



Aquidneck Island Intertribal Indian Council

(est. Oct. 14, 2007)

Newsletter

May 2013



Council News

On March 23rd we hosted our 6th Annual Indoor Pow-wow. 4 drums – more drums - more fun (a six flags pun). Everyone that I have spoken with, say they had a great time. I want to THANK everyone who pitched in to help set up the hall, vend, drum/sing, cook, run raffles, greet people, dance, clean and return the hall to the way we found it. *One person cannot do it all*, it is indeed a Team/Family effort. It is a labor of love to provide others with a safe, friendly place to come, to gather, and enjoy the music, dance or pray with other Native peoples.

Due to the bad weather on Sat April 20th, we had to postpone the “Planting of the Corn” ceremony till Sunday the 21st. Even though it was a day later, it was a good turnout and another well done ceremony. I want to thank all the ladies who entered the sacred circle to offer their prayers for the people and I want to thank the Corn Maiden – Anastasia, and her Guard - Jared. It is great to see our youth participate in ceremonies, that way we know the ceremonies will be passed along to other generations. The Corn ceremony was followed by a “Pipe” ceremony and a “Fire” ceremony. After all that, the Soaring Eagle Singers played a few songs and then it was time for socializing & eating... Good food and good fellowship rounded out the day.

****Spotlight > upcoming event ----->**

At this month’s meeting we have an application for Isaiah to be read and voted upon.

Also, we may have 2 more applications to be read; Ron & Laurie.

So come to the meeting and get to know our newest family members.

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.

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 May 5**

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Portsmouth 375th Anniversary Pow-Wow & Celebration

Saturday & Sunday July 27 & 28

10:00 – 5:00

{ Grand Entry @ noon both days }

Glen Park – 4H Fair Grounds

Glen Road, Portsmouth RI

{ Just off Rte 138 East Main Rd }

Drumming, Dancing, Flute music,
Storytelling and more.
Native American (and some not-so-native)
items for sale

Drums: *The Soaring Eagle Singers,
Eagle Sings & Eastern Medicine*

Refreshments available:
Then & Now Native Foods

Free Admission

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

For directions or information: Contact the
Aquidneck Indian Council Secretary
@ 401-683-4589 or
aquidneck_indian@verizon.net

On the lighter side:



Spiritually Speaking

The white man is too far removed from America's formative processes. The roots of the tree of his life have not yet grasped the rock & the soil... But for the Indian, the spirit of the land is still vested... When the Indian has forgotten the music of his forefathers, when the sound of the drum is no more, when the memory of his heroes is no longer told in story... he will be dead.

Luther Standing Bear, Oglala

Some of our chiefs make the claim that the land belongs to us. It is not what the Great Spirit told me. He told me that the lands belong to Him, that no people owns the land; that I was not to forget to tell this to the white people when I met them in council.

Kanakuk, Kickapoo

The Tree of Life:

The Tree of Life represents all that is life, encompassing all that exists upon the planet. When we walk the Red Road, our journey ends under the protection of this Tree. It causes the rhythm of the world to continue year after year, and with each cycle, fruit nourishes those who stand under her boughs. The roots dig deep into history. Those dedicated to this energy know the value of all beings, tend to Mother Earth, and live an honorable life in honor of the spirit of the ancient Tree.



This photo is so appropriate for both thoughts; Tree of Life and Paths.

Following a path:

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. Accept yourself and your actions. Own your thoughts. Speak up when wrong, and apologize. Know your path at all times. To do this you must know yourself inside and out, accept your gifts as well as your shortcomings, and grow each day with honesty, integrity, compassion, faith and brotherhood.

Upcoming Events:

Sun May 5
Aquidneck Indian Council's May Meeting
1:00 - ?
222 Middle Rd, Portsmouth RI
401-683-4589

July 4 - 6
Aquidneck Indian Council's July 4th celebration
Cookout, fireworks & campout
Times: To Be Determined
222 Middle Rd, Portsmouth RI
401-683-4589

July 27 & 28
Town of Portsmouth 375th Anniversary
Pow-Wow & Celebration
Glen Park, Glen Rd Portsmouth RI
401-683-4589

Something to think about:

“When we walk a path hand in hand with negativity, our path is one of loneliness and despair. We tend to look at the dark side of our World and become engrossed in it. There is a danger that we might spiral down and not have enough energy to return our spirit to this world. Also we risk the chance of never having the opportunity of crossing paths with our true positive selves and that would be terribly sad and destructive.

