

Aquidneck Island Intertribal Indian Council

(est. Oct. 14, 2007)

Newsletter

May 2014



Council News

At last month's meeting, we voted to accept 3 new members. We welcome Crystal, Deb and Dru to our Council family. This month we will read, for the second time, and vote upon Josuah's application. After that we have another to be read. I invite all members and past members, who haven't been around, to come and meet the new family members.

After a long absence, the Council tee-pee is back up. It took a while to capture the evasive tee-pee poles. They were tricky to hunt down. We let them dry a little and finally stripped the poles and set the tee-pee back up. Thank you to all that participated in the hard work. It is available for any Council member or friend of the Council to use to pray or meditate, or even sleep over, once it warms up a little more.

On Sat April 12 Creator stopped the rain and allowed the sun to shine upon our ceremonies. The ladies conducted the "Planting of the Corn", a few of the men started their journey on the "Life Arrow", Ashley has been gifted the name Painted Sky, and we followed with a "Pipe" and "Fire" ceremony. We were able to drum and we were graced with people entering our circle and dancing their prayers into the corn along with our ladies' prayers. Later we all gathered to eat and socialize. I want to thank all that attended to make this another great event.

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.

Our prayers go out to Paul "Mata Ho Ta Ska" for a quick recovery after surgery.

****See you at the next meeting: Sunday May 4**

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CAUTION



**EXPOSURE TO DRUMMING
MAY CAUSE SUDDEN OUTBURST
OF JOY, HAPPINESS, ENERGY,
CREATIVITY, AWARENESS AND
SPONTANEOUS HEALING!**

SPURRED POWER OF THE DRUM

HANDLE AT YOUR OWN RISK!

The drum is a heartbeat:

Native dancers move to a drumbeat that, for Indians, symbolizes the human pulse and the fundamental rhythms of all life including Mother Earth. For this reason, performance has always played an important part in Native expression, and both dance and music have undergone an extraordinary renaissance in recent years. Indian creativity has also found outlets in such non-traditional visual forms as the theater and fine art. Indian artistic expression often relates to specific tribal concerns and heritage, but it also touches on non-Indian themes. Many songs and dances are intertribal, and are formed to please all.

The drum is a circle:

In Native American philosophy, the roundness of a drum symbolizes the inseparable unity of the past, present and future. This unity is a circle that binds all people. The beating of the drum represents the eternal rhythms of nature.

On the lighter side:



Spiritually Speaking

Abuse no one and no living thing, for abuse turns the wise ones to fools and robs the spirit of its vision. When it comes your time to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled with fear of death, so that when their time comes they weep and pray for a little more time to live their lives over again in a different way. Sing your death song and die like a hero going home.

Tecumseh, Shawnee

I beg you now to believe this; all miserable as we seem in your eyes, we consider ourselves much happier than you, in that we are very content with the little that we have... You deceive yourselves greatly if you think to tell us that your ways are better than ours.

Gaspesian

You say that you are sent to instruct us how to worship the Great Spirit agreeable to His mind: and if we do not take hold of the religion which you white people teach, we will be unhappy hereafter? You say that you know this to be true? We understand that your religion is written in a book. If it was intended for us all, why has not the Great Spirit given it to us; and not only to us, but why did he not give our forefathers the knowledge of that book, with the means of understanding it rightly?

Red Jacket, Seneca

I am poor and naked, but I am the chief of a Nation. We do not want riches, but we do want to train our children right. Riches would do us no good. We cannot take them with us to the other world. We do not want riches. We want peace and love.

Red Cloud, Oglala

Every part of this Earth is sacred to my people, every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every meadow, every humming insect...

Seattle, Duwamish

Upcoming Events:

Sun May 4

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

Sat & Sun May 17 & 18

UNACC: 19th Annual "Unity Days" Pow-wow.
Fort Devens, MA. 19 Antietam St
978-772-1306

Sat & Sun May 17 & 18

4th Annual 1st Light Powwow
Affiliated Tribes of New England
River Island Park Bernon St. Woonsocket RI
401-413 2167

** 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 2014 Season

www.OnisetWigwam.com

Mondays: Unfoldment Classes with Sharon Ferraro

Tuesdays: Healing Share

Thursdays: Gallery Nights

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

Editorial:

Something to say?

by: *Dreams of Wolves*



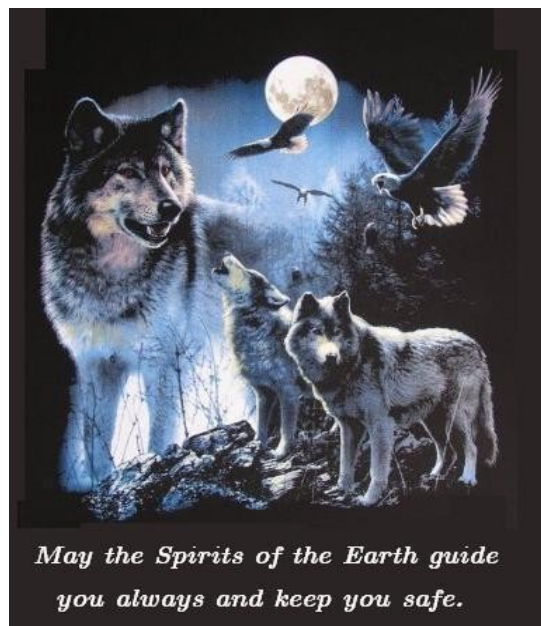
Here is something to think about: Why do people always have to talk about other people? It seems when somebody is happy, somebody always has to start rumors to hurt someone's feelings.

First of all, mind your own business. It is not up to you or anyone else, for that matter, to sit and be a judge. The only one that has that privilege is Creator, not us. Nobody's private life is anyone else's business. If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say it at all.

