

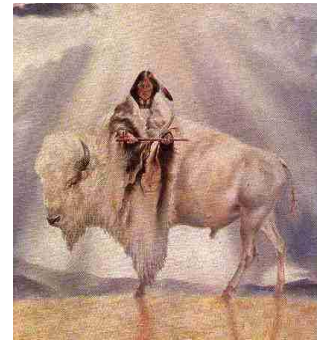
# Aquidneck Island Intertribal Indian Council

(est. Oct. 14, 2007)

## Newsletter

March 2019

*We're still here*



### Council News

At our Feb meeting, even though it was the “big game” day, we talked about future events. We have been asked to conduct another presentation, and possibly an outdoor gathering, at the Benjamin Church Retirement Center. We have been asked to conduct a presentation at the Fall River library. We are presently working on our indoor pow-wow (see right column), as well as the Planting of the Corn ceremony. Also at the Feb meeting I was honored to be part of a Naming ceremony for our friend (sister) Barbara. Creator gave me/us a choice of 2 names. She is now known to the extended family as “She who glides on gentle winds” or “Gentle Wind Spirit” for short.

Feb 9<sup>th</sup> we hosted our last Potluck Social for this season. There were a good amount of people in attendance. The energy was high. Thanks to everyone who came out to enjoy our medicine. I have been in contact with Verna, she has informed me/us that we are on Sandywoods’ schedule for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays in Nov, Dec, 2019 Jan & Feb 2020. We thank her for arranging our return to Sandywoods. We are also working on a joint effort to have an Arts & Crafts Fair, either in April or May.

Our Big Event is our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Indoor Pow-wow & Spring Gathering, Sat March 23<sup>rd</sup>. See page 6 for flyer. ----->

We have chosen April 27<sup>th</sup> for our annual “Planting of the Corn” ceremony. More info in next month’s newsletter.

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.

Open drum practices every Thurs night at 6:00. All are welcome to attend. If in doubt – call before you come.

*Next meeting is March 3<sup>rd</sup> [bring a friend]*

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Message from 3 Horses.

## *Aquidneck Indian Council 12th Annual Indoor Pow-Wow*



Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup>

9:00 – 5:00 {Grand Entry @ noon}

Knights of Columbus Hall  
7 Valley Road, Middletown RI

Raffles, Dancing and afternoon fun.  
Open to the public - all are welcome.

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

Refreshments available

Drumming, Dancing, Flute music and more

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

Flute Player: Scott Shuffitt

Percussion: Scott Dido

Native guitarist: Grandmother Puddingstone

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

**\*\*This is an Alcohol & Drug Free Event\*\***



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## *Spiritually Speaking*

We had no churches, no religious organizations, no Sabbath day, no holidays, and yet we worshipped, sometimes the whole tribe would assemble and sing and pray; sometimes a smaller number, perhaps only 2 or 3. The songs had a few words, but were not formal. The singer would occasionally put in such words as he wished instead of the usual tone sound.

Sometimes we prayed in silence; sometimes we prayed aloud; sometimes an aged person prayed for all of us. At other times one would rise up and speak to us of our duties to each other and Usen. Our services were short.

*Geronimo, Chiricahua Apache*

The American Indian is of the soil, whether it be the region of forests, plains, pueblos, or mesas. He fits into his landscape, for the hand that fashioned the continent also fashioned the man for his surroundings. He once grew as naturally as the wild sunflowers: he belongs just as the buffalo belonged...

*Luther Standing Bear, Oglala*

We were taught to believe that the Great Spirit sees and hears everything, and that He never forgets; that hereafter He will give every man a “spirit-home” according to his deserts... This I believe, and all my people believe the same.

*Chief Joseph, Nez Perce*

In the beginning of all things, wisdom and knowledge were with the animals, for Tirawa, “the One Above”, did not speak directly to man. He sent certain animals to tell men that He showed himself through the beasts, and that from them, and from the stars and the sun and the moon; man should learn... all things tell of Tirawa.

*Eagle Chief, Pawnee*

The life of an Indian is like the wings of the air. That is why you notice the hawk knows how to get his prey. The Indian is like that. The hawk swoops down on its prey; so does the Indian. In his lament he is like an animal. For instance, the coyote is sly; so is the Indian. The eagle is the same. That is why the Indian is always feathered up; he is a relative to the wings of the air.

*Black Elk, Oglala*

Whenever the white man treats the Indian as they treat each other, then we will have no more wars. We shall all be alike – brothers of one father and mother, with one sky above us and one country around us, and one government for all.

*Chief Joseph, Nez Perce*

## Upcoming Events:

Sun Mar 3

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

Sat Mar 23

12 Annual Indoor Pow-wow & Spring Gathering  
KofC Hall  
7 Valley Rd, Middletown, RI  
401-683-4589 9:00 – 5:00 (Grand Entry 12:00)

Sun April 7

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

Sat April 27 (raindate Sun 28)

Planting of the Corn Ceremony  
222 Middle Rd, Portsmouth RI  
401-683-4589 12:00 - ?

