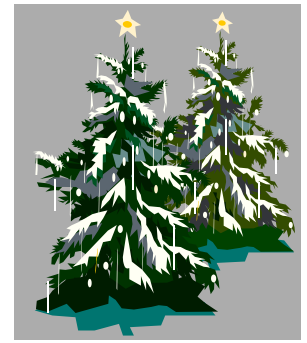


Aquidneck Island Intertribal Indian Council

(est. Oct. 14, 2007)

Newsletter

December 2013



Council News

At last month's meeting we voted on 3 more membership applications. We welcome Ashley, Jennifer & John to our family circle.

November, being National Native American Awareness & Heritage Month, has been a very busy month for us. We conducted several 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 Sat Nov 16 we held our first Social at Sandywoods Farm. It was a fun time for all. We thank Eagle Sings for drumming and singing with us. Good food, good fun and a bunch of new friends. Hope to see all our friends at the next 3 Socials.

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.

**** 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.

*On Sat Dec 7th 12:00 – 5:00 we will be hosting a "Winter Potluck Lunch and Dance Social Gathering" at Sandywoods Farm in Tiverton. (See flyer for info). Eagle Sings will be joining us in drumming, and the floor is open to dance and enjoy yourselves. If there are any Native entertainers who would like to join us, please contact us. There is no admission fee, we just ask that you please bring a dish to share and come join us for a fun filled afternoon.

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 1**

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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 1st 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:



Spiritually Speaking

We also have a religion which was given to our forefathers, and has been handed down to us, their children. It teaches us to be thankful, to be united, and to love one another! We never quarrel about religion.

Red Jacket, Seneca

First you are to think always of God, of Wakan Tanka. Second, you are to use all your powers to care for your people, especially the poor.

Black Moon, Hunkpapa Sioux

Can things go well in a land where freedom of worship is a lie, a hollow boast? To each Nation is given the light by which it knows God, and each finds its own way to express the longing to serve Him... If a Nation does not do what is right according to its own understanding, it's power is worthless.

Thunderchild, Plains Cree

May the warm winds of heaven blow softly upon your house, and may the Great Spirit bless all who enter there. May your moccasins make happy tracks in many snows, and may the rainbow always touch your shoulder.

Cherokee Blessing



Dues time:



Dues for 2014 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 2014 card upon payment.

Upcoming Events:

Sun Dec 1

Aquidneck Indian Council's Dec Meeting & Social
222 Middle Rd, Portsmouth RI
1:00 - ? 401-683-4589

Sat Dec 7

Aquidneck Indian Council
Winter Potluck Lunch & Dance Social
Sandywoods Farm 43 Muse Way Tiverton RI
12:00 - 5:00 401-683-4589

Sat Dec 15

Brockton Church Christmas Social
243 Winthrop St. Rehoboth, MA
(Grange Bldg. Rte 118 & 44)
12:00 - ? 508-436-3105

** 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.

Merry Christmas



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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 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:

Thinking of you

by Raven Speak (*Robin Riley*)



How do you know that your one act of kindness will make a difference, or to make a moment of change that will last a life time? Ignoring these urges are our greatest temptation, for they rarely come at our convenience; at least that has been my experience.

For me when someone just NEEDS help or even just a little bit of guidance it seems to come my way when I am extremely off guard. Typically this is the time when I need to acknowledge not just for that person but for myself that there is a lesson for me. Maybe it's one more act of love that needs attention or one more smile that someone just needed for the day to make it positive for them to keep standing tall, and then it's my lesson that I am faced with; the decision of whether to ignore it, or offer a quick fix, with kind words, or to actually offer the time one on one with the person to hear what they are troubled with. And just maybe during this quality time all that was needed from me was just the offering of time.

Over the past years I have tried to be there for my friends and family when I know they are in need. I have put myself on a pause to make sure they are taking every breath they take with the thoughts of "Life is great". But please understand I have not, nor will I reach such a pinnacle of perfection, where I am capable of fulfilling everyone's needs, nor do I always act upon the first call. But through trial and error I have learned to respond to these powerful promptings that repeat over and over in my mind. No longer do I stop to analyze or question when I am being nudged to do something, I just simply act.

So, I know you're wondering by now what my whole point of this letter today is about; so let me start by telling you about my lessons that Creator laid at my feet.

Last week I woke up to feeling yucky, irritable and just downright grumpy, as I'm sure we all do every so often. I did my usual morning routine, get up at 5:30am from bed, wake the kids up, shower, fix my lunch for work and out the door by 6:20am to grab coffee and straight to work. As I'm pulling in to my parking spot my coffee spills all over my car, (Really!!) as I say, that's just awesome! I clean up the mess on my passenger seat, go stomping into my office (POUTING). I do my usual routine for the morning, I sit at my desk to get my day started and "BAM", out of nowhere I am crossed with this heavy heart. All I wanted to do was cry, for no certain reason. All someone had to do was look at me and I got emotional. As the day carried on I looked forward to the end of the day to just going home. Finally after the whole crappy day I go home with all intentions of just escaping from the outside world when a good friend of mine called me from back home in West Virginia. She is very close to my heart and has been for over 23 yrs. She took me under her wing when I was 15, and stood by me, helping me with my kids through all the good and bad times. As I talked with her and told her how I was feeling she then in return told me that she was thinking of me for a few days and she was remembering the long nights and all the laughs we had together. After about an hour of talking to her I had forgotten about how yucky I felt and how crappy my day was. Before we hung up, she said, "Robin don't you ever think that you're not thought about. You are and will always be part of my heart and I will always love you". That's when I realized the words "I was thinking about you" hit me!! Being thought of, especially during hard times, really means a lot and I will always be grateful for those 4 words she said to me.

So my message to you is. Let someone know you thought of them, even if it's just a text or a random phone call. The holidays are right around the corner. Get in contact with someone you haven't seen or heard from in a while and just say "HEY, I WAS THINKING OF YOU. Be well my friends

Next meeting:



Sunday Dec 1, 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:

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

Soaring Eagle Singers

From 3 Horses:

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.

To hi ge se s di – Cherokee for “Peace on Earth”

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy Kwanza, Happy Holidays to all.....

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.