

Aquidneck Island Intertribal Indian Council

(est. Oct. 14, 2007)

Newsletter

June 2016



Council News

On April 22 we were honored to be asked to conduct an Earth Day celebration at Pennfield School. We smudged the grounds and community gardens as well as offered a short lecture about mixed Native culture. We also gave a short explanation of the “3 Sisters” and presented the Staff with a story of the 3 Sisters and corn, squash & bean seeds for their garden. *(thanks Ann)*

On Sat April 23 we hosted our annual Planting of the Corn ceremony. Even tho the weather was iffy, we were delighted with the number of members as well as newcomers to the combined ceremonies. We thank all that attended and we invite you all to attend future ceremonies.

On Weds April 27 we were asked to conduct a presentation at St Mary’s Church for the local Scouts. There was a big turnout between, Cubs, Webelos and their parents. It is always a great time when we can educate young ones about our culture, with history, story, flute making, dance and song.

On Fri May 6 we ventured to Thompson Middle School in Newport. We were asked to share our history/culture with the 5th & 6th grade students, who were studying Native Cultures. We were introduced to 8 to 10 students of mixed blood, who were happy to be part of our presentation.

For those who don’t know, there will be NO newsletters nor meetings in July and August. In accordance with our by-laws, we do not conduct business those 2 months due to Native activities and personal vacations. Any urgent matters will be discussed during drum practice or, if needed, and emergency meeting will be convened.

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..

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.

See you at the next meeting: Sunday June 5

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Message from 3 Horses.

Tecumseh

1768 - October 5, 1813



Trouble no one about their religion; respect others in their view, and demand that they respect yours.

Love your life, perfect your life, and beautify all things in your life. Seek to make your life long and its purpose in the service of your people.

Prepare a noble death song for the day when you go over the great divide.

Always give a word or a sign of salute when meeting or passing a friend, even a stranger, when in a lonely place.

Show respect to all people and bow to no one, except the Creator....

On the lighter side:



Spiritually Speaking

Banish fear from your life. Fear stunts your soul and limits the amount of road needed to travel to reach the Tree of Life, and to know the Great Spirit. Fear is not good and leads to an unbalanced mind, body and spirit. To banish fear you must know your path and trust yourself – and the world around you. With trust comes confidence. Self-confidence banishes fear.

I fear no man, I depend on the Great Spirit.

Kondiaronk, Huron

What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, men would die from great loneliness of spirit, for whatever happens to the beasts also happens to man. All things are connected. Whatever befalls the Earth, befalls the children of the Earth.

Chief Seattle, Duwamish-Suquamish

Men die, but we live again in the real world of Wakan Tanka, where there is nothing but the spirits of all things; and this true life we may know here on earth if we purify our bodies and minds thus coming closer to Wakan Tanka who is all-purity.

Black Elk, Oglala Sioux

“There are many things to be shared with the four colors of man in our common destiny as one family upon our Mother the Earth.”

Traditional Circle of Elders, NORTHERN CHEYENNE

The Elders tell us the time will come when the four colors of Man will unite into one family. According to prophecies, we were told this would happen when the Sun was blocked in the Seventh Moon. There was an eclipse of the Sun in July, 1991. We are now in a new Springtime called the Coming Together Time. Each of the four colors of man has knowledge that the other colors need to heal their families. Let us all be willing to sit in a circle and respect our differences.

Creator, let me be willing to have an open mind.



Upcoming Events:

Sun June 5

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

Sat & Sun June 18 & 19

Sobriety Pow Wow
Pratt Farm 110 East Main St Middleboro MA
508-880-6887 10:00 – 5:00

July 4th weekend

Annual 4th July Gathering
Fireworks Mon 4th at 9:30
222 Middle Rd, Portsmouth RI
401-683-4589 TBD

Sat & Sun July 9 & 10

RI Indian Council PW
Warwick City Park (Steven O'Connor Blvd) Warwick
Phone 401-781-1098 x 306 9:00 – 5:00

Sat & Sun Aug 6 & 7

2nd Annual Eagle Sings Welbriety Pow Wow
Chase Farm, 669 Great Rd, Lincoln RI
Phone ????? 10:00 – 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.

