

Aquidneck Island Intertribal Indian Council

(est. Oct. 14, 2007)

Newsletter

April 2016



Council News

At last month's meeting we discussed a couple of upcoming requests:

1) We have been asked to participate in Coggeshall Farms Museum's event the "Fiber Fair" on Sat May 21. We will be drumming, lecturing, and offering demonstrations throughout the day. More to come in next month's newsletter.

2) We are still working on a request for the Town of Coventry for co-hosting a pow-wow for their 275th anniversary on Sat Aug 27. We have spoken with our friend Norma, but we will be formally sitting down with their committee, soon, to iron out all the specifics. We will more than likely be requested to invite the entertainment and interested vendors. More to come on this event.

To our dismay, our tee pee is being retired. Since we purchased it, it has stood in the back yard for all to use for prayers, meditations, even sleep overs on our 4th of July gatherings. Children have played in and around it, we have held ceremonies and healing in and around it. We had a "men's day" to cut new poles (when needed), then we had a "members day" to strip the bark off them. We've all shared in keeping our icon standing. Two falls ago, just before we took it down for the winter, it started tearing due to dry rot. I took it to a local sewing shop (who does everything), but, after he looked at it says that it is not repairable. It's like saying goodbye to an old friend.

****Special Event:** This month's big news; our annual "Planting of the Corn" ceremony. This will be our 8th year performing this Cherokee style ceremony. Along with the Corn ceremony, we will have a Pipe ceremony, a fire ceremony, and if the weather permits, the circle will be open for dancing. Let's hope for good weather. ----->

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 3

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"Planting of the Corn" ceremony



Including a Pipe ceremony and a Fire ceremony

Saturday April 23

{rain date Sunday April 24}

222 Middle Rd. Portsmouth RI

12:00

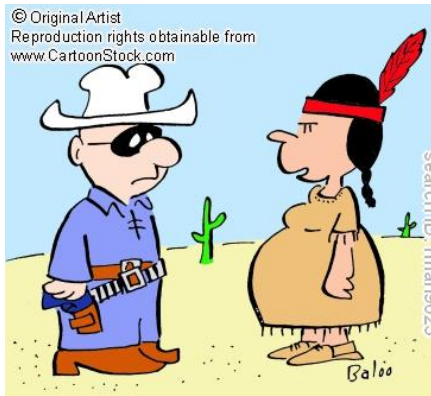
**** smudging & prayers start @ 11:00 ****

Followed by drumming, singing and dancing
{weather permitting}

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

Natives: Regalia please
Non-natives: Casual dress

On the lighter side:



"I'd like a word with you about your 'faithful' Indian companion!"



Spiritually Speaking

"Modern civilization has no understanding of sacred matters. Everything is backwards."

--Thomas Yellowtail, Crow

Modern civilization says, don't pray in school; don't pray at work; only go to church on Sunday. If you don't believe what I believe, you'll go to hell. Deviancy is normal. Our role models cheat, drink and run around; these are the people in the news. The news sells bad news; no one wants to hear good news. Kids are killing kids. Victims have little protection. Violence is normal. Leaders cheat and lie. Everything is backwards. We need to pray for spiritual intervention. We need to have guidance from the Creator to help us rebuild our families, our communities and ourselves. Today, I will pray for spiritual intervention from the Great Spirit.

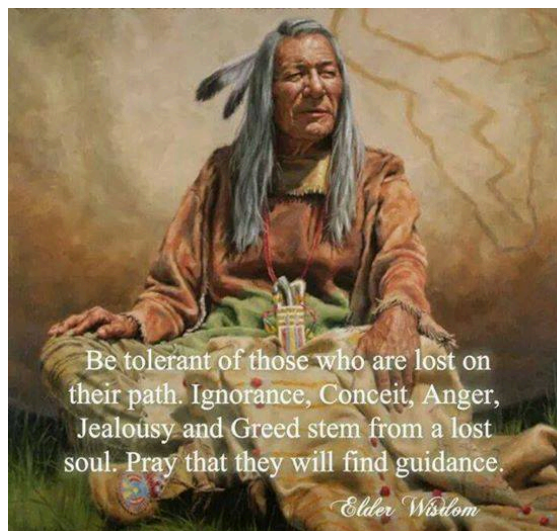
Grandfather, we pray for Your help.

