

Aquidneck Island Intertribal Indian Council

Newsletter

December 2012



Council News.

November, being National Native American Awareness & Heritage Month, has been a very busy month for us. We conducted many presentations; speaking to such diverse groups as children, adults, active military & veterans. This is what this Council is about, teaching heritage and understanding, dispelling myths & negative stereotypes, healing and helping. *Wopila Tanka* – (many thanks) to all for your participation.

On Weds Nov 28, we will be conducting a Cherokee styled “Fire Ceremony”. This will be the first time presenting/offering this ceremony. Pertinent info can be found on page 3.

At this month’s meeting we will discuss our annual donation to St Joseph’s Indian School. Plan to attend and let your voice be heard.

Also at this month’s meeting; as per our “Rules & Regulations”, there will be nominations & elections for the positions of: Chairman, Clan Mother, Spiritual Leader, Head Elder and Secretary. These are 5 year voted positions and open to “Members” in “Good Standing” and having a “Native Bloodline”.

**** Note:** This month’s meeting will be our Annual Christmas Party, pot-luck social, Nikomo and gift gathering for St Joe’s. *see ----->*

If you have any friends who might be interested in our ways, or are interested to see what we are about, feel free to bring them along, but, explain to them the idea of the Nikomo, that way no one is left without a gift. The more the merrier, guests are always welcome to any/all of our events.

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 Dec 2**

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Annual Council Christmas party, pot-luck social, Nikomo and gift gathering for St Joseph’s Indian School

The Council meeting on December 2nd will be short so that we may have a pot-luck social, a Nikomo (gift sharing) & Christmas party. It is asked that everyone bring a dish to share.

The Nikomo is a form of giving a gift to others. You bring an unwrapped gift, not for anyone specific, whether bought or handmade. You place it on the blanket with other gifts. After the meeting at some time during the social, the members will line up, “eldest” first, and you will take your turn and choose any gift from the blanket that you would like.

Also in keeping with the season, and as a gesture of the heart, we ask you to please bring a small unwrapped item/gift, which will be added with others, that we will be sending to St Joseph’s Indian School. The Sioux children that attend the school are very poor and need OUR help. The gifts don’t have to be expensive. You can find many nice things at stores like, Dollar Tree, Job Lot etc. The school asked for girls & boy’s underwear, (all sizes) as well as socks, health & beauty aids (soaps, deodorants, shampoos, etc.), and all types of school supplies, not to mention toys (see page 5 for more needed things).

Contact me for details.



Dreams of Wolves

On the lighter side:



Psst!!! Santa can't make it this year, and I can't fit down your smoke hole...



Spiritually Speaking

Banish fear from your life. Fear stunts your soul and limits the amount of road needed to travel to reach the Tree of Life, and to know the Great Spirit. Fear is not good and leads to an unbalanced mind, body and spirit. To banish fear you must know your path and trust yourself – and the world around you. With trust comes confidence. Self-confidence banishes fear.

I fear no man, I depend on the Great Spirit.

Kondiaronk, Huron

What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, men would die from great loneliness of spirit, for whatever happens to the beasts also happens to man. All things are connected. Whatever befalls the Earth, befalls the children of the Earth.

Chief Seattle, Duwamish-Suquamish

Men die, but we live again in the real world of Wakan Tanka, where there is nothing but the spirits of all things; and this true life we may know here on earth if we purify our bodies and minds thus coming closer to Wakan Tanka who is all-purity.

Black Elk, Oglala Sioux



Dues time:



Dues for 2013 can be paid at the December or January meeting, or checks can be mailed or dropped off to the Secretary at
222 Middle Rd. Portsmouth, RI 02871

\$10 yearly dues help defray the cost of newsletters, snail mail, birthday, get well and/or sympathy cards.

It also helps us support our charity, St Joseph's Indian School.

Members & Assoc members, in good standing, will receive a 2013 card upon payment.

Upcoming Events:

Weds Nov 28th

Fire Ceremony & possible Naming ceremony
222 Middle Rd Portsmouth
5:00

Sun Dec 2nd

Aquidneck Council: Dec meeting, Christmas party & Nikomo
222 Middle Rd Portsmouth RI
1:00 - ?

Fire Ceremony

Weds Nov 28th

222 Middle Rd Portsmouth Smudging to start at 5:00

We would like to invite all our friends and extended family to attend a Cherokee styled "Fire Ceremony".

There will be drumming, singing and prayers.

This event gives you a chance to come and get rid of excess baggage, or other negative things that have been bothering you, or complicating your way of life.

The ceremony will be explained in detail to attendees.

Dress: Casual/warm. Those wishing to wear regalia, may do so.

There will be a pot luck social to follow
(please bring something to share)

Election Time

In accordance with our "Rules and Regulations" (By-laws); the following offices, which are 5 year positions, are open for nominations and elections:

Chairman (Chief), Clan Mother, Spiritual Leader,
Head Elder and Secretary

To be considered for any of these positions; one must have "Native Blood" and be a "Member" in "Good Standing".

Nominations & elections will be held during the regular stated meeting on Dec 2.

