

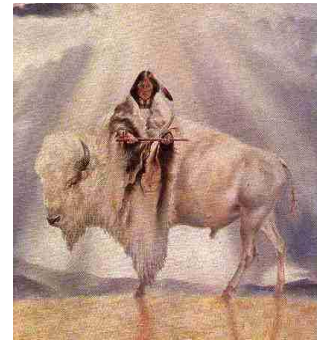
Aquidneck Island Intertribal Indian Council

(est. Oct. 14, 2007)

Newsletter

June 2019

We're still here



Council News

June is going to be a very busy month for us. See the Calendar of events on page 3.

At the writing of last month's newsletter, we hadn't yet conducted the Planting of the Corn ceremony. On April 27th the weather held out and we were able to conduct the ceremony. It was overcast, but we still had a good turnout. At the beginning a single hawk flew over, midway during the ceremonies, 2 hawks were circling the area. Our ladies conducted the Planting of the Corn, I was honored to bestow Creator's name "Bird Song" on Jo-ann. We were able to conduct the Pipe ceremony. Although we didn't drum, we still had time to offer the Tobacco ceremony. After which, we offered food to the ancestors and we sat down to the first cookout of the season. We thank our guests and our children for participating in the ceremony.

On Sun May 19th we were happy to be part of the Open House at Horse Play in Saunderstown. We smudged the people and the grounds, offered opening prayer and blessings and we did what we always do best – we offered medicine.

** Reminder: June 2nd meeting will be our last meeting for the summer months. We do not meet in July nor August due to vacations and miscellaneous events. Hopefully we will have good weather and be able to conduct the meeting outside, with a cook out to follow (*please bring some side dishes*). Drum practices will continue and if needed an emergency meeting may be convened. The next official meeting, after June 2nd, would be Sun September 1st.

Our prayers go out to all of our extended family members who are sick, ill, or injured. If you know of a member, or friend, of this Council, who is sick or in the hospital, please let us know ASAP.

Open drum practices every Thurs night at 6:00. All are welcome to attend. If in doubt – call before you come.

Next meeting is June 2nd

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Message from 3 Horses.

"Prayer is the best answer to all of the trials that face us, because without prayer, even if we succeed in accomplishing some great goal in the eyes of men, we have failed in our sacred responsibilities, and thus we have failed in what is truly important."

--Thomas Yellowtail, CROW



What are our sacred responsibilities? One is to be of maximum service to the Creator, and two is to serve the people. In a way, it's like the Great Spirit is the employer and we are the employees. We live each day, do what we do, accomplish our goals, face our difficulties, overcome them all to the Glory of the Creator. We do these things to make Him proud! Even if we work for a company, agency or tribe, they are not really our employer; the Creator is our employer. Working for the Creator is better than working for a human being, because each night we can talk to the Creator and ask Him, "Well, how did I do today?" He answers back each night, "I'm proud of you, my child; sleep well, and in the morning I'll give you a new set of growing experiences."

Great Spirit, today, let me work for You. You will be my new boss.

On the lighter side:



