

## Aquidneck Island Intertribal Indian Council

# Newsletter

January 2013



### Council News.

At the Dec meeting/social there was an outpouring of love for the children at St Joseph's Indian School. There were so many gifts and much needed items under 2 trees for the children. There are many that excelled in their gift giving, I won't name everyone, but I must shed light upon Anastasia. It was her wish to donate all the proceeds that she would have received between a party and gifts, on her birthday, to purchase Christmas gifts for the Sioux children at the school. After boxing up all the gifts, which included; hats, scarves, gloves, school supplies, HBA, toys & stuffed animals, there were 15 big boxes shipped out through the Middletown "Post All". I have to give props to the manager & staff there. For the last 5 years they have always taken good care of us with our shipping needs & discounts. I have contacted St Joes and the packages arrived Friday the 14<sup>th</sup>, as indicated by the staff at Post All, in time for Christmas. Also at Dec's social there was lots of good food, friendship, and we held our 2<sup>nd</sup> Nikoma. There were many gifts for everyone. No one went away empty handed, matter of fact everyone had a chance to go to the blanket 4 or more times. Creator loves a generous/giving heart.

On Sun the 16<sup>th</sup> we ventured out to Rehoboth, the Wig Wam Spiritual Centers' winter meeting place, to drum for a Christmas social. It felt good to see everyone dancing and enjoying our gift of music. We played some children's songs, Native Christmas songs, modified Christmas songs, as well as our regular medicine songs. What a great feeling.

**\*\*Naming Ceremony Sun 12/30: see page 3.**

This month's meeting will be our Annual meeting. Yearly reports will be read for the Council member's knowledge and approval. Please plan to attend the meeting. Let your voice and thoughts be heard. Also, open discussion of future events and nominations & elections of officers, if needed.

I was going to cancel drum practices till after the holidays, but it has been the request of the members that we continue. 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.

As some of you know, and some may not, Jared has a broken wrist. I ask all to wish him well and ask Creator for a speedy recovery.

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 Jan 6**

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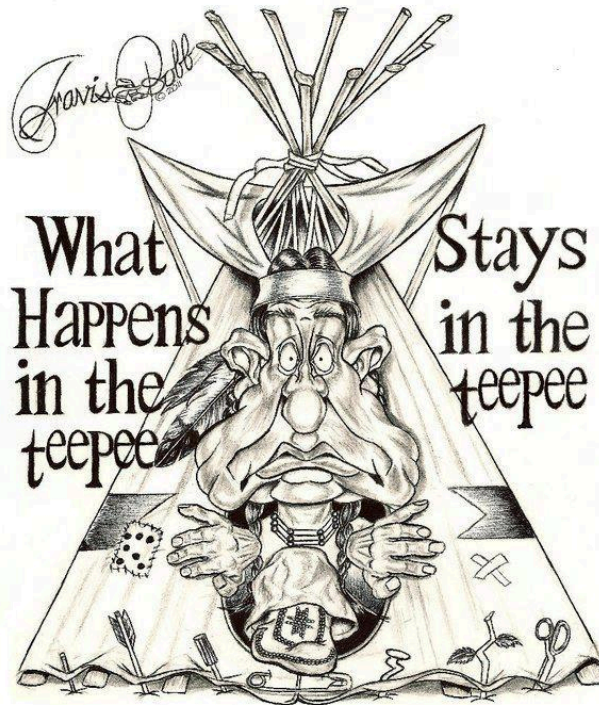
## *"Happy New Year"*



As Mother Earth pours out the blessings given to us from Wakan Tanka, let us all remember, we all drink from the same river of life.

Let us all come together in peace and unity and work towards another good year.

On the lighter side:



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### *Spiritually Speaking*

Peace... comes within the souls of men when they realize their relationship, their oneness, with the universe and all the powers, and when they realize that at the center of the Universe dwells Wakan Tanka, and that this center is really everywhere, it is within each of us.

*Black Elk, Oglala Sioux*

Certain small ways and observances sometimes have connection with large and more profound ideas.

*Luther Standing Bear, Oglala Sioux*

I'm the only one who's responsible for my soul. If I don't do things right, I'm at fault, not him/her, not the church, not that mountain over there or the sun. This is the way they teach Indian religious ideals. No one is going to influence you. No one is going to bring you up to your grave, but yourself.

