

Aquidneck Island Intertribal Indian Council

(est. Oct. 14, 2007)

Newsletter

June 2014



Council News

At last month's meeting, the membership voted to accept and welcome Joshua as our newest member to our Council family circle.

At last month's meeting we voted on requests for drumming and presentations over the summer months. Check the "calendar of events" on page 3, for upcoming events. As more, or any, summer requests are received, they will be discussed at this month's meeting or at drum practices.

For those of you who don't know, the Council does not meet on a regular basis in July & August. It is usually pow-wow season and vacation season. During this time there will be no newsletter. The next meeting will be Sept 7 (unless changed for some reason) and the next newsletter will be out, roughly, the 2nd to last week of August. There will still be drum on Thurs and many events over the summer months to keep us busy. Any event/issue that arises will be discussed at drum practice or sent out to all members via email.

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.

For all of you that know him (and those of you who don't), we ask for prayers for one of our elders, Yellow Turtle. He had undergone surgery for personal reasons and had come down with complications, fever and pneumonia. He has been sent from the hospital to a rehab facility.

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 June 1**

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"Prayer is the best answer to all of the trials that face us, because without prayer, even if we succeed in accomplishing some great goal in the eyes of men, we have failed in our sacred responsibilities, and thus we have failed in what is truly important."

--Thomas Yellowtail, CROW



What are our sacred responsibilities? One is to be of maximum service to the Creator, and two is to serve the people. In a way, it's like the Great Spirit is the employer and we are the employees. We live each day, do what we do, accomplish our goals, face our difficulties, overcome them all to the Glory of the Creator. We do these things to make Him proud! Even if we work for a company, agency or tribe, they are not really our employer; the Creator is our employer. Working for the Creator is better than working for a human being, because each night we can talk to the Creator and ask Him, "Well, how did I do today?" He answers back each night, "I'm proud of you, my child; sleep well, and in the morning I'll give you a new set of growing experiences."

Great Spirit, today, let me work for You. You will be my new boss.

On the lighter side:



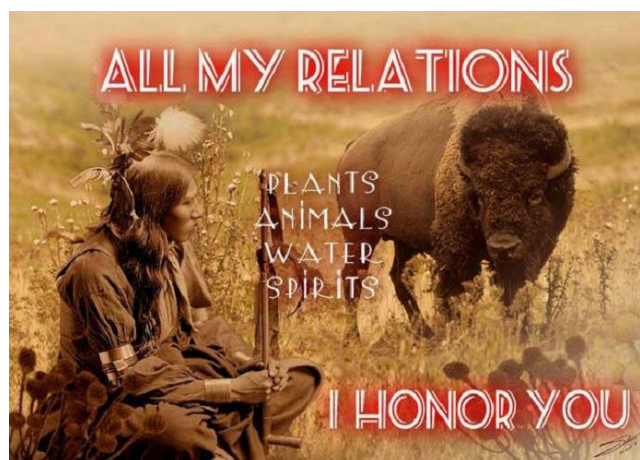
Spiritually Speaking

We are all moving along the river of life. Enjoy the scenery. Look and you will see the Creator. Fish along the way and don't forget to play. Pull your canoe up on the shoreline and rest. Pick berries and collect them in your birch bark basket. Taste the blueberry, and you will taste Creator. Build a nice fire and cook your fish. Taste the fish and you will taste Creator. Burn cedar, sage and sweet grass, you will smell Creator. Place tobacco down and thank the four directions for their gifts. Watch the sun trail to the west. It is the glory of the Creator. Tell your companions of your journey and listen to theirs. Tell stories around the fire and enjoy each other's company. Tell jokes, laugh, enjoy. Look into the eternity of cousin fire and you will touch Creator's pulse. Rest under Grandmother Moon's glow and sleep well.

Your greatest treasure is your child within. Continue to nurture your child even as you grow old. This child is forever part of you. The child within gifts you the freedom that you crave, the spontaneity you wish for, the wonder you desire. Go to the East direction when in need of these things. Remain connected to your child within. See with child eyes and you will see the affinity of life.

Give your time, your Self, to others. Help with a door, slow down for the aged, read to a child. Give your best. Share your smiles. Share your joy as well as your sadness. Serve others to serve yourself. That's integrity. If you think you are humble, you probably are not. If you think you're not humble, you probably are.

