

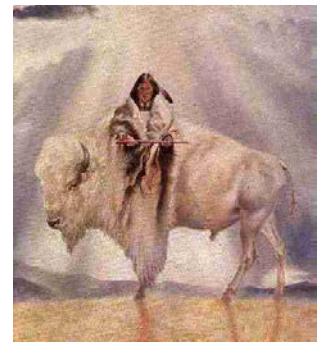
Aquidneck Island Intertribal Indian Council

(est. Oct. 14, 2007)

Newsletter

March 2018

10 years; we're still here



Council News

On Fri Feb 9th we conducted a Native Awareness presentation at the Tiverton Middle School. The children were attentive to what we were giving out. They especially liked the drumming and dance portion of the presentation.

On Sat Feb 10th 1:00 – 5:00 we hosted our final “Winter Potluck Lunch and Dance Social Gathering” at the Tiverton Rod & Gun Club, for this season. We had a few new guests. A fun time was had by all.

On Sat Feb 17th we conducted a Native Awareness presentation for the local Boy Scouts at St Barnabas Church. We enjoy working with the Scouts. Once we explained the types of drumming and different dance styling, we even had the parents and leaders up dancing. We hope to be able to continue this type of education.

Strong Woman has been in touch with the Activities Director at the RI Veterans Home in Bristol. They will give us some dates that they would like us to perform for the residents. I know one of the residents, John, has been telling me that there are a lot of Vets waiting for our return. I guess the word spread from our Christmas visit.

Come join us at our 11th Annual Indoor Pow-wow and Spring Gathering. The date is Sat March 24th, at the Knights of Columbus hall, 7 Valley Rd Middletown, 9:00 – 5:00. ----->

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 Mar 4

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Aquidneck Indian Council 11th Annual Indoor Pow-Wow

Saturday March 24th
9:00 – 5:00 {Grand Entry @ noon}
Knights of Columbus Hall
7 Valley Road, Middletown RI



Native American (and some not-so-native)
items for sale
Refreshments available

Drums: The Soaring Eagle Singers
and Invited Drum(s).

Flute Player: Scott Shuffitt

Drumming, Dancing, Flute music,
Storytelling and more.
Family friendly event

Free Admission (**Donations gladly accepted)
Proceeds to help support St Joseph's Indian School and The
Aquidneck Indian Council's charities

**** This is a drug free and alcohol free event ****



Spiritually Speaking



THE HEAVENS DECLARE GOD'S GLORY

Robert Soto, Lipan Apache

Someone once asked how our people knew that there is a God. The answer was simple: the creation speaks of the Creator. Our Apache people knew there is a God in view of the complexity of the creation. I think it is funny that when those of the non-Native persuasion came to our land, a lot of them had already forgotten the Creator and were seeking other places for the answers. I always tell people that before Columbus came to our land, there were no atheist Indians. Because the creation speaks of a Creator - not with words, but by the message the creation declares to the world. I guess the more advanced the world became the more primitive their philosophies became. God the Creator was no longer in the picture. Man had taken the credit for what God the Creator clearly created.

This is why David wrote, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." All our people had to do was look at God the Creator's eternal clock to see who was in control. The stars move as well as the sun and the earth spoke of the mighty power of God the Creator. Notice that the knowledge revealing God the Creator was given to heaven and to the skies. What do the heavens declare? They declare the glory of God. What do the skies proclaim? They proclaim the work of His hands. All our people had to do was open their eyes and see God the Creator. The countless ages of the sky announced who God the Creator was and that He existed. Next time you want to assure yourself there is a God, just go outside in the middle of the night and try and count the stars.

Upcoming Events:

Sun Mar 4

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

Sat Mar 24

11th Annual Indoor Pow-wow and Spring Gathering
Knights of Columbus Hall, 7 Valley Rd Middletown RI
401-683-4589 9:00 - 5:00

Sun April 8

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

Sat April 28

(raindate Sun 29)

Planting of the Corn ceremony
222 Middle Rd, Portsmouth RI
401-683-4589 11:00 - 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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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 2018 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



Native Teaching: **Cherokee Style Fire Ceremony**

WHAT IS A FIRE CEREMONY?

