

Aquidneck Island Intertribal Indian Council

(est. Oct. 14, 2007)

Newsletter

June 2017



Council News

At this month's meeting, if the weather permits, we will have our meeting outside, and follow with a cookout. This is the last meeting before we break for the summer, so we should conduct as much business as possible.

For those who do not know, in accordance with our Rules & Regulations, there will be no meetings in July & August. Functions will still go on. If there are any requests; they can be discussed at drum practice, if any major issues arise; an emergency meeting can be convened and all members will receive notice.

Our prayers go out to all of our extended family members who are sick, ill, or injured. If you know of a member, or friend, of this Council, who is sick or in the hospital, please let us know ASAP.

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..

See you at the next meeting: Sunday June 4



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IT IS POW-WOW TIME

Reminder: when attending a Gathering; act dignified and respectful. After all, the people who see your actions may judge all Native people by what "you" do or say.

Set a good example.





In 1966, a NASA team doing work for the Apollo moon mission took the astronauts near Tuba City, where the terrain of the Navajo Reservation looks very much like the Lunar surface. Along with all the trucks and large vehicles, there were two large figures dressed in full Lunar space suits.

Nearby, a Navajo sheep herder and his son were watching the strange creatures walk about, occasionally being tended by personnel. The two Navajo people were noticed and approached by the NASA personnel. Since the man did not know English, his son asked for him what the strange creatures were and the NASA people told them that they are just men that are getting ready to go to the moon. The man became very excited and asked if he could send a message to the moon with the astronauts.

The NASA personnel thought this was a great idea so they rustled up a tape recorder. After the man gave them his message, they asked his son to translate. His son would not. Later, they tried to get a few more people on the reservation to translate and every person they asked would chuckle and then refuse to translate. Finally, with cash in hand, someone translated the message, "Watch out for these guys, they come to take your land."

Spiritually Speaking

"The god that people reject is not the true god, it is a god they have conjured up apart from proper education, and understanding. In such cases, the least Fools Crow will do is to call their assumptions into question, and force them to re-evaluate their position."

--Thomas Mails on Fools Crow, LAKOTA

Inside of every person - man, woman, and child - is the knowledge that there is a Supreme Being. Many of us have been taught that the Creator is a punishing God. We have been taught about feelings of guilt and shame when we do things wrong. We have been taught that God gets angry and disappointed with us. The Elders teach us that the Creator is a loving and forgiving God. He loves us during our good days and He loves us during our bad days. He doesn't know how to do anything but love. If I really want to find out about the true God, I only need to ask in prayer. There is one thing that God cannot do and that is refuse help to one of His children who asks.

My Creator, I ask You to be a part of my life today. Whisper to me Your wisdom. Let me feel Your presence. If I am doubtful and afraid, show me, in terms I can understand, You are real.

"Whenever you take anything from the Earth, remember to leave an offering."

--Joe Coyhis, STOCKBRIDGE-MUNSEE

We need to look at nature and its inhabitants as our brothers and sisters. Whenever we pick plants or herbs, we should leave an offering of tobacco. We should talk to the plants and ask their permission to use them. The plants will feel honored to be of service for each of them knows they are here to serve. Each of them knows they carry a special medicine and this medicine is about continuing the cycle of life. We need always to be grateful to our brothers and sisters.

Creator, I thank you for the opportunity of life.

Upcoming Events:

Sun June 4

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

****This event was cancelled**

Sat June 3 & Sun June 4
Pratt Farm Strawberry Moon Pow wow
110 East Main St. Middleboro MA

Sat June 10 & Sun June 11

Black Powder Shoot, Tiverton Rod & Gun Club
1529 Fish Rd, Tiverton, RI
10:00 - ?

4th of July Gathering
TBD

Sun Aug 6

Drumming at the Wig Wam Spiritualist Camp
9 Crescent Place, Onset, MA.
12:00 - ?

** 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.

Earth Teach Me to Remember

by John Yellow Lark

Earth teach me stillness as the grasses are stilled with light.

Earth teach me suffering as old stones suffer with memory.

Earth teach me humility as blossoms are humble with beginning.

Earth teach me caring as the mother who secures her young.

Earth teach me courage as the tree which stands alone.

Earth teach me limitation as the ant which crawls on the ground.

Earth teach me freedom as the eagle which soars in the sky.

Earth teach me resignation as the leaves which die in the fall.

Earth teach me regeneration as the seed which rises in the spring.

Earth teach me to forget myself as melted snow forgets its life.

Earth teach me to remember kindness as dry fields weep in the rain.

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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 2017 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 evroty@aol.com

THE 7 GRANDFATHERS' TEACHINGS AND HOW TO APPLY THEM TO OUR LIVES

by *Bev Morningstar*

Introduction: What are the 7 Grandfather teachings and their meanings?

The Seven Grandfathers gave to the very first elder these gifts of knowledge. They were given for many reasons to teach people how to live a good life, show respect to the Creator, Mother Earth, and each other. The first elder was told by the Grandfathers that; each of these teachings must be used with the others. If one of the gifts is not used with the others we would not be in balance.