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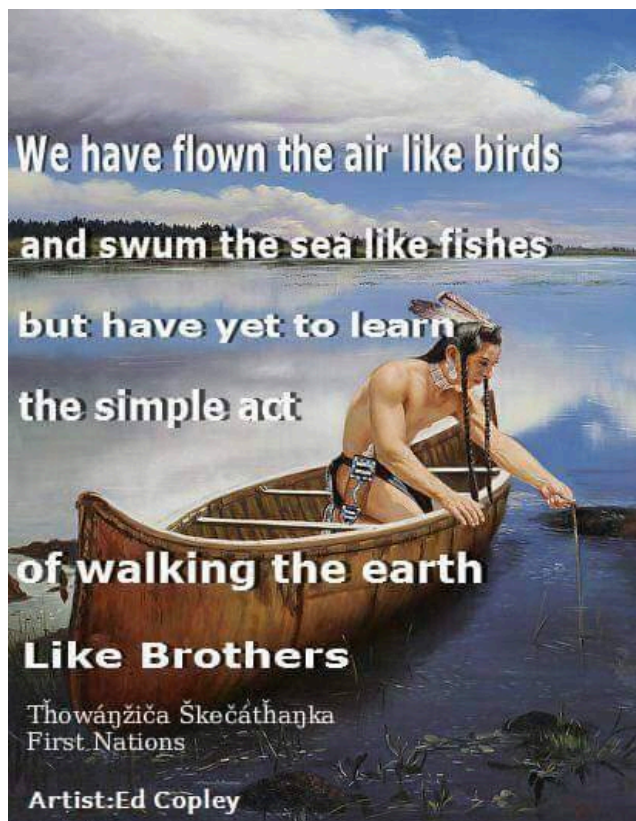
ITALIAN FRENCH SPANISH

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We have flown the air like birds

and swum the sea like fishes

but have yet to learn

the simple act

of walking the earth

Like Brothers

Thowánzicha Škečáthanka
First Nations

Artist: Ed Copley

Aquidneck Land Trust

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 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

evroty@aol.com

TEACHING: Native American healing methods

by Beverly Morningstar

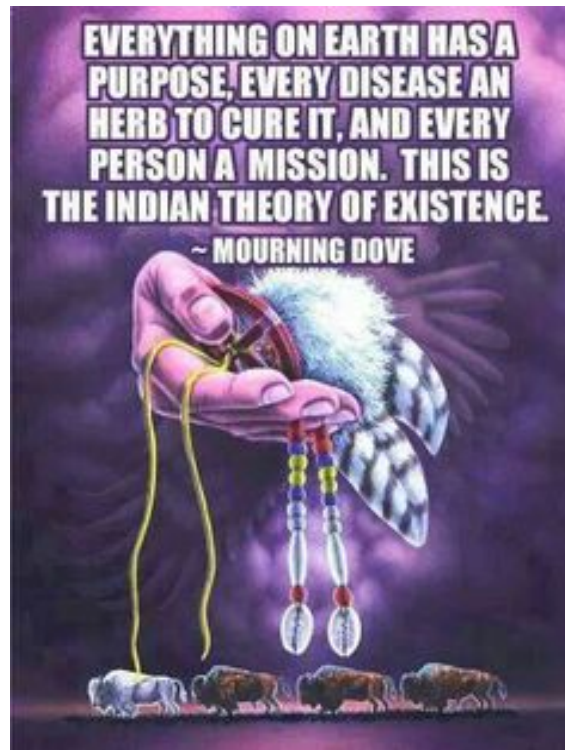
Introduction:

The Many ways of traditional healing by our ancestors; Mother Earth was the first support system by supplying the use of herb, roots, plant. Secondly, if we go back in time we would find there were the means of all kinds of healings. Our ancestors would mix herbs, roots, and other natural plants to heal various medical problems. There were a variety of healing practices among different tribes; however they all relied on Mother Earth to provide the means to do so. Some tribes would use rituals, ceremonies; while others just used a diverse wealth of their healing knowledge. The herbs that were used for healing was often found in the surroundings areas where they resided.