Those that have a lot to say about someone else ought to look at themselves, they might see something that they don't like. Most times they talk about others because they have nothing else to do and talking bad about someone else makes them happy as long as they can hurt that person's feelings because they don't like them. Well "Bully for you". Look in the mirror and if you are as perfect as you think, you are then "3 stars for you".

It is time to stop negative words about people, instead take the time and worry about what you do.

Creator, help me not have negative thoughts and words about others.



Reminder on truths that become our blessings:

by *Raven Speak* (Robin Riley)



In a world that contains as many personal truths as there are people, it is often difficult to maintain integrity with thy self. It is perfectly okay to agree to disagree with another. Personal experience differs greatly from person to person. We all carry personal likes and dislikes. Being true to thy self and trusting one's own feelings and perceptions without deception is an art. When we master this art, we feel alive and at one with the flow of life. When we negate our abilities to honor our personal truths with self-doubt we find the flow of life drying up before our eyes. To question is healthy. To deny the feelings found in truthful answers is to doubt the foundation of being "THE WILL."

So I guess what I'm trying to say is the blessing in the truth that which we seek on our path. Anything that has brought a smile to your lips, joy to your heart or lightness to your step is a blessing and the truth all in one. We all need to look deeper and expand our understanding and increase our compassion. Step up face what needs to be the test of strength cause in time the commitment to you are to be will not be a force of life but a great blessing.

So my message today is allow your steps on your path remind you of how precious life is and know you are your own teacher that your blessings are teachings to treasure. The creator reminds us that blessings are counted in the way that we choose to look at them. Do yourself a favor. Take time to look at things. Study them. Ask questions. You just might find a blessing in disguise...

Be Well

Blessings
COUNT THEM ONE BY ONE

Indian in the Living Room

by *Ed Hanson*

I would like to introduce someone you have grown up with, refuse to acknowledge who has made the life you know possible.

Hello my relatives, I am the Indian in your living room.

I am the First Nations the original inhabitants of Turtle Island.

I am the corn, the beans, the squash the sweet potatoes and tomatoes on your dinner table.

I am the gratitude you express every fourth Thursday in November.

I am the Corn Maiden, the Two Hills, the Sacred Mountains, Spider Woman, Shiprock

I am the Kachinas, the Thunderbird, the Black Hills, and the Buffalo.

I am the Pipe Carrier, the Keeper of the Sacred Bundles the White Buffalo Calf, Kokopelli.

I am Heyoka.

I am Coyote, Raven, Crow, White Old Man, and Salmon Boy

I am the Sun Dance, the Ghost Dance, the inipi wakan, the hanblechya.

I am the Indian in your living room.

I am the Great Law of Peace.

I am the plan for the U.S. Constitution given you by the clan mothers of the Iroquois Federation.

I am political freedom, free speech, equality, and freedom of assembly which you claim as part of being an American.

I am the Delaware who allowed Washington's troops to survive the winter at Valley Forge.

I am the caretaker of Mother Earth.

I am the Grandfathers who tell the stories that teach us how to be human.

I am the Ancestors who watch from the heavens.

I am Powhatan, Pocahontas, and Sacagawea who helped the white man survive in a strange land.

I am the Brotherhood of the Shield that used to care for and protect the people before the white men came.

I am the Indian in your living room.

I am the residue of Manifest Destiny.

I am an inconvenience to progress.

I am America's Final Solution.

I am the ghost of Osceola, Pontiac, and Seattle.

I am the Trail of Tears, Sand Creek, and Wounded Knee I and II.

I am Baker's Massacre, Ghost Ridge and all the atrocities carried out in your name.

I am the guilt you carry for these crimes.

I am the Indian in your living room.

I am blankets infected with smallpox.

I am trade whiskey, forced conversions, and Indian schools.

I am slavery, spoiled beef rations, and crooked Indian agents.

I am Cornstalk, Chief Joseph, Geronimo, and Crazy Horse.

I am Sitting Bull, Jim Thorpe, Leonard Peltier, and Ira Hayes.

I am Squanto, Red Cloud, White Calf, and SuAnne Big Crow.

I am the Navajo Code Talkers who helped you win the war in the Pacific.

I am a long history of unpaid debts and broken promises.

I am the spirit of the buffalo shot from train windows and left to rot on the plains.

I am every treaty ever made and broken.

I am the Indian in your living room.

I am the reservation where the Constitution and Bill of Rights do not apply.

I am the loss of freedom and way of life.

I am poverty and unemployment, alcoholism and diabetes.

I am hopelessness and suicide.

I am the Indian in your living room and I will not go away.

I am your past, your future, your heritage, and your destiny.

I am that small drop of Indian blood every American family now carries.

I am your parent, your grandparent, and great-grandparent and we are all related.

I am the Indian in your living room and I don't seek vengeance.

I'm done asking for just compensation.

Your government is not capable of dealing honestly.

I am declaring independence and you had better respect it.

I ask that the people open their hearts and listen and when you weep for the loss of my children as you would weep for your own, then, I will know you have heard.

Next meeting:



Sunday May 4, 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
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

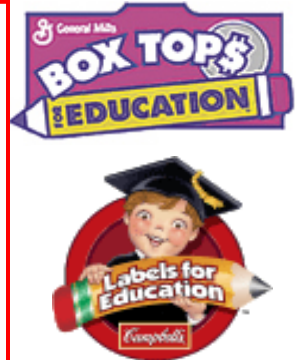
Constant Needs:

- Men's deodorant
- Hair gel
- Little girls full slips 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:

When we go hunting, it is not our arrow that kills the moose, however powerful the bow; it is nature that kills.

Bedagi, Wabanaki

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 two 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.