A fire ceremony is a Native American practice that is usually performed every full moon. You do not have to wait for a full moon in order to do a fire ceremony. Fire Ceremonies are wonderful during a New Moon, when you want to introduce newness into your Life. This Native American ritual is easy, simple and an awe-inspiring event. It can be done during the New Moon (probably every other month) and can be done with friends in the backyard where a large pit can be dug in the ground in order to build a safe fire, or a large clay pot, a campfire, a bonfire or an old barbecue grill, can be used.

HOW IS A FIRE CEREMONY PERFORMED?

Each person brings something to burn that they would like to rid from their past, or a prayer request of something new, that will burn, turn to smoke and release into heaven. This allows the past energy to move along to its highest spiritual progression path and the new prayer request to move along to its highest spiritual progression path. You may bring pictures, drawings, or intentions written on a piece of paper for the past or the newness. For the past, after you have burned and released it, then you have something prepared that is written down on a clean sheet of paper. This would be something new that you would like to call forth from God. For the newness, the prayer request is then burned and released to heaven thereby replacing the past. A circle is formed around the fire and one by one you call in support from Divine Sources that give us peace. E.g. - God, Jesus, Creator, the Blessed Virgin Mother, Great Spirit, the Universe, the Archangels, the Saints that we may feel closest to, Guardian Angels, etc. We start with a prayer, and end with a prayer that is coupled with thanksgiving that our prayers and intentions have already been answered. Keep in mind; no one is obligated to speak during a Fire Ceremony. Anyone can participate without stating what they are releasing or calling forth. After all have called in their Divine Source we place into the fire our pictures, drawings and intended release of the past. Once these things have burned to smoke and ash, we then place into the fire what we have written on clean sheet of paper. This would be what we desire to replace those old energies with and call in new. The things we address from our past or call into our future can be shared with the group or kept to ourselves as we go through the Fire Ceremony.

YOU WILL NEED ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

A fire pit or fire place. A barbecue pit or fireproof pot works well too. If you live in an apartment, it is best to find a place outdoors where you can safely burn a fire.

A bucket filled with water or a water hose to put the fire out after the ceremony.

Items such as a drawing, picture or written intentions that you would like to release from your past. Anything else that you feel would serve you that need to be released.

In strict Native American custom - the burning of sage, sweet grass or tobacco is burned along with the past, which is given as an offering. When the smoke rises up to heaven and is carried away to God there should be a quiet or meditative break in order to embrace a new awareness of transformation in your life.

It is also symbolic that you can offer up a bit of food you wanted and only ate half of so that you could offer the other half in thanks.

THE VALUE OF IMAGERY

Do not minimize the value of imagery in Native American ceremony. The Spirit of God is real. This is a way of demonstrating our gratefulness and thanksgiving to God. When we pray to our Higher Power - God; He can, will and does affect our lives. So honoring Him and showing Him respect is part of this ceremony.

After your fire gets going, each person may contribute to the prayer and then the items are offered to the fire. Tell God and/or all the Divine Spirits that you have called forth that you offer these things in thanksgiving.

Meditate and feel the presence of God all around you. Singing praise, playing peaceful music may also be used.

A TIME FOR CELEBRATION

You can sing, dance and enjoy yourself. Experience a feeling of thanksgiving that your prayers are already answered. This is a time of celebration. Every Divine Source you called in is present, so give thanks and believe you have already received.

Editorial: LIVING IN BALANCE

by Beverly Morningstar

Introduction:

What do the words living in balance mean to most people? To the ANCESTORS and most Native Americans it is about being in a respectful relationship with all people, plants, trees, water, animals, and all that our Creator created. It is also about being an Earth keeper, a person who honors and respects Mother Earth and teaches others to do so as well. When a person begins to look a life the way our ancestors did they come to realize how much wisdom they truly shared with us. Many people now recognize that we need to nurture and take better care of our Mother Earth for our future generations. The wise ones have been telling us for many years to guard our actions and heed their words many which were thrown by the wayside sadly.

For those who choose to live in balance it is our job now before it is too late for the next generations to teach the young people to cherish our planet and the gifts that our Mother Earth and our creator have gifted us. We can do this by teaching our ceremonies, honoring and praying for clean waters, praying for our trees and forest, our lands and air to be free from pollution and so forth. We can call on our ancestor's guidance and prayers for help and assistance they are with us and willing to do so.