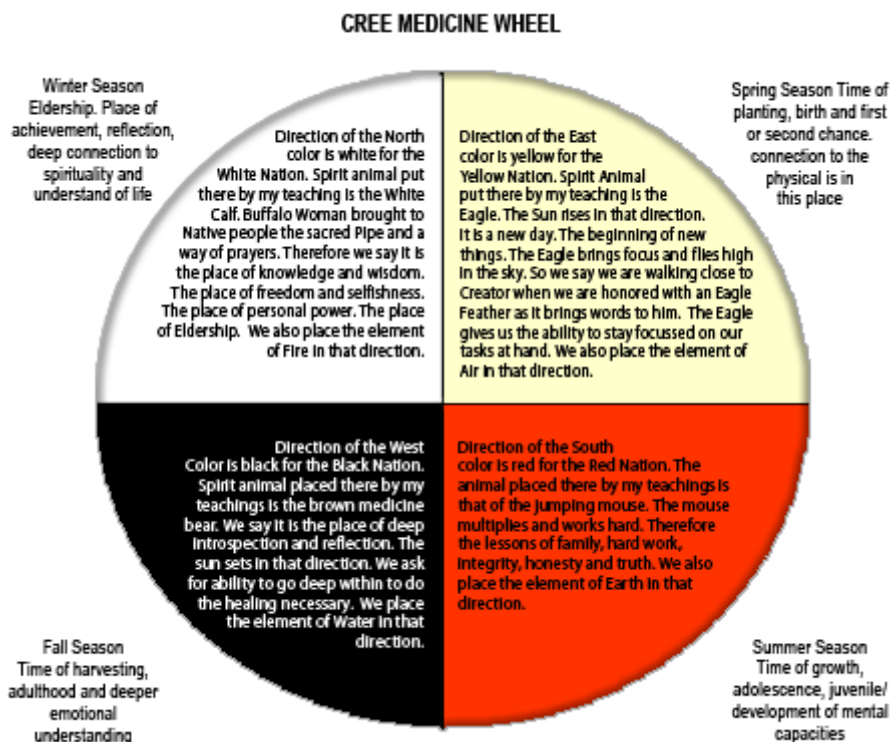
Spiritually Speaking

Our land is everything to us... I will tell you one of the things we remember on our land. We remember that our grandfathers paid for it – with their lives.

Wooden Leg, Cheyenne

Oh hear me, Grandfather, and help us, that our generation in the future will live and walk the good road with the flowering stick of success. Also, the pipe of peace, we will offer it as we walk the good road to success. Hear me, and hear our plea...

Black Elk, Oglala



The Medicine Wheel:

The Medicine Wheel is the symbol of all creation. This ancient emblem represents all of life's forces. The Medicine Wheel explains our existence. It tells what is true and what is needed to live.

The Medicine Wheel is divided into four parts. Those four parts represent the whole person, the whole of the Creator, or the whole of the universe. A Medicine Wheel representing life would include birth/death, childhood, adulthood and old age.

The Wheel may symbolize "self – spiritual, emotional, physical and mental. If a person lacks one aspect of the wheel, or one section is sick or lagging, the Medicine Wheel will remain unbalanced and the self will not be whole. Once the area is mended, the self can focus on its path.

Upcoming Events:

Sun June 2
Aquidneck Indian Council's monthly Meeting
222 Middle Rd, Portsmouth RI
401-683-4589 1:00 - ?

Sat June 8
Benjamin Church Senior Center
Bristol RI

Sun June 9
Wig Wam Spiritual Retreat
Lecture
9 Crescent Place Onset MA

Sat June 15 & Sun June 16
Red Road Sobriety Pow-wow
979 Somerset Ave. (behind the town hall)
Dighton, MA
508-880-6887 10:00-5:00 (Grand Entry 12:30)

4th of July weekend celebration
222 Middle Rd, Portsmouth
TBD

Sun Sept 1st
Aquidneck Indian Council's monthly Meeting
222 Middle Rd, Portsmouth RI
401-683-4589 1:00 - ?

** Above is not a complete list of all events happening in our area, just a highlight of events that we are involved in. For a full list of Native happenings, check the pow-wow schedule on the Wandering Bull's website.

If any doubt, call before you head out to an event to verify location and dates/times.

From the Elder:

John Rock Thrower

I no longer wonder what's going on in this world, it's more important to know what is happening in our own heart, too often we get so lost trying to figure out how to fit into this crazy world that we forget that we have the power to create whatever world that we want.

We are the masters of our universe, and we have control of what happens in it. Life is about choices, for me I had a stroke 5 yrs. ago and I could have made the choice to let that define who I am, to wallow on pity. But instead I have chosen to make the most of my life, you see life is a gift, don't spend your time with regrets. Get out there and do something about it. Don't expect anything less than the very best from yourself, and don't worry about all of those other things they really are not that important.

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Preserving the Island's open spaces and natural character for the
lasting benefit of our community.

Looking for a new style or place of Worship?
The Oniset Wig Wam Spiritualist Camp

9 Crescent Place, Onset, MA.
www.OnisetWigwam.com

or

First Spiritualist Church of Brockton

243 Winthrop St. Rehoboth, MA (Grange Bldg. Rte 118 & 44)
Sunday Services: June thru August - 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM
Sept. thru May - 10:00 AM to 11:30 with fellowship to follow.
Check out their FB page: First Spiritualist Church of Brockton

For info on either the Wig Wam or Church of Brockton,
Contact: Rev Patti Craig
1-508-436-3105 evroty@aol.com



Nottoway Nation

Editorial: Unity

by *Dreams of Wolves*



Well summer is right on our heels again. This is our last meeting until the fall.

