**

RAFFLE HOSTED BY ELDERS COUNCIL

**PLEASE RSVP BY EMAILING COUNCIL AT
CHALONCOUNCIL@GMAIL.COM**



Equinox September 21-22, 2024

Highlights

Ceremony at Pinnacle National Park

On Saturday, September 21, 2024, a significant ceremony took place on the west side of Pinnacle National Park. Special thanks to **Sonya** and **Frank Dorado**, **Ari-
anne**, **Manny** and **Cameron Garcia**, and **Audrey Alvarado** for preparing the circle on Friday evening to ensure everything was ready for the next morning's start time. The ceremony was attended by 45 individuals, ranging from 6 to 93 years old. Four park rangers were present, many of whom had not experienced a ceremony before.

The ceremony was described as beautiful by Acting Superintendent **Julie Dru-
gatz**. She shared, "Then to find my voice to tell you the story of my walk with the condors through my life and finally their divine intervention to bring me to Pinnacles National Park in celebration and ceremony with Chalon. This is my special story, and I'm glad to know and understand why I was there that great day." Tribal members also expressed that this ceremony was particularly emotional and special for them. The presence of our departed elders, who had been deeply involved in preparing and leading our ceremonies, was felt throughout the day.

During the ceremony, we blessed and delivered handmade regalia to the rangers for the visitor center. The men's and youth regalia, adorned with condor feathers, were officially presented to the rangers in attendance. Last year, we had previously presented a woman's regalia.

On Sunday, September 22, we were invited to attend a mass at Our Lady of Solitude in Soledad, CA. The deacon and priest warmly welcomed all thirteen of us in attendance with a blessing from the congregation. This gesture of "welcome back home" deeply touched many of our tribal members. The deacon arranged for a tour guide for our visit to Mission Soledad, the birthplace of our ancestor, Piu-Uina. Thirty people attended this tour, many visiting the mission for the first time. (Photos on next pages)







Elders Gathering October 5, 2024

On Saturday, October 5, 2024, the Chalon Indian Council of Bakersfield hosted a gathering for the Elder's at Hodel's Country Dining in Bakersfield. During the event, the Elder's conducted a business meeting and elected new officers. **Victoria Morin** was elected as Chair, **Nora Alonso** as Vice-Chair, and **Olivia Freeman** as Secretary. **Yvonne (Frenchie) Turner**, **Richard Suniga**, and **Larry Lopez** remain in their current positions.

The Elder's also reaffirmed that the minimum age to join the Elder's Council is 50 years of age. Additionally, **Gloria Medina** and **Irene Soto** were recognized for their outstanding service to the Chalon Nation. The Elders Council now meets the first Sunday of the month. Contact Victoria for more information.



Thank You for Your Service

Gloria Medina

We would like to acknowledge Gloria Medina for all of her years of service.

Gloria is a true leader and a matriarch for not only her family but to our Tribe. She is one of our longest serving board members for the Elders Council and has held the Elders Chair position for over a decade. With her guidance and wisdom she has helped lead our Elders, Council and Tribe to a brighter future.

Gloria is well known for her sense of humor, loving touch, cooking and for willingness to show us that age is just a number.

Again Thank You for Everything and We wish you nothing but the best!



Thank You for Your Service

Irene Soto

We would like to acknowledge Irene Soto for all of her years of service.

Irene is a living legend and icon. She is another matriarch and one of our longest serving board members for the Elders Council and has held the Elders Vice Chair position for over a decade.

Irene has shared her wisdom, guidance and has been a pillar to our Tribe with reminding us to always be true to ourselves and our people. She is always willing to share her thoughts and is not afraid to let you know when you need to get in line.

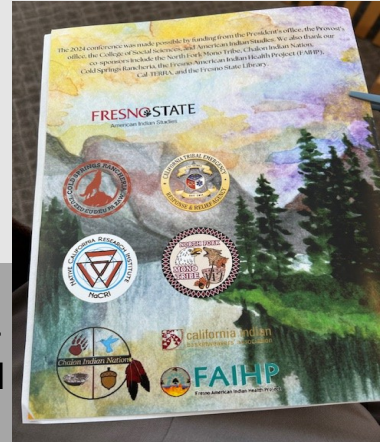
For that we are truly grateful and We wish you nothing but the best in life!