Walk in harmony. Walk in beauty. Don't cling to dark or bright. Look for the rainbow in puddles, for every negative has within a positive, and vice versa. Be deliberate with your choices and intentions. Follow your heart. Follow your drum beat. Life is a boomerang and will return to you what you send out into the universe.



Upcoming Events:

Sun May 25

Strawberry Spring Gathering
American Indian Federation Hall Grounds
1 Indian Street, North Kingstown, RI
10:00 – 4:00 401-632-7095

Sun June 1

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

Sat & Sun June 7-8

Wollomunpoag Indian Council: 40th Annual Pow-wow
La Salette Shrine Fairgrounds, Rte 118, Attleboro, MA
508-384-2704

Sat & Sun June 14-15

Committee of Sobriety: 12th Annual Sobriety Pow-wow
979 Somerset Ave (Behind town hall), Dighton, MA
508-880-6887

Fri & Sat July 4-5

Aquidneck Indian Council's July 4th gathering
(drumming, cookout/potluck, fireworks display & campout)
222 Middle Rd, Portsmouth RI
1:00 - > 401-683-4589

Sat & Sun Aug 2-3

American Indian Federation Pow-wow
American Indian Federation Hall Grounds
1 Indian Street, North Kingstown, RI
401-632-7095

Sat & Sun Aug 30 - 31

Seaconke Wampanoag Tribe: 18th Annual Pow-wow
Redway Plains, Rte 44, Rehoboth, MA
401-723-1563

** 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.

** Reminder **



You too can show your Native pride and honor all Veterans of all conflicts by flying this flag. You can purchase this flag from TME Flag Co for \$115. Partial proceeds from the sale of this special designed flag go to the Aquidneck Indian Council's charity fund. Be sure to mention the Aquidneck Indian Council when ordering.

Peter at TME Flag Co., Inc....
101 Bel Air Drive, New Milford, Connecticut 06776
Tel (860) 354-0686 E-Mail TMEALF@aol.com www.tmealf.com

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(Official photographer of the Aquidneck Indian Council)

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790 Aquidneck Ave. Middletown, RI 02842

401-849-2799 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

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

evrotty@aol.com

Editorial:

All Memories are our lessons to teach.

by *Raven Speak* (Robin Riley)



When any human being drops into the feelings of helplessness and hopelessness, there seems to be no strength left to draw upon. In situations where devastating events have dealt a crushing blow to the spirit, it is often nearly impossible to look at the blessings. We have all heard that behind every difficulty is an opportunity, and at times that may seem to be the case. However, it is very difficult for people who are ill to see that bright side to the healing situation that exists within.

The human potential to hang on and survive is the property of the spirit and the will. A very fine thread of faith is the tightrope that many have to walk daily. This thread can be strengthened through the reservoir of memories. To recall kindness, an act of generosity or a happy moment is to access the memories that give us strength in hard times. This ability is a blessing in itself, which when used regularly, can reinforce determination and the spirits resolve to make it through. This reservoir is like a bank where we have deposited memories that can help or thwart our intentions to grow beyond hopelessness. Which memories we choose to withdraw from that is a matter of freewill.

So my reasoning of this message to my readers is that recently a great friend/mentor of recovery "Jim Gillen" AKA "Catfish Jim" has first battled 4th stage Lymphoma and fought like the warrior he is and won. He has then taken back his life in full force doing what we all know him to do which is making Recovery to people a positive path to want to walk. Then another obstacle came upon him of pneumonia which laid him up in the hospital for a period of time. As of right now he is home resting regaining his energy back so he can go back out onto the battlefield and fight for what I have seen one man do with great passion on his life journey. Having a memory of recovery to drugs, alcohol, cancer, etc. is something we all should never forget. He is a perfect example in our life that loudly speaks to society to NEVER GIVE UP! KEEP FIGHTING! ALWAYS MAKE YOUR MEMORIES GOOD OR BAD A STORY TO TELL AS A LESSON TO LEARN FROM!!!!