*Alex Saluskin, Yakima*

The Great Spirit is in all things, HE is in the air we breathe. The Great Spirit is our Father, but the Earth is our Mother. She nourishes us, that which we put into the ground returns to us.

*Big Thunder, Wabanaki*

Life, the circle, a measurement with no beginning and no end.

*Phillip Deere, Creek*

The circle teaches us how the Creator made things and how to live. It teaches us how we should look at creation. Life travels in a circle. In the East is the baby, to the South is the youth, in the West is the adult and in the North is the Elder. Then we return to the Earth Mother to start the cycle again. We observe what is "around us" from the center of the circle. This develops our point of view. We must be careful not to become self-centered.

Great Spirit, let me observe life from the circle's point of view.

## Dues time:



Dues for 2013 can be paid at the 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:

Sat Dec 30<sup>th</sup>  
Naming Ceremony  
Melville Pond/Park  
12:00

Sun Jan 6<sup>th</sup>  
Aquidneck Council: Jan meeting  
222 Middle Rd Portsmouth RI  
1:00 - ?

### *Naming Ceremony*

Sun Dec 30<sup>th</sup>

#### Melville Park/Ponds Overlook

(\*\*if rain/snow: 222 Middle Rd\*\*)

Ceremony to start @ 12:00

Meeting at parking area, at park entrance  
between 11:15 & 11:30

Come greet and offer your well wishes to:  
Jared, Leilani, Scott & Wayne

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

Pot luck social to follow  
@ 222 Middle Rd Portsmouth  
(please bring something to share)



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Land Trust

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401-849-2799      Ted Clement      TClement@ailt.org

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

Fort McDowell Yavapai Apache flag



## Editorial:

### GIVE

by, Robin Riley (*Raven Speak*)



This year has been a long journey that is now moving forward to a new path.... We have learned a lot from one another. We have also met good people that have crossed our path and has left us with smiles and warmth.. But as people we meet on our journey come and go including the ones that have crossed over, we should look back and say. "I am thankful for the learning purposes that have been brought on to my path so I can grow with knowledge". Now that it's Christmastime everyone is giving gifts to their loved ones but they seem to have forgotten the real purpose of giving... This goes back to me always saying it's those little things that mean the most: GIVE a hug... GIVE a helping hand to someone.... GIVE time even when it's not needed from your eyes.. Because, it just might be needed to that one person's heart and feelings..

Winter months are times for storytelling and rest. Our lessons for life are evident all around us. As the Earth rests so should we. In the Native American/American Indian tradition, they would sometimes prepare individuals for a task, or add to the celebration of a particular event. The historical story of the tribe is often seen in the dances at Christmastime..

Many Native American people found that the story of Christmas and Christ's birth fulfilled tribal prophecies and found the message to be consistent with the truth that was handed down by their ancestors. They believed in giving a dance to Creator, and ones whom accepted Christianity. It was known for all to have the custom of a dance on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning as the gift of giving... So my point to this note to all who reads this is... All life is a gift from the Creator. Our time on this earth is but a dance. Listen to the wind and the sounds of the earth, there is a song being sung each day. Celebrate life and share the gifts of the Creator. In this way it will be complete.

Good health to you and your family in this Holiday season.

*Merry Christmas,  
Raven Speak*



# Next meeting:



Sunday Jan 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

## 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 must be united... We must smoke the same pipe... We must fight each other's battles... and more than that, we must love the Great Spirit.*

*Tecumseh, Shawnee*

### From 3 Horses:

Another year has come and gone. A new calendar is beginning. A lot of things have happened within our Tiyosopae (*extended family*). We have had much happy times; we have also had some sad times. I guess you could say we have balance: negative and positive. I'd like to think the positive outweighs the negative. There is a lot of learning, teaching and healing still to be done in this new year. I ask everyone to lend their support and add their input. We are a family and families cannot grow unless we share ideas and support each other.

Honor the Sacred. Honor the Earth - our Mother. Honor the Elders. Honor all with whom we share the Earth: the Four-legged, two-legged, winged ones, swimmers, crawlers, plant & rock people. Walk in balance & beauty. **To hi ge se s di** (*Peace on Earth - Cherokee*)

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

*Happy New Year,*

*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.*