California Indian Conference

California State University, Fresno

October 18-19, 2024

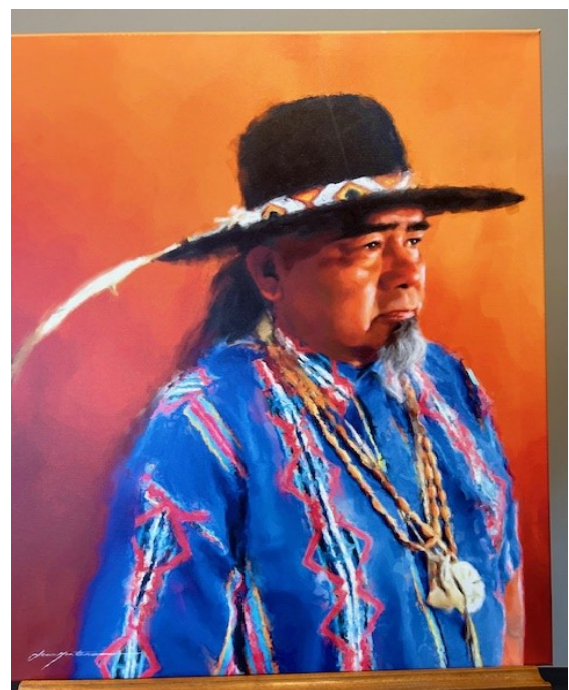
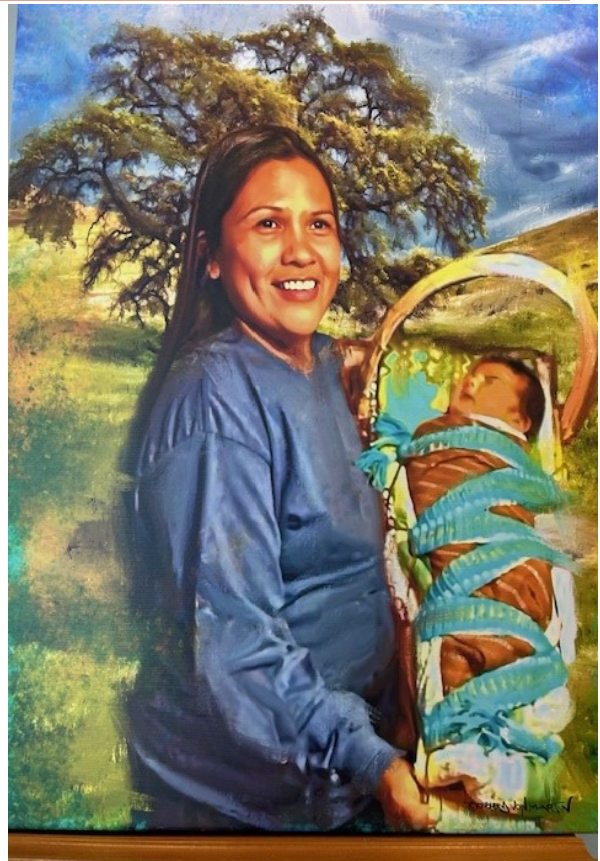


The Chalon Indian Council of Bakersfield proudly co-sponsored the California Indian Conference held at California State University, Fresno. Chalon Nation was well represented by **Audrey Alvarado, Julian Behill, Kalani Burrell, Bridget Escalera, Natalie Garcia, and Cameron Garcia**. The conference covered a wide range of topics of interest to the attendees.

Our tribal advisor, **Dr. Ken Hansen**, was an organizer of the event and presented an engaging discussion on preserving sacred sites in California. Another tribal advisor, **Dr. Charles Ettner**, shared information about his upcoming book on the California Native American tribes in the Pinnacles area. **Dr. Ettner** had met with the Council during their October meeting to share his writings and receive feedback.