"If those bad words come, I let them come in one ear and go out the other. I never let them come out of my mouth. If a bad word comes in your ear and then comes out of your mouth, it will go someplace and hurt somebody. If I did that, that hurt would come back twice as hard on me."

--Wallace Black Elk, LAKOTA

What do we do with temptations when they come? What do we do when we hear gossip? What do we do when we hear bad things? If we hear these things and pass them on we will not only hurt the other person, but we will do harm to ourselves. We must be careful not to hurt others. Whatever we sew we will simultaneously reap for ourselves. We must be accountable for our own actions.

Great Spirit, today, let no words come from my lips that would hurt another.



Upcoming Events:

Sun April 3
Aquidneck Indian Council's Monthly
222 Middle Rd, Portsmouth RI
401-683-4589 1:00 - ?

Sat April 23 (rain date Sun 24th)
Aquidneck Indian Council's
Annul "Planting of the Corn" Ceremony
222 Middle Rd, Portsmouth RI
401-683-4589 12:00 - ?

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

Sat May 21
Coggeshall Farm Museum, Fiber Festival
1 Colt Drive, Bristol, RI
401-253-9062 10:00 - 5:00

** 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.

*"The white man made us many promises,
more than I can remember.
Promises they did not keep. They kept but one -
They promised to take our lands...
and they took it."*



Chief Red Cloud, Oglala Sioux

Born approximately 1822 and rapidly rose to the front ranks in his band due to his bravery and success upon the war path and his wisdom.

He was active in wars with the Blackfoot, the Crow and many other tribes, as well as against the US Government, between 1863 and 1868.

As a delegate for the Oglala, he worked hard to negotiate peace and fair treatment of his people.

He crossed over Dec 10, 1909 at Pine Ridge.

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**Aquidneck
Land Trust**

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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.

Opening May for the 2016 Season

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

evrotty@aol.com

Editorial: Through “White” Eyes

by Dreams of Wolves



In all the years of living within the Native American culture, I have seen how spiritual the Natives are. Everything they do is for the Creator. This culture respects Mother Earth, compared to watching people taking it for granted. The non-native think that Mother is just there for them to destroy. The Native are respectful; they take something from Mother and they offer Her something in return, like tobacco.

They are respectful to all living things. Animals are precious to them. They do not kill animals just so someone wants to walk around in a fur coat. The animal is so respected that if they have to kill an animal for food, they pray for forgiveness from that animal. Every part is used, nothing is wasted. All life is precious.

Watching the Natives I have learned so much. The ceremonies are all beautiful. Watching and taking part in the “Healing of the Water ceremony” is so special. It takes place at a brook, lake or other body of water. Everyone’s prayers go into that body of water and it flows over Mother and touches all other waters, so the prayers keep spreading. All ceremonies have a special meaning.

I’m grateful that I can live in this spiritual world. It brings me closer to Creator, more than going to a church. Religion is one thing, spirituality brings one closer to Creator, it makes you feel like you are one on one with Him. Just being outside sitting in a garden or under a tree and meditating on all the beauty of His creation and seeing it through a Native’s eyes, makes you appreciate all that is sacred to the Native people.

I watch how Native people live up to their culture. There are some that you feel so comfortable with. They teach you so much just by sitting and speaking with them. But I also know that there are some that pretend to live the culture. These are people that say they are something that they are not. I am a people watcher and I love watching a true Native living the culture. You can always tell which ones are real and which is fake.

So through my eyes I see the beauty of the culture and feel the closeness of the Ancestors and the love the Creator shows to His people. If everyone would respect the land that Creator has blessed them with and started to try to clean up Mother Earth, and see the beauty in Her, as the Natives do; it would be a beautiful place to live.

and I THINK to
MYSELF what a
Wonderful
WORLD...

Teaching: Understanding and honoring power

by Beverly Morningstar

Introduction: Who and what has power.

When we open our hearts/minds to the power around us we begin to understand the Creator's gift of power and who/what He chooses to give it to for the good of all.

There is power in the rain that Creator sends us; it has the ability bring forth life by turning a seed into plants that feed/nourishes us. It has the ability to turn mountains into valleys by way of floods. It also can create electricity that we use to do our daily tasks it is amazing to feel and see how power is used. Power comes in many different forms and used in many different ways rain is just one kind of power.

Fire also has power to keep us warm and ignite the flames in our hearts to show love, respect and compassion to and for others. These feelings help us to walk the desired path that leads us down the Red Road. Fire; was also the source that helped our ancestors to communicate by the way of smoke. We use fire to light our sage for ceremonies as well as cleanse our homes.

