



T'epot'aha'l

The People of the Salinan Tribe

Vol. 24 No 12

December, 2024

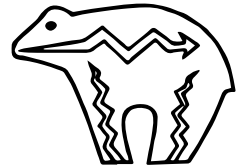
Winter Solstice



Winter Solstice December 21st 2024 will be a Pot Luck. Josh Cody will be the guide. If there are any questions and if you would like to be one of the climbers and/or would like to volunteer to help in anyway contact Bruce Flood.

Summer Solstice Gates open at 10 am to 8 pm
12 noon Ascenders Gather
Fire, Fun, Food, Potluck

Thank You
Tribal Chair Bruce Flood
805-903-3089



December 21, 2024 belongs to you. What ideas do you have to make a better Solstice? How can you help? You can help by volunteering to watch the gate between 10 am and 8 pm, one or two hour shifts. Send ideas to the tribal office or call and leave a message.

Help Protect our Ancestors

Saturday, January 4th 9:am to 1:pm. Indian Cemetery at Mission San Antonio work day includes; weed eating, general clean up and restoration on the adobe walls. We will be having the Blessing at 9:am. This is a call out to all tribes and native people. Contact Bruce Flood @ 805-903-3089 If you have any questions or comments contact the Tribal Office and leave a message. @ 805-464-2650



Salinan Hunting Party in Northern Ca

Matt Briggs and his daughter Quincy did some scouting for the hunt area earlier! This is the younger generation of our tribe. Cleaning a couple grouse for dinner.

Perfect, Hunt camp!



John with a nice buck!

Buck ribs on the grill, yum!



Mike gets a real good one!



With Ed Pierce, this is fun work!



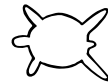
Matt's Diamond Mountain Buck!



Ameryn Briggs sent a trophy reward.



Submitted by: John Piatti Jr.



We have a new T-Shirt design and it will be available at the general meetings it will also be on the website soon for viewing.

SalinanTribe
OF MONTEREY & SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTIES

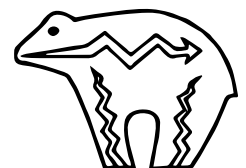
The following sizes are available,

Women's - Sm, to 3xl

sweatshirts size sm to 4xl

Men's - Sm, Med Lg, xLg, xxLg, xxxLg

We also have hooded sweatshirts



NEW ADDITIONS

In women's t-shirts we have size small to 3xl. And we have have sweatshirts sizes small to 4xl.

CULTURE TREE



Surface Culture

Observable Patterns, Low Emotional Impact on Trust

ShaDow Culture

Unspoken Rules, High Emotional Impact on Trust

Concepts of time, personal space”, eye contact, ways of handling emotion, nature of relationships, theories of wellness and disease child rearing principles, etc.



Deep Culture

Collective, Unconscious (Beliefs and Norms), Intense Emotional ‘Impact on Trust
Decision-making, concepts of self, worldview, definitions of kinship, notions of fairness, Preferences for competition or cooperation, spirituality, relationship to nature and animals, etc.

Our winter season is in progress already. Elders and adults will be rushed to finish out school, sports and commitments as many USA 'holidays' will fill December's calendar. It would be a wonderful time to include your cultural celebrations also. Children are 'our future cultural torch barriers'. Connections-in person-the best way to learn-share-teach and enrich your cultural practices. *Cousin, Bonnie Pierce*

1. **The Culture Tree** reprinted for educational purposes from Brightways Learning-"Kaleidoscope Connect". The top 'leaves of the tree'-represent hands of support. The concept is that all YOUTH, to feel successful, need at least 5 adult supporters-called Anchors. The catch? The youth will pick them. This poster, design came from input of thousands of Native youth, their Anchors/Leaders/Community Adults. If you wonder why you feel so strong, react negative or positively to another's opinions or choices, go down to the Trunk, then to the ROOT of the 'family tree'-this is where conflict are deeply felt."
2. **What is a Potlatch** (2 page) compiled by me. The holiday/gatherings are a wonderful time to remember why we gather. I hope you choose to share its meaning with our future.
3. **The last is a poem**, found years ago. I reread during USA celebrations I might, or not follow, or quiet times, as it reflects my Youth Advocacy passion, as a native mother, to help me stay positive. Our future will decide by the examples of people who support them best. The following is from The Prophet, a book of prose poetry fables written in English by the Lebanese-American poet and writer Kahlil Gibran, first published in 1923.