The First gift is Wisdom: When one has wisdom they know the differences between positive and negative results of their actions. One has sound judgment and an ability to see inner qualities in others, to display good sense and having a good attitude. Wisdom is given by our Creator to be used for the good of the people.

The Second one is Love: Love is based on living in peace within ourselves and others. It is displaying complete kindness and respect for others being totally unselfish displaying kindness and concern for others. Love is an emotion that comes from within oneself and should be freely given from the goodness of the heart.

The Third one is Respect: Honoring all of the Creator's people and his creation. Showing respect is showing honor for the person or things. We are to honor our parents, our families, others, and ourselves. Respect is a gift that also comes from one's heart.

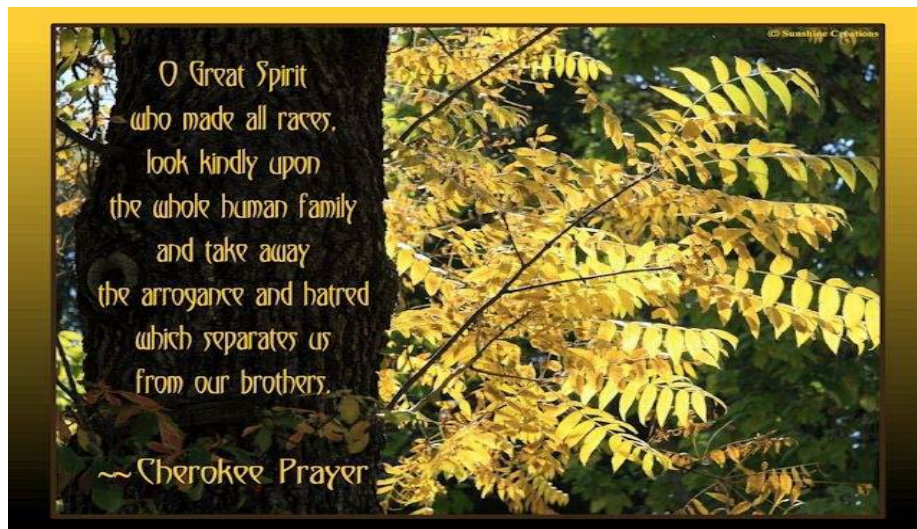
The Fourth one is Bravery: One must show personal strength to face life's challenges, and obstacles, having the courage to make positive choices. Being able to make difficult decisions, shows courage - in standing up for what is right, and being able to defend what they believe is right.

The Fifth one is Honesty: To have this gift one must be honest and be able to walk through life with integrity. They must possess trustworthiness and accept, and act, on truths not hearsay. They must not be deceitful and be straight forward in their action.

The sixth one is Humility: Knowing that you are equal to others in the eyes of our Creator. Recognizing that one must have balance in life taking pride in all you do, while sharing your accomplishments with others to encourage and assist them.

Lastly, the Seventh one is Truth: Being sincere in our actions, our speaking, and our thinking, walking in a truthful honorable way throughout our lives, being truthful in our dealings with others as well as being truthful to oneself.

Finally, to cherish knowledge is to know Wisdom. To know LOVE is to know peace. To honor all creation is to have Respect. To face life with courage is to know Bravery. To walk through life with integrity is to know Honesty. Humility is to know yourself as a sacred part of creation, and when you know and feel all these: you have Truth within you. These teachings have been given to us along with the rest of them to leave one of them out is the opposite of what they represent. If not used together we do not walk in balance.



Conclusion: These teachings have been handed down from generation to generation for our good and to help us walk the Red Road. We must remember to live and walk by these teachings and teach them to others as well. Today, let us ask our Creator which one of these teachings "we" need to improve on, and ask His help in doing so.



Native American Code of Ethics

Rise with the sun to pray. Pray alone. Pray often. The Great Spirit will listen, if you only speak.

~

Be tolerant of those who are lost on their path. Ignorance, conceit, anger, jealousy and greed stem from a lost soul. Pray that they will find guidance.

~

Search for yourself, by yourself. Do not allow others to make your path for you. It is your road, and yours alone. Others may walk it with you, but no one can walk it for you.

~

Treat the guests in your home with much consideration.
Serve them the best food, give them the best bed and treat them with respect and honor.

~

Do not take what is not yours whether from a person, a community, the wilderness or from a culture.
It was not earned nor given. It is not yours.

~

Respect all things that are placed upon this earth – whether it be people or plant.

~

Honor other people's thoughts, wishes and words. Never interrupt another or mock or rudely mimic them.
Allow each person the right to personal expression.

~

Never speak of others in a bad way.
The negative energy that you put out into the universe will multiply when it returns to you.

~

All persons make mistakes. And all mistakes can be forgiven.

~

Bad thoughts cause illness of the mind, body and spirit. Practice optimism.

~

Nature is not FOR us, it is a PART of us. They are part of your worldly family.