Herbs and medicinal plants were treated with great respect and were considered sacred gifts from the Great Spirit. Our ancestors believed that He had given them to us for a reason. To a great extent, tobacco was considered sacred; it was offered as well as a prayer to thank the plant family. They were very careful when they picked the plant as not to destroy it, but to leave some for another time. Carefully choosing only what they needed and allowing the plant to reproduce for another day.

The major difference from their healing and that of today's conventional one; was that spirituality played a huge role in a person's healing process. In today's modern day thinking they would be doing a holistic healing on a person's body (something that finally is being recognized all over the medical field). They knew the importance of healing not only the physical body, but also the spiritual and emotional one as well.

Objects used for healing the traditional way were always made from nature. They could/would be furs, skins, bones, crystals, shells, stones, roots, feathers as well as sage.. Feathers and sage carried great importance in the healing as the sage not only cleaned the person and areas of negative energies, it helped to carry the prayers of the healer skyward while asking the Creator for assistance to heal the person. The feathers played an important part, because they were linked to the air and wind allowing the burning sage smoke to rise upward so the prayers of the healer could reach the Great Spirit and be answered in a speedy manner.



Conclusion:

The Creator/Great Spirit gave us many means to heal ourselves, it is up to us to learn from our ancestors how and what herbs, plants and flowers aid in our healings.

Next instalment: More teachings on those who were chosen to be healers. A'ho

Editorial: Unity Among the Council Women

by, *Yannash Ushi* (Buffalo Child)



Halito! Hello, My sisters!

We are blessed with opportunities to get together and do presentations, drum at socials and powwows, participate in ceremonies, and share the medicine of the drum on Thursday evenings. Hoke! It is good! May we be blessed many times this year!

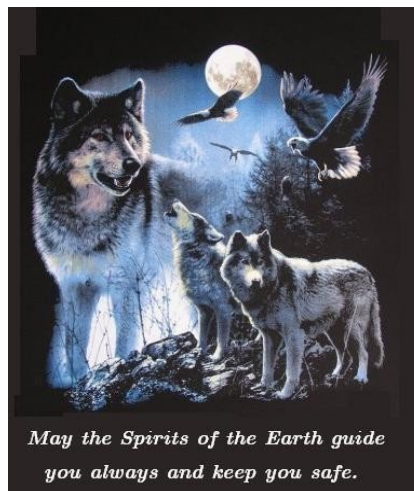
Dreams of Wolves, and myself, women elders of our council, seek to share with our sisters the blessings of sharing time together as women, simply to enjoy the company of one another. Many activities can nurture this time together, and we plan to offer a variety of activities, with hopes that every sister will have interest in at least one.

An interest in the hand drum has already created a small hand drum group, and we invite all sisters to be curious, try your hand at the hand drum! No obligation to any performances. The only expectations are: respect given to the drums and related traditions, and, having fun while learning more about one another as we enjoy the blessings of playing hand drums together.

There is much interest in creating hair adornments, medicine/naming bags, beading, natural remedies, herbal gardening, spirit animals... the list of things we can learn together is virtually endless. Please share what you would like to learn at a gathering. Or - what you would like to teach!

And then there are times to break bread together... or commune with Mother, gathering for a walk in the woods... going on a "field trip" to Yankee Candle Outlet??

Ome, chi pisa la chike! Yes, see you later!



In the News:

Birth of rare white bison calf draws visitors to western Manitoba First Nation



A rare white bison calf was born into a herd belonging to the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation on May 7, 2016.

From afar, you see what looks like an average herd of about two dozen bison in a pasture just outside of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, Man. But get closer to the herd, and you'll see one of the most recent additions has far more meaning.