Native American people have a kinship with all the creatures of the earth, we feel a connection to them; a brotherly love, so to speak, with them that others may not fully understand. Our connection with the animal and plant kingdom causes us to become more conscious for the need to be better Earth keepers.



Walking in balance truly helps a person to understand their need to be part of helping to protect our planet making it a safer environment for the next generations to come.

Conclusion:

OH MY Creator, make all of us to be Earth Keepers: teach us to honor one another and all that You have created on this planet. Give us the wisdom and the knowledge of our ancestors to teach others what they have learned when they too walked on Mother Earth. We give You and them thanks for all You do for us. May we honor You every day with the gifts You have given us.

Aquidneck Indian Council

11th Annual Indoor Pow-Wow



Hosted by:

*The Aquidneck Island
Intertribal Indian Council*



Saturday March 24th
9:00 – 5:00 {Grand Entry @ noon}
Knights of Columbus Hall
7 Valley Road, Middletown RI

{Just off Rte114 West Main Rd & Rte 138 East Main Rd}

Native American (and some not-so-native) items for sale
Refreshments available

Drums: The Soaring Eagle Singers
and Invited Drum(s).
Flute Player: Scott Shuffitt

Drumming, Dancing, Flute music, Storytelling and more.

Free Admission (Donations gladly accepted)**

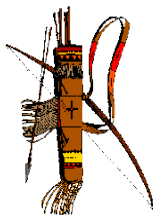
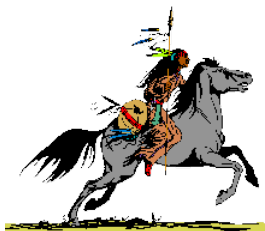
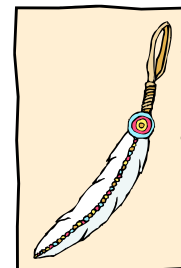
Proceeds to help support St Joseph's Indian School and The Aquidneck Indian Council's charities

**** This is a drug free and alcohol free event ****

For directions or information: Contact the Council Secretary

@ 401-683-4589 or aquidneck_indian@verizon.net

Visit us at: www.aquidneckindiancouncil.org



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.

Native Recipe

Easy Clam Cakes



When the colonists landed, they found that the Indian used shell money as their trading medium. It was called “Wampum Peak” or “Wampum”. Peak was the white portion of the shell, Wampum was the purple part and considered twice as valuable. Wampum was shaped like tubes, each piece one inch long, or less and one eighth of an inch in diameter. They were drilled by hand and strung on a string measured in “cubits”, the distance from the tip of the little finger to the elbow, regardless of the size of the person.

Shells were used in other way by the peoples of the Eastern Woodlands. They were used as digging tools and giant scallop shells (6 to 7 inches wide) were often used as dishes.

Ingredients:

1 can minced clams & juice or approx. 6 large cooked/boiled clams/quahogs diced
1½ cup flour 1 teaspoon baking powder 1 egg white
Salt, pepper, sugar to taste

Instructions:

Mix together and drop approx. 1 inch balls, by tablespoon, into VERY HOT oil (approx 1 inch deep)

Cook till golden. It only takes a couple of minutes, so don't walk away.

Drain and devour. You may want to sprinkle salt on them or use tobacco sauce.

Serves 4

Next meeting:



**** Sunday Mar 4, 1:00**
@ 222 Middle Rd Portsmouth

Guests Always Welcome



St. Joseph's Indian School
We serve and teach, we receive and learn.

1301 North Main Street
Chamberlain, SD 57325
www.stjo.org

Constant Needs:

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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

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:

I am not a child. I can think for myself. No man can think for me.

Chief Joseph, Nez Perce

From 3 Horses:

Is it spring yet? We’ve had a few nice days, but the winter hasn’t given up yet. There are many things in our future. Creator is smiling on us. As the saying goes, “All in His time, not ours”. So I won’t rush Him. We will be extremely busy, once we get started, so I want to tell you all ahead of time, “Get ready, good things are coming our way, so hold on and enjoy the ride, but always remember to stay grounded, and remember who to thank”. *Thank you Great One for guiding us along the right path.*

See you along the Good Red Road.



3 Horses & Dreams of Wolves

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