

Aquidneck Island Intertribal Indian Council

(est. Oct. 14, 2007)

Newsletter

April 2014



Council News

I want to thank everyone who showed up on Sat March 22nd to make our 7th Annual Indoor pow-wow another huge success.

We thank Eagle Sings for drumming with us. It is always a pleasure sitting in the drum circle with them.

We thank all the vendors, artisans & crafters for attending, as well as Then & Now Native Foods for running the kitchen.

We thank all the dancers for coming into our circle and the veterans that carried our flags at Grand Entry.

We thank Don Barnaby for offering to be our Master of Ceremonies again this year. He takes our goal to educate the Island community, of Native American/American Indian awareness & culture, to a higher level. And he's a pretty good dancer too (ha-ha).

My thanks goes out to Strong Woman Spirit Chaser for running our raffle, meeting & greeting people as they entered, and storytelling, while running back & forth to the drum.

And last but not least to all the Council members who were there from setting up the hall to breaking down & cleaning, also while performing double duties singing as members of Soaring Eagle Singers.

We hope you all enjoyed our gathering, which started as a little Arts & Crafts Show 7 years ago. Hope to see you back next year.

At this month's meeting, we have 3 applications for membership to be read for the 2nd time, and voted upon and 1 new application to be read. I invite all members and past members, who haven't been around, to come and meet the new family members to be.

Come join us at the Planting of the Corn ceremony.



Drum practices have been every Thursday at 6:00. If anyone wishes to come and join us at the drum, or even just to enjoy the friendship, the door is always open..

If you know of a member, or friend of this Council, who is sick or in the hospital, please let us know ASAP.

*****See you at the next meeting: Sunday April 6***

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Message from 3 Horses.



“Planting of the Corn” ceremony

followed by the beginning of
the ***Life Arrow*** ceremony,
a ***Pipe*** ceremony and a ***Fire*** ceremony

Saturday April 12

{rain date Sunday April 13}

222 Middle Rd. Portsmouth RI

12:00

** smudging & prayers start @ 11:00 **

Followed by drumming, singing and dancing
Music by the Soaring Eagle Singers
{weather permitting}

Followed by a pot-luck social
{please bring something to share}

Natives: Regalia please
Non-natives: Casual dress
401-683-4589

On the lighter side:



Spiritually Speaking

I was born in Nature's wide domain! The trees were all that sheltered my infant limbs, the blue heavens all that covered me. I am one of Nature's children. I have always admired her.

George Copway, Ojibwa

Why don't you talk and go straight and all will be well?

Black Kettle, Cheyenne

If the white man wants to live in peace with the Indian, he can live in peace... Treat all men alike. Give them all the same law. Give them all an even chance to live and grow. All men were made by the same Great Spirit Chief. They are all brothers.

Chief Joseph, Nez Perce

I believe much trouble would be saved if we opened our hearts more. I will tell you in my way how the Indian sees things. The white man has more words to tell you how they look to him, but it does not require many words to speak the truth.

Chief Joseph, Nez Perce

The Native vision, the gift of seeing truly, with wonder and delight into the natural world, is informed by a certain respect. It is a matter of extrasensory as well as sensory perception. In addition to the eye, it involves the intelligence, the instinct, and the imagination. It is the perception not only of the objects and forms but also of essences and ideals.

Scott Momaday, Kiowa

Do not grieve. Misfortunes will happen to the wisest and best of men. Death will come and always out of season. It is the command of the Great Spirit, and all nations and people must obey. What is past and cannot be prevented should not be grieved for... Misfortunes do not flourish particularly in our path. They grow everywhere.

Big Elk, Omaha

Upcoming Events:

Sun April 6
Aquidneck Indian Council's April Meeting
222 Middle Rd, Portsmouth RI
1:00 - ? 401-683-4589

Sat April 12 (rain date - Sun 13th)
Aquidneck Indian Council
Planting of the Corn Ceremony
222 Middle Rd, Portsmouth RI
11:00 - ? 401-683-4589

** Above is not a complete list of all events happening in our area, just a highlight. 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.

Smudging:



Smudging is an ancient Native American practice of spiritual cleansing and blessing and involves burning of certain dried herbs. The burning of herbs and resins for purification or blessings has been used in many cultures around the world. Smudging is the Native American way of using the power of herbs for cleansing and blessing.

It is a very simple yet effective method of clearing a place, an object or a human being of negative energies. The most common plant used for smudging is sage, specifically white sage. When lit the sage produces a very cleansing and pleasant smelling smoke. However, entities and negative astral beings dislike the scent of white sage and flee from it.

