

Aquidneck Island Intertribal Indian Council

(est. Oct. 14, 2007)

Newsletter

February 2016



Council News

At Last month's meeting we discussed last year's (2015) events and financial reports, as well as plans for this year, ie; arts & crafts nights, family fun nights and the Council's focus, direction and/or goals for 2016. We also received a thank you letter from St Joseph's Indian School for our Council's generous Christmas gift donations.

Also at last month's meeting, we read Anna's application for Associate Membership. At this month's meeting we will be voting upon her request to join our extended family.

On Sat Jan 9 we held our Winter Social at the FOP. It was a fun time for all. We thank all that attended. Good food, good fun and a big amount of raffle items. Thanks to Eagle Sings Drum for joining us and drumming with us. Hope to see all our friends at the final Winter Social.

** On Sat Feb 13th 12:00 – 5:00 we will be hosting our final “Winter Potluck Lunch and Dance Social Gathering”, for this season, at the FOP. (See page 6 for info). 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. We ask that you keep the following people in your prayers: Nathan, Manny, Marie, Richard and all members of our extended family who are sick, ill or injured.

See you at the next meeting: Sunday Feb 7

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Message from 3 Horses.

Aquidneck Indian Council 9th Annual Indoor Pow-Wow



Saturday March 26th

9:00 – 5:00 {Grand Entry @ noon}

Knights of Columbus Hall
7 Valley Road, Middletown RI

Drumming, Dancing, Flute music, Storytelling
and more.

Native American (and some not-so-native)
items for sale

Refreshments available

Drums: The Soaring Eagle Singers and invited
drums.

Flute Player: Scott Shuffitt

Free Admission (**Donations gladly accepted)
Proceeds to help support St Joseph's Indian School and
The Aquidneck Indian Council's charities

**** This is a drug free and alcohol free event ****

On the lighter side:



Spiritually Speaking

"The Old Ones have always said that no matter who despises or ignores you, no matter who keeps you from entering their circles, it is right to pray for them because they are like us, too."

Larry P. Aitken, Chippewa

You don't know how an apple tastes until you taste it. You don't know what a fish tastes like until you eat it. You don't know how it is to be a woman unless you are one. You don't know what it means to have a baby until you have one. So it is with the natural laws. An example: the natural law of forgiveness says, if you hate someone, pray for the person to be blessed with happiness, joy and all the blessings of the Great Spirit. You will not know about this law unless you do it. The natural law says love others as you love yourself. If you hate yourself or feel guilt in some area of yourself, you will tend to judge and condemn your neighbor. You cannot give away what you don't have. You teach your children by your example, not by your words. The natural laws are written in our hearts.

Great Spirit, teach me how to look into my heart.

"The way of knowledge is like our old way of hunting. You begin with a mere trail - a footprint. If you follow that faithfully, it may lead you to a clearer trail - a track - a road. Later on there will be many tracks, crossing and diverging one from the other. Then you must be careful, for success lies in the choice of the right road."

Many Lightenings Eastman, Santee Sioux

An entire apple tree is initially contained in the seed. Visions are initially contained in the idea. If you trace the path of a blooming flower backwards, it goes from the blooming flower back to a bud, back to a stem, back to a seed. So it is in the way of knowledge. Often we will experience a hunch or a feeling that we are supposed to do something. At first it may not make any sense. This is the seed stage. Once we start to investigate, more gets revealed. As more is revealed, the more knowledge we get. This is the way the Great Spirit guides us.

Great Spirit, help me to choose the right choices.



Upcoming Events:

Sun Feb 7

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

Sat Feb 13

Winter Pot Luck Lunch & Dance Social
Middletown FOP Lodge #21,
464 Mitchell's Lane, Middletown RI
401-683-4589 12:00 – 5:00

Sun Mar 6

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

Sat Mar 26

9th Annual Indoor Pow-wow and Spring Gathering
K of C Hall, 7 Valley Rd, Middletown RI
401-683-4589 9:00 – 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.

A bit of History:



{Pipe tomahawk presented to Chief Tecumseh, ca. 1812}

“Where today are the Pequot? Where are the Narragansett, the Mohican, the Pocanet, and other powerful tribes of our people? They have vanished before the avarice and oppression of the white man, as snow before the summer sun... Will we let ourselves be destroyed in our turn, without making an effort worthy of our race? Shall we without a struggle, give up our homes, our lands, bequeathed to us by the Great Spirit? The graves of our dead and everything that is dear and sacred to us? I know you will say with me; Never! Never!”