This June will be busy, there are several things that have to be done. It sure would be nice if everyone could participate and help make this Council strong.

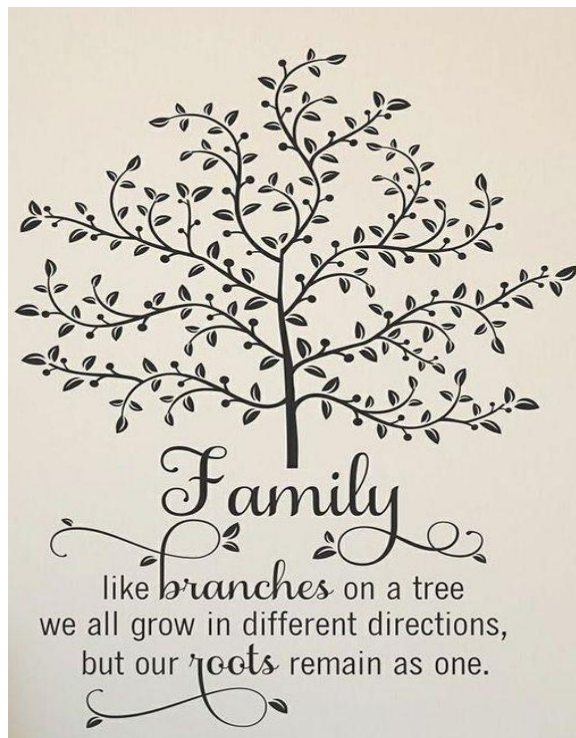
If you cannot attend a function/event – give enough notice. There is too much “last minute notice” and it makes it hard for everyone else.

When people join an organization, they should know that you commit to being there.

As in other organizations people join – just to say they belong, but they do not support the goals of the organization. This is not the way it should be. For an organization, or a family, to survive and flourish; everyone needs to take part, pitch in and help out.

If the members vote to host or support an event, they should plan on participating. By others not being there, it puts more of a burden, or strain, upon those who are always present to support the organization in its goals to educate the public, offer medicine and to keep the mixed blood culture live.

Be a part of the solution, not part of the problem.



Native Teaching: The Importance of Songs to Our Ancestors

by Bev Morningstar



Songs were a very important part in the lives of the Native Americans. They had a song to sing for many different occasions. Almost all of the tribes had their own versions of songs. Some were sung for a public ceremony, or for a special celebration. Some were sung after a successful battle as well as for thanking the Creator that their lives were spared. Most songs were sung with no words just vocal sounds however, these sounds were set to melodies. Much like we would sing ourselves when we hear a pleasant melody perhaps we too would make up a song to go along with the melody.

The songs they sang belonged to their own clans or just to an individual such as a medicine man would sing over an ill person while healing that person. Certain people were selected in the tribe to teach others their songs. Their job was to make certain that the songs were sung properly. It was frowned upon if one sang a song the wrong way and sometimes the person might be punished for doing so. When there was a mistake made while a dance ceremony was going on the ceremony would have to be stopped and started all over again

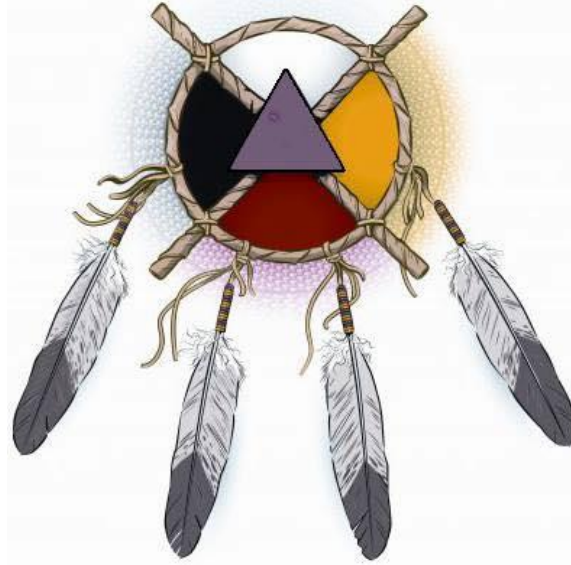
For an individual a song may have come to the person while he was fasting, sleeping, or just perhaps sitting alone in nature. When somebody heard a song from any of these ways it was believed to have been given to them by Spirit and it was an honor to receive it. The individual was the only one usually to sing the song because it was meant for him only.