(private prayers & smudging at 11:30)

\*\* 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.

## William Penn (Will) Adair Rogers



*"If all politicians fished instead of speaking publicly, we would be at peace with the world."*

Will Rogers: humorist/writer/actor, was born in the Indian Territory of Oklahoma in Nov 4, 1879. Speaking of his Native American heritage, he said, "My folks were Indian. Both my mother and father had Cherokee blood in them. I was born and raised in Indian Territory, 'Course we're not the American whose ancestors came over on the Mayflower, ours met them at the boat when they landed."

Famous for his commentaries and writings, he was known as the "Indian Cowboy" from the Cherokee Nation, and was one of the most popular entertainers of his time. In 1918 he went Hollywood and starred in many features, becoming such a box office sensation that by 1934 he was voted the most popular male actor in Hollywood. Will Rogers also served as mayor of Beverly Hills and was instrumental in the presidential election of Franklin D. Roosevelt. He himself rejected a nomination for governor or Oklahoma.

He died in 1935 in a plane crash in Alaska.

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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.

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



Lipan Apache

## Editorial: BEING INDIAN IS

by *Roger Poisson*



Being Indian Is-feeding anyone and everyone who comes to your door hungry, with whatever you have.

Being Indian Is-having every third person you meet tell you about his great-grandmother who was a real Cherokee princess.

Being Indian Is-being broke all summer long because you try to make every pow wow.

Being Indian Is-loving fry-bread and dry meat.

Being Indian Is-masking your emotions in times of stress.

Being Indian Is-respecting your elders who have earned it.

Being Indian Is-never giving up the struggle for survival.

Being Indian Is-trading your surplus commodities for something you are in more need of.

Being Indian Is-being known for your great sense of humor and having the ability to make jokes and laughter out of the worse situation.

Being Indian Is-not rioting in the streets but occupying godforsaken places like Alcatraz, Mount Rushmore, the New York-Canadian bridge, etc.

Being Indian Is-owning land and not being able to rent, lease, sell or even farm it yourself without BIA approval.

Being Indian Is- feeling Red Eagle, Medicine Cloud, and Pretty Bear are more beautiful names than Smith, Johnson, or Jones.

Being Indian Is-watching your daughter give away her only pair of overshoes to somebody who needs them more than her.

Being Indian Is-either borrowing or lending money to your skin brothers and sisters at least once a week.

Being Indian Is-having people ask if they can touch your hair or take your picture.

Being Indian Is-worrying about diabetes.

Being Indian Is-knowing why the rez car in "Smoke Signals" was funny!

Being Indian Is-having more cousins than trees have leaves.

Being Indian Is-cutting the mold off the commodity cheese so you can eat it anyway.

Being Indian Is-having to explain \*again\* why you don't like the mascot.

Being Indian Is-eating meat for the 6th meal in a row.

Being Indian Is-knowing too many people who have died of cirrhosis, exposure, or "accidents".

Being Indian Is-knowing history started before 1492.

Being Indian Is-laughing with your friends so much your facial muscles hurt.

Being Indian Is-singing 49 songs using a garbage can for a drum.

Being Indian Is-road trips cross country . . . just because.

Being Indian Is-reading about your ancestors and relations in an anthropology paper.

Being Indian Is-losing your job after the grant ends.

Being Indian is-losing your job because you're different.

Being Indian Is-not being able to practice your religion.

Being Indian Is-having a song come to you at the oddest times.

Being Indian Is-counting the number of red people photographed in magazine advertisements on one hand.

Being Indian Is-pointing with your lips and knowing it's understood.

Being Indian Is-PRIDE.

Being Indian Is-BEAUTIFUL.

Being Indian Is-FOREVER.....



## Native Teaching: Native American Medicine Shields

by, *Bev Morningstar*



**Introduction:** What are Medicine Shields and what were they used for, some of you may ask? I will do my best to explain them to you as I had one design for my own personal use by a Native American Lakota Sioux friend.

Medicine shields were used by Native American men for spiritual as well as physical protection. They were protected by the size of their shield as well as the material it was made from. Most of them were made of rawhide from the hump of a buffalo. The rawhide was cured as they would cure any other hide which would make it very dense. The early rifles used by the whites used were flintlock and the bullets didn't always penetrate the hides although later on more powerful rifles and their bullets did.

As for the Spiritual part of the shield they were made round, and decorated with personal power symbols of significance. For an example they might have drawn a picture of a horse, an eagle, a buffalo, or something that they felt was a powerful attachment to them. Some of them would have a vision and then paint the object or be given a symbolic item. They felt that the animal would help them see the enemy, therefore giving them more power and protection. Smaller shield were also made for men and worn for spiritual protection from evil.