Your Children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of life's longing for itself.
They come through you but are not from you,
And though they are with you, yet they belong not to you.
You may give them your love, but not your thoughts,
For they have their own thoughts.
You may house their bodies but not their souls.
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.
You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you.
You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.
Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness.

Kahlil Gibran

WHAT IS a POTLATCH?

According to www.googlesearch.com

English Translation of Potlatch is To Give Away"

Today's potlatch involves feasting, singing, dancing, and speeches- but one of the most unique aspects of the ceremony is the distribution of gifts to all invited guests. Guests serve an important role in the potlatch.

What is the social purpose of the potlatch?

The purpose of these gatherings are to give thanks, share foods, establish and strengthen social ties, and to have fun.

Continued on next page:

What is the potlatch philosophy?

A potlatch involves giving away (or destroying) wealth or valuable items in order to demonstrate a leader's wealth and power. Potlatches are also focused on the reaffirmation of family, clan, international connections, and the human connection with the supernatural world. Potlatch gift-giving feasts were held by many tribes, although they were not as highly formalized, as among the Northwest Coastal tribes. In the late 1800s, the Canadian government felt First Nations' traditions were keeping Native people from becoming "civilized." The government saw Native culture as a threat and enacted a law to shut down the ceremonial potlatch. The anti-potlatch proclamation was issued in 1883; it became law January 1, 1885.

What is the Native American gifting tradition?

Native Americans are generous and thoughtful gift-givers. The richest people are those who are willing to give away everything they own. During potlatch ceremonies, the gift-giving may go on for several days. Gifts are usually homemade arts and crafts-made from the heart as a token of love, respect and appreciation.

Questions to Ponder ...

1. Imagine yourself wealthy in dollars today- would you feel okay giving away your money wealth to demonstrate your true wealth and power?
2. Your room is full of items you worked and paid for and take good care of-without hesitation, would you be willing to give one of those items away, because you know you are strong enough to make it, build or buy it again when you want? Try it sometime.
3. What do you believe is your true power within yourself? What does RICH mean to you?

Potluck is not the same as a Potlatch

POTLATCH: A gift-giving feast practiced by Indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest Coast of Canada and the United States. The word "potlatch" comes from a Nootka Indian word meaning "gift". The main purpose of a potlatch is to redistribute wealth and display generosity. Potlatches can include the distribution of real property, such as food, blankets, canoes, and carved items, and intangible property, such as names, crests, dances, songs, legends, and chants. Potlatches can also include ceremonies where possessions are given away or destroyed.

POTLUCK: A communal meal where guests bring their own food. The word "potluck" may have originated in 16th century England to describe unplanned meetings where people would eat whatever was available, possibly leftovers from a previous meal. Another possible origin is that the word came about to describe when an unexpected guest drops by and doesn't know what will be served. In the United States, a potluck is more likely to be a planned event where all guests are expected to contribute a dish.

USA History on Potlatch

The potlatch, a highly regulated ceremony that granted status and rank to individuals, clans, and kin groups, was banned in the United States from 1885 to 1951. The ban was part of the Indian Act, the USA created in 1876 to manage Indigenous communities and peoples. The ban was issued in 1883 after pressure from church and civil servants, and became law on January 1, 1885. The law made it a misdemeanor to participate in the potlatch, and those found guilty could face imprisonment for two to six months.

Continued on next page

The USA government and its supporters viewed the potlatch as wasteful, anti-Christian, and reckless, and they didn't understand its economic value and importance to the First Nation community. The ban had a lasting impact on Indigenous people, including fear, isolation, and the banning of other ceremonies like sweat lodges and sun dances. Some tribes practiced the potlatch underground, while others told Indian agents they were going hunting when they were actually practicing ceremonies in the bush. The Coast Salish people were even arrested as an example of those who broke the law. The ban was repealed in 1951.