There were various songs they would sing and the so-called death song was sang that one would sing to be protected from their enemies' death blow/arrows. At time it was sung so loudly that it was used to catch the enemy off guard whereby the person could save their life.

During a ceremony where drumming was present the songs differed because they were in time with the beat of the drums.

Conclusion: Singing was a method to honor our Creator and our Ancestors as well as being part of everyday life for our ancestors. They sang a song for a successful hunt, battle, for protection, and in ceremony. Today; let us ask Our Creator to put a song in our hearts to remind us to be kind to one another. Let us ask him to give us a song that we can share with one another to encourage those who are weak. Let us ask for a song to sing in thanking/honoring Him for all we have.

17th Annual Red Road Sobriety Pow wow



Please join us in celebrating the Gift of Sobriety.

June 15-16, 2019 10am - 5pm

979 Somerset Ave. (behind the Dighton Town Hall)

Dighton, MA

Grand Entry 12:30pm

•• Rain or Shine •Free Admission. Everyone is Welcome whether you are in recovery or not. You can help us raise awareness to the community about the use and abuse of Alcohol and Drugs.

The Stake Ceremony Saturday 5:30pm and Sunday 3pm.

Please bring your stake from last year.

MC- Pat Lilly.

Host Drum - Medicine Bear Singers.

Cohost - Soaring Eagle Singers and Sacred Earth Singers.

There will be Native American Singing, Drumming, dancing, Native American Flute and Storytelling. Bring a blanket or chair and join us.

For Information -> (508)880-6887

Native Recipe

Stuffed Squash



Ingredients:

2 acorn squash, split & seeded
½ lb ground pork or veal
¼ cup milk
1 teaspoon salt
1 small onion, chopped

½ lb ground beef
½ cup uncooked oats or bread crumbs
¼ cup brown sugar
¼ teaspoon mace

Instructions:

Bake squash, cut side up for 45 minutes at 325*.

Meanwhile, in a bowl combine beef, pork (or veal), oats (or bread crumbs), milk, onion, mace and salt. Sauté until meat is thoroughly cooked.

Remove squash from oven and fill cavities with meat mixture, and sprinkle each half with brown sugar.

Bake 15 minutes more and serve.

Serves 4

Next meeting:



**** Sunday June 2, 1:00**
@ 222 Middle Rd Portsmouth
Guests Always Welcome

AIIC contact info:

3 Horses Sly Fox (Don Sly), Chairman
Dreams of Wolves (Barbara Sly), Secretary
222 Middle Rd. Portsmouth, RI 02871
401-683-4589
Email: aquidneck_indian@verizon.net
Website: www.aquidneckindiancouncil.org

Inspirational:

Every part of all this soil is sacred to my people. Every hillside, every valley has been hallowed by some sad or happy event in days long vanished.

Chief Seattle, Duwamish.

From 3 Horses:

The Message, highlighted on the front page, makes one think. Who do we really work for? I really let that one sink in. I know we all physically work for “somebody”. Is that person the end all to be all, or is there someone over that person who matters more? Obviously there is – Creator is the boss over all. He wills the universe, He spins the Earth like a top, He is in our sleeping and our waking, He watches over all of us. As we travel through our daily routines, or come together for meetings, or to drum, or to conduct ceremony; we should always conduct ourselves as we are working for the Great One Above. So take time to speak with Him and ask for direction. Thank Him for everything He has placed here for us to use and enjoy.

The first questions Creator might ask when we return home to the Spirit World is, “Did you enjoy My creation? Did you bask in the sun? Did you listen to the birds sing? Did you smell sister cedar’s perfume? Did you see the glistening dew polish the fern? Did you taste the fruits of the forest?” What will you answer?

See you along the Good Red Road. *Peace.....*
Have a great and safe summer.

3 Horses & Dreams of Wolves

The Aquidneck Island Intertribal Indian Council is a non-profit volunteer organization for the preservation of mixed Native American Tribal Heritages and Ancestral ways and makes no claims as to be an authority, nor expert on any specific Tribe or Nation.



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For St Joseph’s Indian School
(see *Dreams of Wolves* for a detailed list)

