

# Aquidneck Island Intertribal Indian Council

(est. Oct. 14, 2007)

## Newsletter

January 2014



### Council News

At last month's meeting we had our Christmas party, Nikomo and gift gathering for St Joseph's Indian School. Again, there was much love for the children, shown by the amount of gifts under the Native tree. After the packing, there were 14 cases that were shipped to St Joes, to arrive in plenty of time for Christmas. I want to thank everyone for opening your hearts to these children.

Also we had a great time at the Nikomo. There were enough gifts on the blanket to go around more than 6 times. Not to mention the good food – I asked you not to mention the food, ha-ha (worried about putting on weight over the holidays).

On Sat Dec 7 we held our 2nd 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 big amount of raffle items. Hope to see all our friends at the next 2 Socials.

This month's meeting will also be our "Annual" (yearly) meeting. All reports will be read and plans will be discussed for 2014. Plan to attend and let your voice be heard.

\*On Sat Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 12:00 – 5:00 we will be hosting another "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..

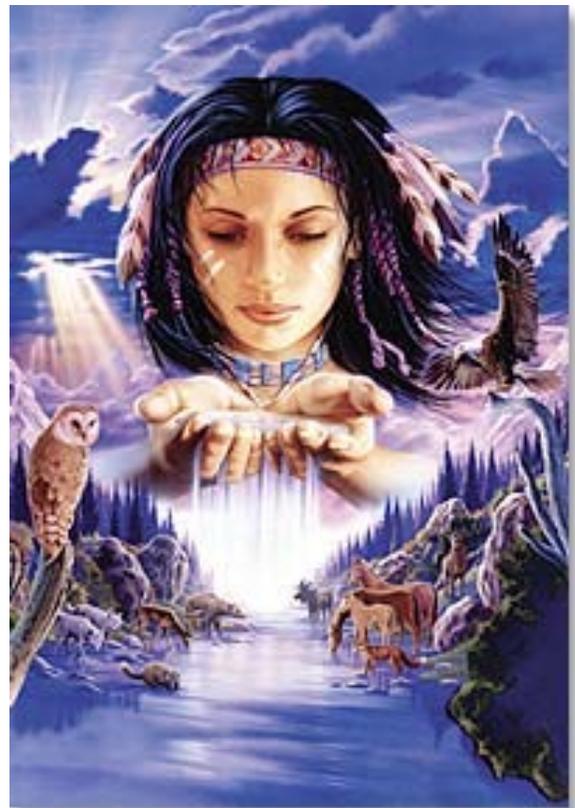
If you know of a member, or friend of this Council, who is sick or in the hospital, please let us know ASAP.

**\*\*See you at the next meeting: Sunday Jan 5**

### Contents:

Page 1; Council news.  
Page 2; Lighter Side. Spiritually Speaking  
Page 3; Adverts, Events, Holiday Advice  
Page 4; Editorial  
Page 5; Assorted info. Charity Info. Inspirations.  
Message from 3 Horses.

### *"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:



"See, here's where you screwed up."

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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*



## Dues time:



Dues for 2014 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 2014 card upon payment.*

### Upcoming Events:

Sun Jan 5

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

Sat Jan 11

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

\*\* 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.

### ADVICE FOR THE HOILDAYS:

For many people, the holidays and Christmas can be not only a very happy and joyous time reuniting with family and friends, but also a very stressful time. Old patterns of behavior emerge, our stress levels go up, and our ability to cope flies out the window. No sooner have we put away the Thanksgiving turkey that we turn and find the presents we need to wrap for Christmas. The holidays start a few weeks of stress and constant motion for many, as well as feelings of being overwhelmed, depression and even loneliness for others.

We can't stop the world from turning, but we can take a minute during the whole time to STOP for ourselves, to take a deep breath and release all that energy we feel overwhelmed with. Take a minute and close the eyes. Enjoy the surrounding of what we don't take a little bit of time to listen to. And remember if you plan to drink; "Don't Drive". The best gift to give someone is a ride home, when one is drinking, or a pillow to lay there head down or even a phone call for someone to pick them up.. They will thank you in the morning. Be safe, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
*Robin Riley (Raven Speak)*

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(Official photographer of the Aquidneck Indian Council)

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The logo for Aquidneck Land Trust is in the top left corner of a rectangular area. The background of this area is a photograph of a sunset over a body of water with trees in the foreground.

Aquidneck  
Land Trust

790 Aquidneck Ave. Middletown, RI 02842  
401-849-2799 [chuckallott@ailt.org](mailto:chuckallott@ailt.org)

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](http://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](mailto:evroty@aol.com)

## Editorial:

### Just Listen

by Raven Speak (*Robin Riley*)



The most basic of all human needs is the need to understand and be understood. The best way to understand people is to listen to them.”

“The universe has a weird way of working things out in life; things appear or show up for a reason. What appeared for me was a powerful listener. Though this person was a stranger to me, he is also a young man that has not met his 20’s yet but all in all I felt connected from the very first day. What opened this opportunity for me was reading his book. It allowed me to know that I can be strong when it comes to helping and guiding others with my words. And I can write my words as lessons for many. But I myself have recently been taught I can be my own worst enemy. I sat down and wrote to this young man my story of my life. The one thing no one else has ever heard from me.

When I wrote knowing he was reading, but listening so patiently and intently to my words and feelings - both expressed and unexpressed - it gifted me what felt so incredible that I didn’t want to stop sharing. I emptied my entire heart, all my fears, disappointments, and pain. I released all of it. It was a pure, non-judgmental, patient, and empathetic space where I got to express and feel understood and validated. I didn’t get any solutions, advice, or answers. Instead it gave me the opportunity to question myself the same questions I ask many that I teach, like “What does my soul really want?” “What makes me happy?” “What am I grateful for?” and “How can I forgive?”

When someone listens to you well, it makes you feel accepted, understood, important, valued and validated. It gives you a voice to help you find yourself again. It reminds you that you are not invisible or alone. Although we hear with our ears, many of us don’t necessarily listen to what is being said. We don’t get the chance to listen when we are too quickly reacting, judging, providing solutions, and disagreeing, rather than being a good sounding board. So my message to you is “Be an effective listener”. Remember that ‘words have no meaning - people have meaning.’ The assignment of meaning to a term is an internal process; meaning comes from inside us. And although our experiences, knowledge and attitudes differ, we often misinterpret each other’s messages while under the illusion that a common understanding has been achieved.”

So I want to say Thank you Isaiah Johnson (“Sleeping Turtle the Laughing Hawk”) for being a well open minded young man. Your path has many opportunities coming your way to listen and hear what needs to be heard. Stay strong and carry your wisdom well..

*Be Blessed*

*Have a Wonderful Christmas and a Safe and Joyful New Year!!!!*

# Next meeting:



**Sunday Jan 5, 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](mailto:aquidneck_indian@verizon.net)  
Website: [www.aquidneckindiancouncil.org](http://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:

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

*Phillip Deere, Creek*

### 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 many happy times and new experiences; 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 upcoming 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. *May the Great One Above bless each and every one of us... Aho*

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.*