The drum we beat has the power to transform our minds/spirits when we listen/meditating to the sound of the beat. It has the power to quiet our minds, and allow us to hear our ancestors speak words of wisdom, while allowing Spirit to teach us as well.

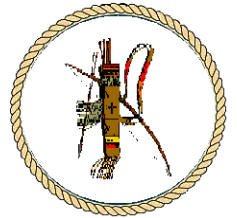
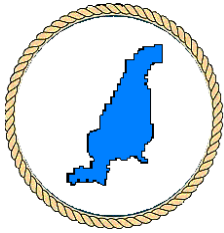
The Chief of any circle has power, because he is considered to be the most learned and valuable leader of a circle. His words and actions bring power into the Sacred Circle by teaching those who are fortunate to be part of his teachings. He does not seek to have attention or have his ego fed, he is the leader and as the teacher of the circle and he is honored and humble by doing so.

The animals and winged creatures have power as well they have the power to send us messages from our Creator. They show us many signs to help us walk our life paths. They give warnings of impending danger to us at times. We all have spirit animals given to us by Creator as our totems/guides to help us. However, do we recognize their power as well?

Conclusion: Do we recognize/honor those among us that our Creator has chosen to give power to?

When we seek with our inner knowing in our hearts, minds and use all the senses in our bodies we recognize we all have some kind of power. We enter into a Sacred Circle without fear of someone having more power than us. We know that each of us are in the circle to create a bond of unity and peace. We have entered into a place of power filled people to help us walk the Red Road.





The
AQUIDNECK ISLAND
INTERTRIBAL INDIAN COUNCIL



Invites you to attend
The “Planting of the Corn” ceremony
followed by a Pipe ceremony and a Fire ceremony



Saturday April 23

{rain date Sunday April 24}

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}

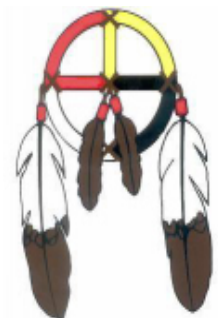
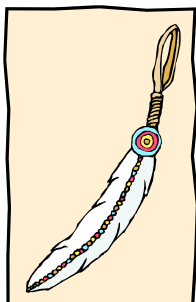
Natives: Regalia please

Non-natives: Casual dress

For more information:

401-683-4589 or

aquidneck_indian@verizon.net



Native Recipe

Easy Clam Cakes



When the colonists landed, they found that the Indian used shell money as their trading medium. It was called “Wampum Peak” or “Wampum”. Peak was the white portion of the shell, Wampum was the purple part and considered twice as valuable. Wampum was shaped like tubes, each piece one inch long, or less and one eighth of an inch in diameter. They were drilled by hand and strung on a string measured in “cubits”, the distance from the tip of the little finger to the elbow, regardless of the size of the person.

Shells were used in other way by the peoples of the Eastern Woodlands. They were used as digging tools and giant scallop shells (6 to 7 inches wide) were often used as dishes.

Ingredients:

1 can minced clams & juice or approx. 6 large cooked/boiled clams/quahogs diced
1½ cup flour 1 teaspoon baking powder 1 egg white
Salt, pepper, sugar to taste

Instructions:

Mix together and drop approx. 1 inch balls, by tablespoon, into VERY HOT oil (approx 1 inch deep)

Cook till golden. It only takes a couple of minutes, so don't walk away.

Drain and devour. You may want to sprinkle salt on them or use tobacco sauce.

Serves 4

Next meeting:



**** Sunday April 3, 1:00**
@ 222 Middle Rd Portsmouth
Guests Always Welcome



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www.stjo.org

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- Chewable vitamins
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AIIC contact info:

3 Horses Sly Fox (Don Sly), Chairman
Dreams of Wolves (Barbara Sly), Secretary
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Email: aquidneck_indian@verizon.net
Website: www.aquidneckindiancouncil.org

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



Inspirational:

“I am poor and naked, but I am the chief of a Nation. We do not want riches, but we do want to train our children right. Riches would do us no good. We could not take them with us to the other world. We do not want riches. We want peace and love”.

--Red Cloud – Oglala Sioux

From 3 Horses:

April is upon us, it’s officially spring. No more threat of snow, the crocuses are popping up. The Planting of the Corn ceremony is coming up. 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 Her, 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 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.