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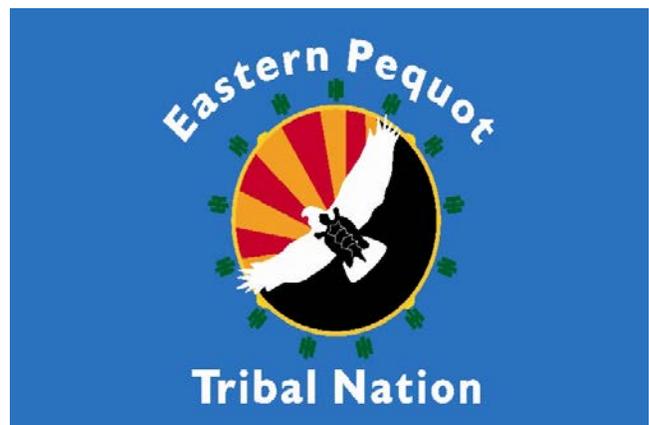
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Preserving the Island's open spaces and natural character
for the lasting benefit of our community.

Eastern Pequot Tribal flag



Editorial:

Being Misunderstood

*By: (Sisoka) Robin Riley
.....Raven Speak.....*



A number of years ago I found myself in that difficult situation of trying to explain myself to a man who was convinced I had wronged him. I thought a simple explanation would clear up the matter because I really did have his interests at heart. But the more I explained, the less he seemed to believe me. That's when I realized that being misunderstood stinks when you meant no harm to anyone. After that I decided to walk many steps on my journey, enjoying each and every one. I noticed a lot of what I heard from the past conversations with others was just a teaching for me in the future. Years ago I choose to ignore what one spoke, just as the man did when I tried to explain my view. We as humans just live at the moment of where we want to be. But today I as an adult will say, I misunderstood what the others spoke of when they were just trying to teach and guide me. Today I realize misunderstanding is failing to understand the actual theme of a message.

So I set aside what habits I used to have and made space for new ones. Misunderstanding the little things in life such as teachings from others has taught me how I see the big picture through others eyes and to just use my ears and eyes to see what others don't take time to understand... The key to this is "TO LISTEN TO WHAT IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU."

We need to minimize the misunderstanding that one calls forward within someone else. And for me to do this was a lesson I won't forget. Firstly, we need to have some kind of mind set that any misunderstanding can be resolved. Secondly we have to figure out the main reasons of the misunderstanding; I now see that back then I was doing what all of society does today and that is speak with no care of others wants. I never gave their conversations any interest or concern because, it wasn't what I WANTED. We need to understand that one's thoughts will have a meaning to them, even if it does not to you. LISTEN to why those thoughts others have, actually means something to them. I realize time has the power to melt any iceberg, everything is succumbed to the charm of time and misunderstanding is no exception to that. Sometimes we need to accept misunderstanding and just let it be, if there is to be any forward progress in the future.

So my message to others out there; all the doubts and misunderstanding in any relationships only can weaken our power of growth in any aspect of life. Because most of the time you will find that misunderstandings happening between two parties, are a sharing of common goals. Every day we are heading towards the path of unknown, we don't know if we will ever meet the people of our future, or whom we see in our daily life will be seen tomorrow, or if we will meet them after our death. If there exists a next life or not is not a matter of discussion in the now moment. Our first job is to behave as a human. I don't think human is just a biological creature with a delicate mind of extraordinary reasoning power; I would rather like to see human as a concept of a virtuoso artist. Our job is trying to match that concept as close as possible. In a book I once read revealed the best message one can get "Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will." Take time to learn from the misunderstandings.

Next meeting:



Sunday Dec 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
c/o 222 Middle Rd. Portsmouth, RI 02871
401-683-4589
Email: aquidneck_indian@verizon.net

St Joseph's Indian School

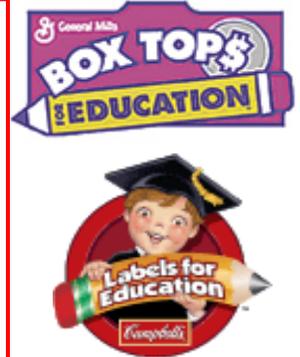
Constant Needs:

- 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:

On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me; a Soaring Eagle Singers CD.

Soaring Eagle Singers

From 3 Horses:

We, as a family, had been very busy this November, spreading knowledge, lecturing, teaching history, drumming/singing and dispelling stereotypes. Now December is upon us and for some, it is a hard time. With the hustle & bustle of the holidays, some people become wrapped up in the materialistic part of it. Some people shun it. Some people remember what the symbolism of the holiday season is about: Love of family, giving, not just gifts, but of yourself, extending yourself to help a friend who might be one of those who shun the events of the season for one reason or another. Remember when you were a child. Even though we are older, enter into the season like a child, wide eyes, excitement, with joy and peace in your heart.

So, this is my wish for you; May the love and strength and knowledge of the Great Spirit be with you this holiday season. *Wakan Tanka Kici Un, Mitakuye Oyasin - God Bless You, all my relations.*

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

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays

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.