Small objects needing cleansing or clearing of energies can simply be passed through the smoke rising from the smudge stick or smudge pot. Alternatively the smudge stick/pot can be passed over larger objects or through somebody's energy field to cleanse them of negativity. The act of smudging is a sacred ritual and should be done in a meditative way and with sobriety. You can mentally pray while smudging.

Cedar is another plant frequently used for smudging. The cedar tree is a sacred tree believed to have healing properties and hence cedar is used in healing and for ceremonial purposes.

Sometimes lavender is mixed into smudge mix. Lavender has traditionally been used in herbal medicine for many infectious diseases and has a soothing effect on the nervous system. Lavender brings a positive energy and calms the mind.

Sweet grass is a traditional Native American herb that is also sometimes burned for smudging. However, sweet grass holds an energy of blessing rather than cleansing and should ideally be used after smudging with sage, to bring in positive energy after negativity has been released, rather than on its own.

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Aquidneck Land Trust

790 Aquidneck Ave. Middletown, RI 02842
401-849-2799 chuckallott@ailt.org

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.
Opening May for the 2014 Season
www.OnisetWigwam.com
Mondays: Unfoldment Classes with Sharon Ferraro
Tuesdays: Healing Share Thursdays: Gallery Nights

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

Editorial:

Spring cleaning the past & Re-seeding your future.

by Robin Riley (*Ravenspeak*)



Spring is a time of dawning light, new life, new birth, and new hope — a time of warmth, exuberance, dancing, and blossoming.

Spiritual cleansing requires deep cleaning -- it is housekeeping that goes beyond what others see and hear. It's a cleansing from within -- inside and out. As spring approaches we develop that urge to make everything in our house clean and in order. The winter months have been long and we begin itching to revive our houses and acquire that freshness that we want to invade us as the first signs of spring arrive. Everything outside is singing with new life. The buds are coming out on the trees, birds are chirping, and the daffodils are beginning to bloom. We long to bring that newness into our homes so we begin, most of us by turning our homes upside down as we clean out closets, take things apart, clean and scour. We reach into every dark corner of our homes in order to make it presentable, fresh, and new. While you're cleaning out closets and sweeping under the furniture, think about this: Spring cleaning, while worth the effort, will only last for a season, but spiritual cleansing could have an eternal influence. So don't just dust behind those book shelves, dust off the heart and soul and get ready for a spiritual spring cleaning.

Our soul's purpose lives in our body, deep within the root of our being where we carry our piece of the original spark of life. Like bulbs in the ground and buds on the trees, that spark of your soul's purpose wants to rise up and out of you, blossoming into an expression of your unique gifts given to the world. The irritation and restless energy that we feel in the springtime is more than cabin fever and a lust for newness. It is the energy of the Inner Dreamer waking to dream true and instead finding the need to detoxify the winters crop of old energies, ideas, and beliefs.

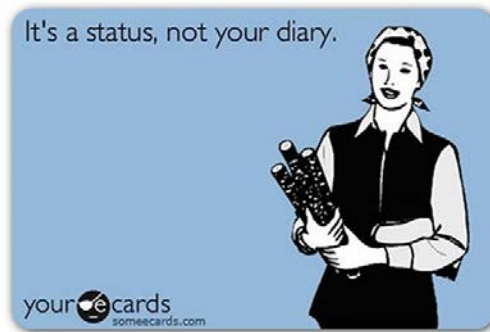
So my message to you today is as you spring clean the house spring clean your soul and then plant some new seeds to allow the growth of your heart to show you a new path. Understand for our seeds to take root and blossom we must prepare the soil. This requires bringing in the nutrients of our essence energies and aligning with the things we know we cannot live without. It also involves fertilizing the soil with the release of aspects of our self that no longer serve us or have been outmoded by our growth. And most important of all, we must plant the right seeds, the seeds that resonate with our authentic true nature. And remember my friends don't forget to water the seeds with fresh positive energy. You will be surprised by harvest season what wisdom you have gained from spring cleaning your soul to planting new seeds on your life path.

Be Blessed and safe Journeys.