A Story of the Ghost Dance



The ghost dance is a ceremony for the regeneration of the earth, and, subsequently, the restoration of the earth's caretakers to their former life of bliss. Not surprisingly, the religion experienced its height of popularity during the late 19th century, when devastation to the buffalo, the land, and its Native American guardians was at its peak. Between 1888 and 1990, various tribes sent emissaries to a man named Wovoka, who claimed to be a visionary, and who was hailed as a Messiah by many desperate Indian nations. Wovoka maintained that Spirits had shown him certain movements and songs after he had died for a short period of time. In a manner reminiscent of Christ, Wovoka preached non-violence, and most tribes abandoned their war-like ways in preparation for future happiness.

The dance quickly spread to various American Indian nations, and as it spread, it took on additional meanings. While performing the ceremonial dance, it was believed that you could visit relatives who had left their bodies. As so many Native Americans had lost friends and relatives, this aspect of the ceremony was particularly healing. The Lakota, Cheyenne and Arapaho expanded its meaning further after being told in dreams that wearing certain designs on clothing would protect them in battle. These beliefs served to ward off fears of imminent danger from suspicious and sometimes hostile white onlookers, but proved futile in the end.

The ritual dance unified Indian people, even tribes with a tradition of conflict. The solidarity of these groups frightened government officials, whose worst fears were realized years earlier when the Arapahoe, Cheyenne and Sioux came together to defeat Custer. As mentioned earlier, most ghost dancers did not embrace warlike behavior. Yet, the government reacted to this outburst of Indian behavior by gunning down ceremonial dancers at Wounded Knee during a peaceful ceremony. Even women and children were shot in the back as they were trying to escape. Many say this was in retaliation for the massacre at Little Big Horn, since the seventh cavalry was again involved.

(continued on next page)

Perhaps the government was also frightened of the dance's spiritual power. According to a historian of that time, James Mooney, during one investigation of the ritual dance, U.S. troops reported seeing approximately 125 people at the beginning of the dance, and twice that number at the end, with no one new coming into the circle.

The native dance is indeed magical, according to Gabriel Horn, author of *Native Heart: An American Indian Odyssey*. Horn, also known as White Deer of Autumn, says the spirits of ghost dancers are ever present: The Minneapolis Institute of Art put on the first and only exhibit of ghost dance shirts and dresses worn by men, women, and children. The room was black and the clothes were suspended in two circles. You could even see the bullet holes and the blood stains on the shirts from the slaughter of ghost dancers at Wounded Knee under the orders of the government.

Several Native Americans went to the exhibit, elders as well as young people. The museum would keep it open at night, just for them. They would sit in a circle, surrounded by these ritual dance shirts and dresses, and pass a sacred pipe. They were listening to hear what they could hear, and watching to see what they could see. They wanted to get in touch with those people, those spirits, those ghosts of the past, to reconnect, and to show them that they still carry this love for the earth.

A student entered the exhibit. She was crying by a ghost dance shirt. The shirt wearer's last name was there, and it turned out to be the shirt of her grandfather. There was no way she could have known that when she went in.

The ghost dance is practiced today, but privately. "It is performed for the same reasons," White Deer of Autumn says, "because we are losing a lot of our relatives to cancer and alcohol, and the earth is in dire need of healing."



Next meeting:



Sunday June 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:

Every part of all this soil is sacred to my people. Every hillside, every valley has been hallowed by some sad or happy event in days long vanished.

Chief Seattle, Duwamish.

From 3 Horses:

The Elders Message, highlighted on the front page, makes one think. Who do we really work for? I really let that one sink in. I know we all physically work for “somebody”. Is that person the end all to be all, or is there someone over that person who matters more? Obviously there is – Creator is the boss over all. He wills the universe, He spins the Earth like a top, He is in our sleeping and our waking, He watches over all of us. As we travel through our daily routines, or come together for meetings, or to drum, or to conduct ceremony; we should always conduct ourselves as we are working for the Great One Above. So take time to speak with Him and ask for direction. Thank Him for everything He has placed here for us to use and enjoy.

The first questions Creator might ask when we return home to the Spirit World is, “Did you enjoy My creation? Did you bask in the sun? Did you listen to the birds sing? Did you smell sister cedar's perfume? Did you see the glistening dew polish the fern? Did you taste the fruits of the forest?” What will you answer?

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.