Some shield may have had feathers, bones, claws or whatever the person felt or saw in their visions. Shields were thought to protect the person in four ways with the number being a sacred number. First of all they were round in the shape of Mother Earth, they were made of the toughest part of the buffalo hide, and they were painted with sacred symbols/images, which were provided by a Spirit helper. The feathers that were added to it were considered part of magic in a way maybe because their prayers for protection they felt could be carried up by the spirit of their feathered friends.

Many of us carry objects on our bodies that we feel bring us spiritual protection in this day and age, as our ancestors did. Do we feel a more spiritually connected/protected when wearing these items as our ancestors felt their shields did? It is all up to the person/persons who treasure the significance of these objects.

**Conclusion:** Each and every one of us has a special item that may bring peace to our spirit, draw us closer to Spirit, Mother Earth, or a loved one who has passed over. We are not as different from our ancestors, as we too feel we need something to keep on us for both Spiritual and Physical Protection. Today, let us ask Spirit, "What it is that You would desire me to carry on me daily for Spiritual/Physical Protection?" The answer will come to you in many forms just be still and listen for it.

# Aquidneck Indian Council

## 12th Annual Indoor Pow-Wow



Hosted by:

*The Aquidneck Island  
Intertribal Indian Council*



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Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup>  
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

Drumming, Dancing, Flute music and more.

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

Flute Player: Scott Shuffitt

Percussion: Scott Dido

Native Guitarist: Grandmother Puddingstone

**Free Admission** (\*\*Donations gladly accepted)

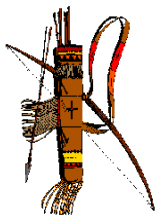
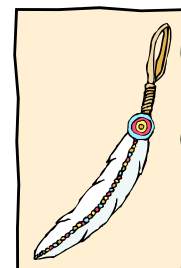
Proceeds to help support St Joseph's Indian School and The Aquidneck Indian Council's charities

**\*\* 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](mailto:aquidneck_indian@verizon.net)

Visit us at: [www.aquidneckindiancouncil.org](http://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

# Spoon Bread



There is an old legend of the way “spoon bread” got its name. It sounds logical as most things get their name in rather ordinary fashion.

Apparently a farmer’s wife made a cornmeal mush for her husband. She made it too early that day, so she tried to keep it warm near the fire. Her husband was delayed and came home very late to find that a crisp crust had formed on the outside of the mush, leaving the inside all soft and creamy. He picked up a spoon and ate it. Ever since, it has been called “spoon bread”.

### Ingredients:

1 egg	1 teaspoon salt	2 tablespoons brown sugar
1 cup cold milk	1 cup cornmeal	5 tablespoons butter

Preheat oven to 425\*.

Put butter in 1 ½ quart baking dish into oven to melt.

In a mixing bowl, combine cornmeal and salt. Add 2 cups boiling water and stir. Let stand to cool, then stir in milk. Add the egg and brown sugar and beat till blended. Stir in melted butter and pour into the hot baking dish.

Bake 25 minutes or until set. Serve with butter, jam, jelly, honey, molasses or syrup.

Serves 4 to 6

## Next meeting:



**\*\* Sunday March 3, 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  
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)

### Inspirational:

"I cannot think that we are useless or God would not have created us".

*--Geronimo, Chiricahua Apache*

### From 3 Horses:

We have been very lucky this winter. No big storms. No frozen pipes or other damage that comes with freezing temperatures. We can talk all day about weather, but what we need to direct our attention to, is the overall betterment of our council family. What can we do to spark the interest of everyone? We obviously all like the social aspect of our culture. Some like the education. Some like drumming and singing. Some like the spirituality & healing. Sometimes in our busy life it is hard to make time to get together and really practice/indulge in these various functions.

There are many calls for us to come together and drum, more especially our Socials and Indoor Pow-wow. When we come together around the drum, we should not forget the pipe. I had been told, by one of our late Elders, that we should let the pipe guide our hearts & minds. Sometimes we forget that she lays sleeping, waiting to be woken and used for prayer. I know we think it is okay to look up and talk with the Great Spirit, but I think the pipe would help us to better connect with the Ancient One Above. As a close circle, let us open our minds and hearts and hear what the pipe has to offer. Let us stand in a circle and talk & smoke. Let us remember that being together as a family is good, but giving away "medicine" is the greatest thing we can do. If we forget the Medicine, we have forgotten everything. *Creator, let me remember who I am, and my purpose – to share the medicine You give to me...*

See you along the Good Red Road. *Peace.....*

*3 Horses & Dreams of Wolves*

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- 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:**

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products box tops. ----->  
&  
"Campbell's"  
products labels. ----->

For St Joseph's Indian School  
(see *Dreams of Wolves* for a detailed list)