DEAR FACEBOOK.... REALLY PEOPLE?

by Robin Riley



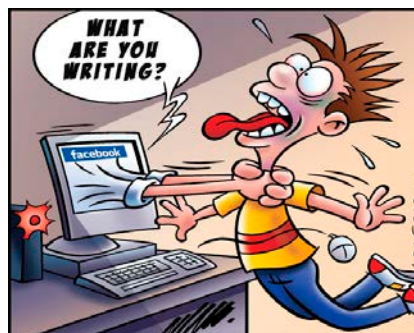
FACEBOOK... Sometimes the most depressing but entertaining place, all depends on the FB crowd you carry. With the growing trend of non-verbal communication, that some people have; they are often given the rationale that they can say whatever is on their minds, assuming that everyone else really cares. For instance, people wouldn't usually complain about their everyday problems in front of all of their friends, but for some reason, since no one is literally right in front of you to slap you in the face, it's ok to complain via FB status.

People write about their thoughts of anger, their thoughts of hate and their thoughts of others failure, but the fact is that why complain about something you almost bring upon yourselves almost every day? Yes sometimes your family and friends really gets to you, and (understandingly) you don't want to complain to their faces, so you complain on Facebook instead. I am sorry to say but your FB friends are most usually the cause why you are making your status updates your daily vent journal. So working out issues like this publicly is sometimes not really a good idea.

Understand; as much as your friends are truly concerned about your well-being, FB is not a new form of therapy (yet). Your friends will do whatever they can for you to get better, but they really can't do that much to help you on FB. It's not a cheap form of anger management for you to just criticize and speak down about others paths or ways to make you feel complete and in control of your needs of venting... If you have an issue with someone, be an adult to call or actually an email. I myself would say would be more adult like then FB. Sometimes I wonder if "your" views of people is from your boredom? I have watched over time and have noticed that when you ramble on your journey it's because you're on an emotional state of lacking activities or when individuals are uninterested in your surroundings. I was always told that boredom is an "essential human condition", meaning that boredom is where one learns truly about oneself. So (in theory) no one can help you deal with boredom, but rather boredom is there for us to make ourselves the center of our own universe, you learn who you are, what you are, and what makes up your universe. In your today's world, maybe you just fear boredom... Or maybe you are just obsessed with communication when it's working on your behalf? Are you scared to find who you truly are? Can you find these answers on FB?

The fact that you're making your FB status your daily diary, you're better off changing your status to, "DEAR FACEBOOK IM GOING TO VENT TODAY ABOUT MY THOUGHTS INSTEAD OF TRYING TO FIX WHAT NEEDS TO BE FIXED".

Stop find causes in others and find the causes in yourself. Your friends are there for you, if you need help dealing with your boredom, they are there, but boredom shouldn't be something declared through your Facebook status, but something declared in your own mind, because inside only you know what you should be doing. I hope you find yourself busy enough one day to use your ears and mouth for communication instead of FB to vent about your daily he said, she said crap!!!



Next meeting:



Sunday April 6, 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
c/o 222 Middle Rd. Portsmouth, RI 02871
401-683-4589

Email: aquidneck_indian@verizon.net

Website: www.aquidneckindiancouncil.org

St Joseph's Indian School

Constant Needs:

- Men's deodorant
- Hair gel
- Little girls full slippers in sizes 8-14
- Children's robes
- Dish cloths
- School supplies
- Boys Boxers (all sizes)
- Bath towels
- Running shoes - men's & women's sizes
- Children's tennis shoes (sizes 1-4)
- Men's T-shirts (all sizes)
- Chewable vitamins
- Twin, extra long twin & queen comforters/spreads

Remember to save:

“General Mills” + “Betty Crocker” products box tops.

&

“Campbell's” products labels.

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



Inspirational:

We do not walk alone. “Great Being” walks beside us. Know this and be grateful.

Polingaysi Qoyawayma, Hopi

From 3 Horses:

March turned out to be a busy month for us. Our indoor pow-wow started Spring off with a bang. It is now April, it's officially Spring. No more threat of snow, the crocuses will soon be popping up. The Planting of the Corn ceremony is upon us. For those of you who don't know; the ceremony represents new birth – re-birth. It is not just about planting corn, it is about planting our prayers into Mother, asking not only to feed our people, but to support us and let us live and survive. The “corn” is a symbol, the “prayers”, that the ladies place upon the corn and place into Mother, is the intent. Birth comes from the woman, and we are nurtured by the woman, and when we cross, our bodies return to the woman.

We thank Mother for nurturing us. We stand on her, we raise our hands to the heavens. We ask The Ancient One Above to look down upon us and bless us. Father in the sky, Mother which we stand upon – there is balance. Without balance, there is turmoil. *May the Blessings of re-birth be upon you, now and always..*

Happy Easter.. Happy Spring...

See you along the Good Red Road. *Peace.....*



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.