Tecumseh, Shawnee Leader 1811

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**Aquidneck
Land Trust**

790 Aquidneck Ave. Middletown, RI 02842

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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:

Honoring the Sacred Ways

by: *Beverly Morningstar*



What is expected from those who enter in a Native American circle

When a person is asked/or excepted into the circle it is ALWAYS considered a great honor to be part of it. In knowing this, one should always listen, learn, act on all that he/she has been taught.

One has to be attentive and respect what the Leader/Chief is addressing, whether it is a teaching or other issues. It is not acceptable for anyone to talk/disrupt a person who is talking. That is the reason for a talking stick that I was taught should be used in all circles. The lesson it teaches ALL OF US is that when others are speaking we should allow them to do so without interruptions. It teaches us to respect another's point of view as well as patience.

It is very important and honorable not to discuss information that may have been addressed DURING A MEETING to others that are not part of the circle. In doing this; it is considered disrespectful to the Chief, also one should never just get up and walk out during a ceremony/meeting unless one has permission to do so from the Chief..

Honoring others who are part of the circle

If you have been invited or accepted into a Native American circle it is because the Chief/Leader has recognized that you would be a great asset to the circle. Each person adds to the circle by being a good listener, by using their gifts for the good of the circle, offering help when it is needed, and being non-judgmental of others.

It is considered that all, who are part of this circle, have their own unique gifts to share. In honoring the gifts of us, the circle is complete allowing it to grow in unity and peace while learning from each other as well. There can be no room for egos, as it is nonproductive and causes dissention.

The purpose of having the circle is to teach the Sacred Ways, while at the same time it utilizes each individual's gifts. When we are part of the circle we are to recognize that we are all here for a purpose. He has allowed you to become one with your sisters/brothers in gaining knowledge and wisdom. Our Creator/Great Spirit wants us to recognize that each person, who is part of this circle, is connected to a great plan He has for them.

The Respect we are to show to the Chief/Leader

It is considered disrespectful to gossip, argue ABOUT ONE ANOTHER, or question the decisions made by the Chief/Leader as he is the one who has been chosen not only by the people, but by the Great Spirit to lead.

At times one may not agree with decisions made by the Chief/Leader; if this is the case then one should go to the Chief/Leader, and ask to speak to him alone regarding the issue. It is never done in a disrespectful manner. This prevents any discord/arguments among the others.

One should always be mindful that it is the Chief/Leader who is responsible for the final decisions that he feels is best for all, it is not any easy task being the Chief.

I would like to add this; one can gain much wisdom by listening to what others have to say. We are all connected and when we see as well as and recognize the gifts of our sisters/brothers, we have the beginning of wisdom. When we listen we learn lessons others are sent to teach us, when we honor another's gift we learn about humility, and when we support one another, we are walking the Red Road.

Editorial:

What is Sacred

by Oren Lyons



"In the absence of the sacred - nothing is sacred, everything is for sale."

The Elders often say that when something is sacred it has spiritual value. You'll hear, on the Earth there are sacred spots. You'll hear, our ceremonies are sacred, our children are sacred, marriage is sacred. When something is sacred it means it's so holy you can't attach a value to it. Therefore, it's not for sale. It's an insult to suggest buying something sacred. On the other hand, if we look at it differently, as there is no sacred land, ceremonies are not sacred, our children are not sacred, etc., - then; everything is for sale. Sacredness creates spiritual space. Sacredness makes things holy. Sacredness shows respect for God.

Too often we worry about the words we use in prayer. We focus on the words. What really counts is the spirit and intent behind our words. It is the spirit and intent that the Creator responds to. He reads and listens to our heart. Prayer isn't only when we fold our hands and pray; prayer is when we talk to the Creator even when we are walking down a street or sitting on a hill or walking in the mountains. The Elders say, walk in prayer. We should be willing to talk with the Great One.

Great Spirit, let me honor things that are sacred, today I will pray to You all day. Listen to my heart.