~

Children are the seeds of our future. Plant love in their hearts and water them with wisdom and life's lessons.
When they are grown, give them space to grow.

~

Avoid hurting the hearts of others. The poison of your pain will return to you.

~

Be truthful at all times. Honesty is the test of one's will within this universe.

~

Keep yourself balanced. Your Mental self, Spiritual self, Emotional self, and Physical self – all need to be strong, pure and healthy. Work out the body to strengthen the mind. Grow rich in spirit to cure emotional ails.

~

Make conscious decisions as to who you will be and how you will react. Be responsible for your own actions.

~

Respect the privacy and personal space of others.

Do not touch the personal property of others – especially sacred and religious objects. This is forbidden.

~

Be true to yourself first. You cannot nurture and help others if you cannot nurture and help yourself first.

~

Respect others religious beliefs. Do not force your belief on others.

~

Share your good fortune with others. Participate in charity.

Green Corn Ceremony explained: A Cherokee Tradition



Among the Cherokee people, the Green Corn Ceremony honors Selu, the Corn Mother. In ancient times it lasted for four days. The ceremony was comprised of sacred dances which were performed by the dancers within the sacred circle. The ceremony would begin with all the members of the town going to a running body of water and washing themselves.

Within the sacred circle, a deep pit would be dug and a branch of wood from a tree struck by lightning would be lit and used to bless the grounds for the ceremony. The coals from this “thunderwood” would be used to kindle the sacred fire in the pit in the center of the circle.

The dancers would then perform several rounds of sacred dances which typically lasted from 2-4 hours. The War Dance was also performed by the men. Several other dances which symbolized the planting of and harvesting of the corn were performed.

Within the dance circle, the dance leader and priest would make offerings to the Thunder Beings and the ancestor spirits as a gesture of thanks for a fruitful corn harvest. The final dance of Green Corn was the running dance, which would involve not only the sacred dancers, but also the entire assembly in a combined social dance, who would enter the circle and form a snaking, sinuous line of dancers circling the fire.

The dancers would use rattles made from gourds which were filled with small rocks and a stick of wood from a lightning struck tree during all the dances with the exception of the war dance and the running dance, which was accompanied by a drum made from a hollow log and covered with deerskin.

During the ceremony all the clan matrons would take coals from the sacred fire in the circle to the new year's home fires.

In many tribal towns, all the residents would bring out their furniture and shared living items and destroy them as a symbol of renewal of the new corn harvest. They would then remake new furniture and shared items for their clan dwellings.

Minor infractions of the religious and clan law, as well as debts were typically forgiven during green corn between parties as a symbol of rebirth and new beginnings, which allowed minor deviations from the ancient religious laws in deference to community bonding and cohesion as part of traditional Cherokee culture in ancient times.

Native Recipe

Frybread



3 cups flour
1 tsp. salt
1 cup milk

3 tsp. baking powder
¼ cup warm water
Vegetable or corn oil in deep fryer or frying pan

- 1) Combine flour, salt & baking powder in large mixing bowl. Blend ingredients. Slowly stir in milk and knead dough until smooth, adding small amounts of warm water if mixture is too dry. Once dough is ready (when it is stiff and can be molded), cover with a cloth for 15 to 30 minutes.
- 2) Fill deep fryer, or frying pan with oil, and heat until oil is very hot. Pinch off fist-size pieces of dough and flatten with your hands or with a rolling pin. Fry in the hot oil until golden brown on both sides (approx 5 minutes). Drain on paper towels and serve.

Frybread may be:



Rolled in sugar, brown sugar or powdered sugar.

As a taco shell (Indian tacos)

Covered with peanut butter, cream cheese or jelly

Sliced into small pieces and used with dips, soft cheese or salsa.

Next meeting:



**** Sunday June 4, 1:00**
@ 222 Middle Rd Portsmouth
Guests Always Welcome



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- Men's T-shirts (all sizes)
- Chewable vitamins
- Twin, extra long twin & queen comforters/spreads

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:

If the white man wants to live in peace with the Indian, he can live in peace... Treat all men alike. Give them all the same law. Give them all an even chance to live and grow. All men were made by the same Great Spirit Chief. They are all brothers.

Chief Joseph, Nez Perce, 1840-1904

From 3 Horses:

We learn many things along the path of life. The one thing I’ve learned is I am not the master of my own destiny. Creator is in control. Remember this, if not, He will somehow remind you. Creator has opened my eyes more now than ever before. He has placed so many good things before us, all we have to do is recognize the good things, take them, with His blessings, and get rid of the bad things.

We all may have a long list of things to do this summer, some very serious and some a lot of fun. Remember He does not give you more than you can handle. Please come to as many events as you can. Enjoy the company of your brothers and sisters. We are “Tiyosopae” (extended family). Remember we are a teaching and learning Council, we will learn more about each other, this summer, as we teach those who know nothing of Native culture. Get involved, stay close, grow as a family, this is your Council. Have a good and safe summer.

Wakan Tanka Kici Un, Mitakuye Oyasin (*God bless you, all my relations*)

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.