Canada's POTLATCH Culture Clash

The Potlatch is a traditional ceremony credited first with Canada's First Nations of Indigenous Peoples of the Northwest Coast of British Columbia and the interior western subarctic.

From the perspective of early settler Euro-Canadian (Colonists) of North America several aspects of the Potlatch appeared puzzling. It was also perceived as a barrier to the Canadian government's attempts to assimilate Indigenous peoples. In particular, **redistribution of wealth conflicted with the capitalist value of accumulating wealth**. Potlatch ceremonies helped maintain independent Indigenous communities and political systems. At this time, the federal government and churches were attempting to convert Indigenous Peoples to Christianity (see also *Residential Schools in Canada*). These entities perceived ceremonial dancing and singing as in conflict with Christianity. The government saw Indigenous cultures, societies, politics and traditions as a threat to their authority. The ban was lifted in 1951. It took many more years for the First Nations to reintroduce the ceremonial practice, and for settlers to 'GET OVER IT'.

POTLATCH Values:

Honor; Respect; Gratitude; Responsibility; More than Self; Gifting; and ...

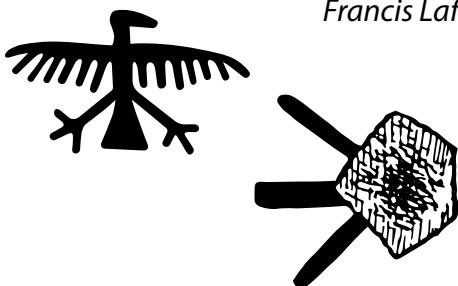
Reciprocity: *In cultural anthropology, reciprocity refers to the non-market exchange of goods or labor ranging from direct barter to forms of gift exchange where a return is eventually expected as in the exchange of birthday gifts. It is thus distinct from the true gift, where no return is expected.*

Research more? Go to <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/potlatch-ban>
(Email: skinnerstories@yahoo.com, Bonnie Pierce, August 2024)

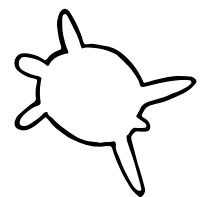
Quotes from Native Elders

All life is Wakan. So also is everything which exhibits power, whether in action, as the wind sand drifting clouds, or in passive endurance, as the boulder by the wayside. For even the commonest sticks and stones have a spiritual essence which must be reserved as a manifestation of the allpervading power that fills the universe.

Francis Laflesche,
Osage



Notice !!!



Remember the Newsletter will be ONLINE ONLY.

Due to the excessive cost of printing and mailing the newsletter, we are forced to provide it in a different format. There will be 50 printed newsletters in the Tribal Office for your convenience. In extreme cases we can text it to your phone, you would need to provide your phone number for that service.

Contact Kenneth Pierce at editor@salinantribe.com with your email address to receive a Newsletter online or pick one up at the Tribal Office.

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Tribal Business meeting 6:00pm	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice, See front page for info
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Tribal business meeting is on the 2nd Wednesday of each month						

THERE ARE NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ALLOWED AT ANY TRIBAL EVENT.

PLEASE USE INFO@SALINANTRIBE.COM TO EMAIL THE OFFICE

➡ TRIBAL COUNCIL ←

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T'epot'aha'l The People of the Salinan Tribe

REMEMBER TO PRAY TO kensha:nel (CREATOR) TO keeheak (PROTECT) ALL lu wa' (MEN) AND lets'e (WOMAN) WHO ARE SERVING OUR COUNTRY. AND BRING THEM Ta'ma (HOME) SAFE.

Vision of the Salinan Tribe

We, as the Salinan Tribe, follow the way of our ancestors as we walk the path of our heritage toward becoming complete individuals. We exercise our rights as a sovereign entity. We continue to reawaken our culture. Each and every tribal member has an equal voice.

We, as the Salinan Tribe, commit to honoring the rights of each and every tribal member to practice our spiritual, individual, or religious beliefs. We remember and honor our ancestors, elders, and children now and for all generations to come.

We as the Salinan Tribe, continue to gather as a tribal family.



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