The
AQUIDNECK INDIAN COUNCIL



Invites you to attend

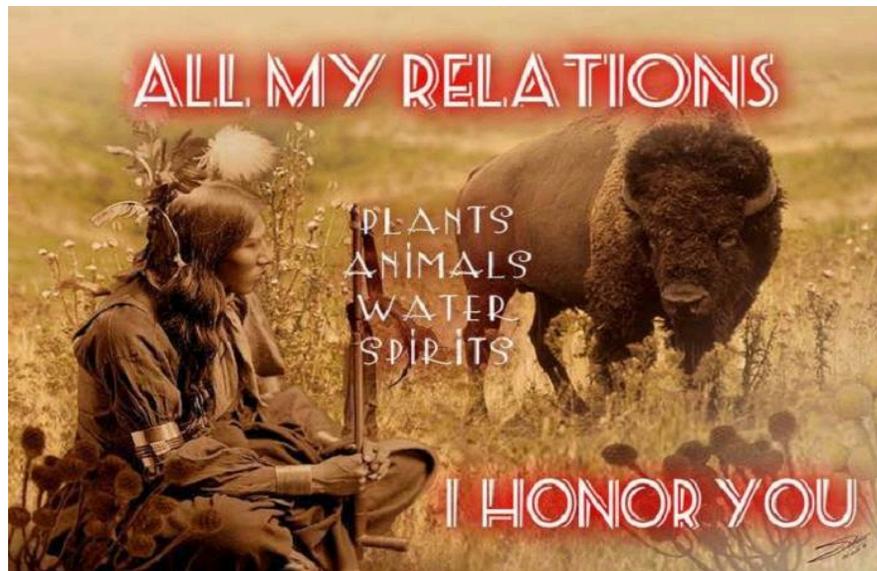
our Winter Potluck - Lunch, Dance Social Gathering

Sat Feb 13th 12:00 – 5:00

@ Middletown FOP Lodge #21, 464 Mitchell's Lane, Middletown, RI

Raffles, Dancing and afternoon fun.

Open to the public - all are welcome.



Please bring something to share.

(Coffee, water & soda will be provided by the Council)

Drumming by: the Soaring Eagle Singers and Eagle Sings Drum

All Native entertainers welcome.

****This is an Alcohol & Drug Free Event****

Directions to: FOP Lodge

From Fall River, Providence, and points north, take Route 195 east to Route 24S. Follow 24S to 138S East Main Rd in Portsmouth. Follow Route 138 approx. 6 miles past the State Police barracks, use Sarge's Autobody as a focus point. Mitchell's Lane is next left at Portsmouth & Middletown line. Spruce Acres tree farm is directly across from Mitchell's Ln. If you see Slate Farm, you passed it.

From southern RI, take the Jamestown and Newport bridges and continue through Middletown on Route 114 (West Main Road) to Route 138N East Main Rd. Follow East Main approx. 4 miles. Mitchell's Lane is next right after Boulevard Nurseries.

For more info contact us at

401-683-4589

Aquidneck_Indian@verizon.net

www.aquidneckindiancouncil.org

Native Recipe

Iroquois Soup



Ingredients:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1 lb fish | ½ lb sliced mushrooms |
| 2 qts water | 4 packages beef bouillon |
| 2 tablespoons cornmeal | 1 large onion, chopped |
| 1 ½ cups dried lima beans (*cheat: 1 10-15oz can) | 1 clove garlic, minced |
| 1 teaspoon parsley | 1-2 tablespoons butter |
| Extra seasonings to taste: dash of basil, black pepper and salt | |

Instructions:

****Soak lima beans overnight - or cheat & use canned.**

Sauté minced garlic, onion and fish in butter, stirring frequently to break fish into pieces (approx. 5 minutes).

Then add water, bouillon, mushrooms, parsley, basil, pepper, cornmeal, salt and drained lima beans.

Cook until beans are soft (approx. 30-40 minutes).

Serves 4 - 6

Next meeting:



**** Sunday Feb 7, 1:00**
@ 222 Middle Rd Portsmouth
Guests Always Welcome



St. Joseph's Indian School
We serve and teach, we receive and learn.

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Chamberlain, SD 57325
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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

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



Inspirational:

The path of glory is rough and many gloomy hours obscure it. May the Great Spirit shed light on yours.
Black Hawk, Sauk

From 3 Horses:

Does everyone remember the legendary question, "Did you ever wonder why" (Andy Rooney, CBS News)? Do you sometimes ponder this question yourself? Why do I want to know Native history or culture? Why do I go to Native functions or events? Why do I go to Native ceremonies? Why do I want to be around a Native drum? Do you ever think it's because you feel the connection to your ancestors and more especially to Wakan Tanka, the Great Spirit Himself?

The drum, the gatherings, the songs, the ceremonies; all bring us closer to the connectedness with the Ancient One Above. Our Council is not only a teaching council, but a spiritual driven circle of family and friends. If you haven't been to a Council meeting or function lately, you're missing that special something. Did you ever wonder why things may at times seem distant or difficult? Sit and talk with Creator, let him read your heart. Make your heart a sacred place. *May we always meet, act, part and walk in a sacred manner. A-ho!*

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.