**Portraits Displayed at the Gallery at the
California Indian Conference— California State University, Fresno**



BAIHP's 4th Annual Native American Heritage Month Luncheon

The Bakersfield American Indian Health Project (BAIHP) hosted its fourth annual Native American Heritage Month Luncheon, "Roc Your Mocs," on Saturday, November 2, 2024, at the Marriott Hotel in Bakersfield. The event opened with a special recognition of Council member **Bridget Escalera** for her exceptional service as a long-time board member of BAIHP. **Ms. Escalera** was honored with special gifts and delivered a heartfelt speech about her Chalon heritage and her time on the BAIHP board. Chalon members in attendance, including her mother, **Vivian Canez**, were beaming with pride for her recognition. Congratulations, **Bridget!**

The meeting featured a fashion show showcasing regalia created by participants in the BAIHP weekly regalia-making sessions, along with a demonstration from the weekly tai chi class. Attendees also enjoyed raffle prizes and vendor handouts.



**BAHIP 4th Annual Native American Heritage Month Luncheon
Regalia Fashion Show**



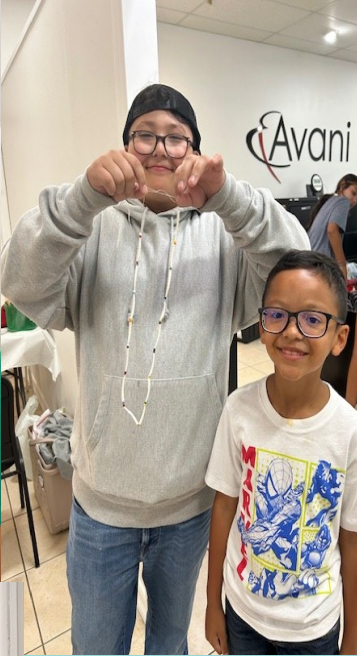


Special Cultural Event: Native American Dentalium Necklace Making Workshop

The Chalon Indian Council of Bakersfield sponsored a special event on October 22, 2024, at the Avani Staffing office. **Leann Miranda** shared her expertise and taught a group of 25 eager participants, of all ages, how to make Native American-style necklaces using dentalium shells. These shells, also known as tooth or tusk shells, are a type of seashell from scaphopod mollusks used in indigenous jewelry.

The workshop was a huge success, with all participants leaving with a beautiful necklace of their own. The hands-on experience provided a meaningful connection to our Native American craftsmanship and cultural heritage.







CULTURAL WORKSHOP THE STAVE GAME



On the 24th of November we were able to provide our citizens with a cultural workshop on the Stave game. This workshop was open to all ages. Staves is a traditional Ohlone game played for many reasons including to settle disagreements, gambling, & playing for fun! Our Sargent at Arms Julian Behill instructed the workshop. We had 25 citizens participate in the workshop. After creation of the sets we played a mini tournament. Special Thanks to Inyana Creations, as they donated sublimation cups, shirts and hats as well as a fishing pole, Flashlight tool kit and a few more items for prizes. We had participants from ages 3yrs to 83yrs old. Everyone was able to make a complete set and now carry the knowledge to share with their family and friends. We look forward to see what workshops are coming next!

March 22, 2025 Equinox

The 2025 Spring Equinox Ceremony will be held at Pyle Boys Camp near Lake Ming. The same location we held ceremony in March 2024.

Location: Pyle Boy's Camp, Lake Ming

Date: Saturday, March 22, 2025

Time: 10:00am—4:00pm (ceremony and potluck)

5:00—7:00 pm (TBD sweat lodge)

Attendees are invited to bring side/dessert/snacks for the potluck meal after the Equinox Ceremony on Saturday.

Please no drugs or alcohol allowed. See next page for volunteer information, Contact chaloncouncil@gmail.com for information.





Spring Equinox

The Chalon Indian Council of Bakersfield is seeking volunteers to assist with the setup and takedown of the Equinox event.

***Date:** Saturday, March 22, 2025**

Time:*

***Setup:** 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM**

***Takedown:** 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM**

***Location:** Pyles Boys Camp, Lake Ming Rd, Bakersfield, CA**

Duties:*

- Assist the Chalon Board and Elders with loading and unloading of their vehicles
- Prepare the ceremony circle
- Assist set up and take down of tables, chairs, and canopies
- Assist with cleanup

Please note that this is a private event for the Chalon Tribe.



Volunteer



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 2025 applications is June 30, 2025. Go to our website for information on how to apply and submit your application.

<https://chalontribe.com/>