The community welcomed a rare white male bison calf on May 7. The calf's mother, also a white bison (commonly called buffalo), was born at Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park Zoo in 2009 and given to the community's herd because of the cultural significance of the animal.

"The significance of the white buffalo is that ... all of our teachings and our culture and our ceremonies were given through the white buffalo calf woman," said Sioux Valley Chief Vince Tacan. "We have a lot of people in the community that they follow the beliefs.

"That [the white buffalo] signals the start of our culture and our beliefs and our ceremonies," he added. "It's really important to us."

Tacan said he knew they were dealing with something special when he saw the calf, but he didn't go out of his way to tell everyone. Tacan is one of the caretakers of the community's herd.

Since the birth, people have come from as far as the United States to see the baby bison and leave tobacco offerings wrapped in colorful ribbons and pouches that now line the fence along its enclosure.

"It's up to you [community members] to come to the buffalo and put out your offerings," Tacan said.

Tacan said he wasn't sure what the odds are of a white bison being born, but it's the first one the community's herd has seen since the mother bison was welcomed into the herd more than six years ago.

The community has had requests to bring the buffalo out and put it on display at fairs and other events but is opting to keep it in the pasture, he said.

"I don't think we'd want to display her [the mother] in that sort of way," said Tacan. "It's a sacred animal.... If you want to see it you'd have to come out here. "We're trying to work in a respectful way."

Tacan said the bison right now are used as a teaching opportunity for the community while they build the herd's numbers, but they might look at some sort of commercial operation down the road. "The buffalo were important in the past, and we hope they'll be important in the future coming up," he said.

Ten bison calves have been born so far this year in Sioux Valley's herd.

Officials with the Assiniboine Park Zoo in Winnipeg believe Blizzard, a white bison at the zoo, as well as Sioux Valley's white bison and its calf are the only three white bison currently in Manitoba.

Native Recipe

Chicken Corn Chowder



Ingredients:

2 whole chickens, split

4 sticks celery

4 carrots, cut in pieces

1 cup flour

2 tablespoons butter

½ teaspoon each: salt, cayenne pepper, sage, parsley, thyme and basil, to taste (or any other preferred spices)

4 cans cream corn

2 onions, chopped

6 potatoes, cut in pieces

1 egg

1 cup cream (or milk)

Instructions:

Put chickens, celery, onions, carrots, spices and potatoes in a large pot and cover with water. Cook over medium to high heat about 10 to 12 minutes, or until vegetables and chicken are fully cooked.

When the chicken is tender, remove from the broth. Remove skin, debone and cut into bite-size pieces. Return chunks to broth. Now add corn.

In a small bowl mix flour, cream (or milk) and egg, then add this slowly to the chowder.

Simmer another 10 minutes until thickened. Add butter, stir to melt, serve hot.

Serves 8 to 10

Next meeting:



**** Sunday June 5, 1:00**
@ 222 Middle Rd Portsmouth
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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
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For St Joseph’s Indian School
(see *Dreams of Wolves* for a detailed list)



Inspirational:

When one is walking the Red Road, one is living as instructed by the Creator. The person who walks the Red Road lives a life of truth and charity – values handed down generation to generation. Though the road is littered with obstacles, all can be overcome once internal balance is achieved and the soul is true to itself and to others.

From 3 Horses:

Like the messages in “Spiritually Speaking” and in the “Inspiration”; We must be like the Buffalo, strong and able to withstand the winter cold and summer heat, be able to fight off the “Evil one” when he tries to lead you or scare you away from following the Red Road. We must be able to walk our path, even though it may be littered with obstacles, debris or other stumbling blocks. We must focus on what is right & good. We must work together as a family. We must tell our stories to others. We must love one another. We must trust one another. When in doubt, sing the song “Oh oh Heyoko” to yourself. Think about the harmony in that song, think about the words, *“Listen to your heart now, listen to what it says”, “Take care of your body, take care of your mind”, “Love everything that you do now, love everything you do”, “Take care of each other, love them with all your heart”.*

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.