The answers we seek are deep inside us. They are hard to find and almost impossible to follow all the time. I believe that the struggle is the key to our very own existence. We must struggle till our last breath because Death is always closing in on us and He never sleeps.”

Seeker of Owl Wisdom



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790 Aquidneck Ave. Middletown, RI 02842
401-849-2799 info@ailt.org

Preserving the Island's open spaces and natural character
for the lasting benefit of our community.

Western band of Cherokee flag



Editorial:

Planting Seeds

by, Raven Speak (Robin Riley)



Have you ever wondered why you have fields of thoughts flowing in your mind, just as growing wheat flows in the wind? Why is it that negative doubts are planted so securely and embedded so deeply in our sub conscious mind? Have you noticed it is so much easier to harvest negative thoughts and beliefs from our minds and actions than the positive ones? It is because there are so many negative thoughts and judgments and they multiply. Our job is to pull those weeds out by re-framing them as learning experiences rather than failures.

Many people often want to cling to the past, even if it's lonely and makes us cry, because it feels more comfortable than doing the thing that scares us so much: letting go and embracing the change that enters our lives.

As I write this it's something I struggle with in my life. There are good days and very bad days. And that feeling of giving up on a past that I held so dearly feels like surrendering to failure. But I've learned to deal with it by doing one very simple thing: (I plant seeds). What is planting a seed? It's the simple act of setting something into motion that will help you create the life you want to lead. It's taking a moment of sorrow and realizing that you can use it to fuel yourself.

Even though planting a whole garden can seem daunting and full of anxiety in itself, all you have to do is start by planting one seed. And keep adding another one here and there. Take care of those seeds, and before you know it, a little leafy green thing will greet you one day. Or, in real life, you will have a successful positive growth beginning. Nothing is more exciting than seeing your seed turn into something that blooms. But you must understand when it comes to planting your life seed's. A whole garden isn't created over night, and neither is a dream life. But, by focusing on the positives, and seeing the little seeds that start to peek out from the earth in the form of something new, we can start to see the progress we are making in our journey to start living the life we've always wanted.

Just remember a seed can't stay a seed forever. When cared for with nourishing soil, rays of sunlight, and water, they change shape and start to become whatever it is they were meant to be. To really experience positive change, you, must let go of your past and embrace the transformation that's about to take place. Have confidence knowing you will take on a better form, even if it takes time.

After a seed undergoes a transformation and takes on a new form, everyone appreciates it for whatever it has to offer, whether it's a smile-inducing sunflower or a crisp carrot. Each seed has something new, something more to contribute. And how did it get to this point; with time and a transformative change.

So my message to you is to go out there and start planting seeds in your life, no matter how hard or pointless it may seem right now. With a little time, patience and hard work, what now seems like an empty dirt plot will be filled with beauty and growth. Just like a beautiful flower attracts butterflies, your life will be a magnet to the right kind of people that will truly make it one worth living...

LOVE AND WHITE LIGHT

Next meeting:



Sunday May 5, 1:00

@ 222 Middle Rd Portsmouth

Guests Always Welcome

AIHC 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:

Sometimes dreams are wiser than waking.

Black Elk, Oglala Sioux

From 3 Horses:

Did you ever notice that there are times you are so busy you can't focus? You are planning this, or thinking about that, or trying to fix other people's problems, to the point you don't realize the “now” and time slips through your hands. That seems to happen a lot, especially when you are the person that people look to for guidance or answers. We all seem to find ourselves in that position don't we?

Yes, there are a lot of things to keep a busy Council such as ours, occupied. But we all need to take the time to be with other family members and just be at peace with each other, as well as with ourselves. Take the time to remember, when there are 2 or more gathered - Creator is there. As you sit and talk with your brother or sister, Great One Above is listening. As you relay your problems, questions, uncertainties, HE hears your needs or problems. When you feel overwhelmed, let HIM enter the conversation, let HIM enter your head and more especially - your heart. When you feel overwhelmed, say this little prayer – *Creator, Great Spirit, I ask you to enter my heart & head and ease my troubled thoughts and show me what YOU want me to do...*

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.