

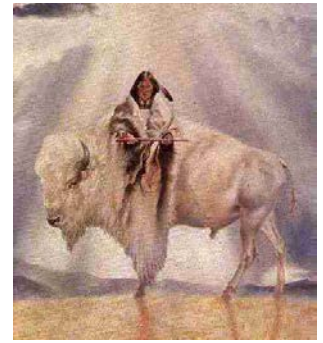
Aquidneck Island Intertribal Indian Council

(est. Oct. 14, 2007)

Newsletter

May 2018

We're still here



Council News

At last month's meeting a report on the March 24th Pow-wow was read, accepted and placed on file. It is a lot of work and I hope that all that attended enjoyed themselves.

As per the motion made & accepted, a check has been mailed to St Joseph's Indian School as a late Easter donation.

At the time of writing this newsletter; we haven't hosted our Planting of the Corn ceremony which is Sat April 28th. Hopefully we will have a good turnout and all that attend will have a great time.

If you look at the Calendar of Events, on page 3, you will see that May will be a busy month for us. Try to attend as many events as possible.

On Sun May 13th we will be conducting a cultural presentation, to include drumming and dancing, at the RI Veterans Home in Bristol. We ask that any Native dancers, who might be interested & available to join us to support our effort to educate & entertain our veterans. The event starts approx. 2:00 and will be approx. an hour or so, depending on attendance & attention. If interested: contact us for more details.

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..

Next meeting is Sunday May 6.

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The Council Tee-pee is up



The tee-pee (ti-pi) is not a Northern Woodland or New England dwelling, but is one of the most recognized icon, next to the Bison/Buffalo, associated with Native American culture. Being that my ancestry is Plains culture, we chose the tee-pee, and it is easy to set up and put away.

The Tee-pee represents a reminder of our past, and it lets us connect with our Ancestors.

The tee-pee is set up for the people to use for meditation, prayer or a place to connect with Creator, or even a place just to be alone. Even tho it is a structure, it's a way to be outside and communicate with Great Spirit/Great One Above. The Tee-pee is there for all to use and enjoy, and feel secure from misunderstanding onlookers.

If you use the Tee-pee: treat it with respect, after all, it is *sacred space*.

On the lighter side: ☺



Spiritually Speaking

“But I have learned a lot from trees: sometimes about the weather, sometimes about animals, sometimes about the Great Spirit.”

—Walking Buffalo, STONEY

Nature is the greatest teacher on the Earth. Nature produces many different plants, animals, trees, rocks, birds, insects, and weather patterns. Nature designed all these various things to grow and multiply while at the same time live in harmony with each other. We can learn a lot if we observe and study Nature’s system of harmony and balance. Today, go sit on a rock and quietly observe and ask to be shown the lessons.

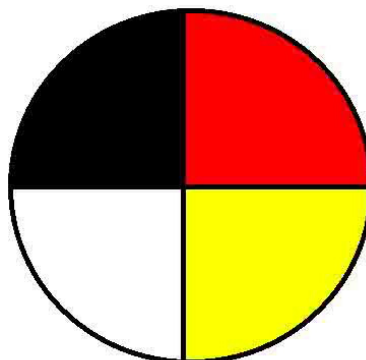
Great Spirit, Nature is my teacher; today, let me be the student.

“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:

Sat April 28
(raindate Sun 29)
Planting of the Corn ceremony
222 Middle Rd, Portsmouth RI
401-683-4589 11:00 – 5:00

Sat May 5
American Legion Special Meeting & presentation
222 Middle Rd, Portsmouth RI
774-713-0122 10:00 - ?

Sun May 6
Aquidneck Indian Council's Monthly Meeting
222 Middle Rd, Portsmouth RI
401-683-4589 1:00 - ?

Sun May 13
RI Veteran's Home – drumming for the Veterans
480 Metacom Ave Bristol RI
2:00 – 4:00

Sun May 20
Horse Play – Open House, Blessing and Drumming
143 Gilbert Stuart Rd
Saunderstown, Rhode Island 02874
(401) 294-3565

Sun June 3
Aquidneck Indian Council's Monthly Meeting
222 Middle Rd, Portsmouth RI
401-683-4589 1:00 - ?

Sat June 16 & Sun June 17
Red Road Sobriety Pow-wow
979 Somerset Ave. Dighton, MA
508-880-6887 10:00-5:00 Grand Entry 12:30

** 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.



My heart is filled with joy when I see you here, as the brook fills with water when the snows melt in the spring, and I feel glad, as the ponies are when the fresh grass starts in the beginning of the year.

Ten Bears, Yamparika Comanche

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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: “Don’t be to Curious” (Lakota Tradition)

Narrated by: Strong Woman Spirit Chaser



One day the Coyote was walking along, scrounging for food and various items, as usual. He met Rabbit who was carrying a leather pouch on his back. He greeted Rabbit cordially, “Hi there Rabbit, how are you today?”

“Fairly well” replied Rabbit.

Coyote was very curious and wanted to know what was in Rabbit’s leather pouch. He tried guessing, “Oh, you must have tobacco in the pouch on your back? I sure would like something to smoke. Give me some, you’ve got more than you need, you are small and I am big.”

Rabbit did not answer Coyote. Coyote got angry. “Come on, you greedy, no good rabbit. Don’t be stingy.”

Rabbit walked on.

Coyote followed Rabbit. “Hey you long eared fellow, let me see what’s in your leather pouch.”

“Nothing you would want”, Rabbit finally told him.

“Well I want to see anyway, show me that nothing.”

“No, you would be very sorry. You’d be very angry with me,” Rabbit told him.

By this time, Coyote was just dying of curiosity. “If it’s not tobacco, what is it then?” he insisted.

“I already told you that you do not want what’s in the pouch,” Rabbit said.

Coyote got very angry and tore the pouch off of Rabbit’s back and opened it. The pouch was full of fleas. So many that you could not even count them. All the fleas immediately went onto Coyote. He ran off in a frenzy - scratching himself and howling.

Rabbit yelled after him, “I told you so!”

So now whenever you hear the Coyote howl, it’s because the fleas are biting and making him itch.

Moral of the story.... You shouldn’t be too curious or envious of what you don’t have.

Editorial: Dealing with other's misconceptions regarding Native American Spirituality

by *Bev Morningstar*

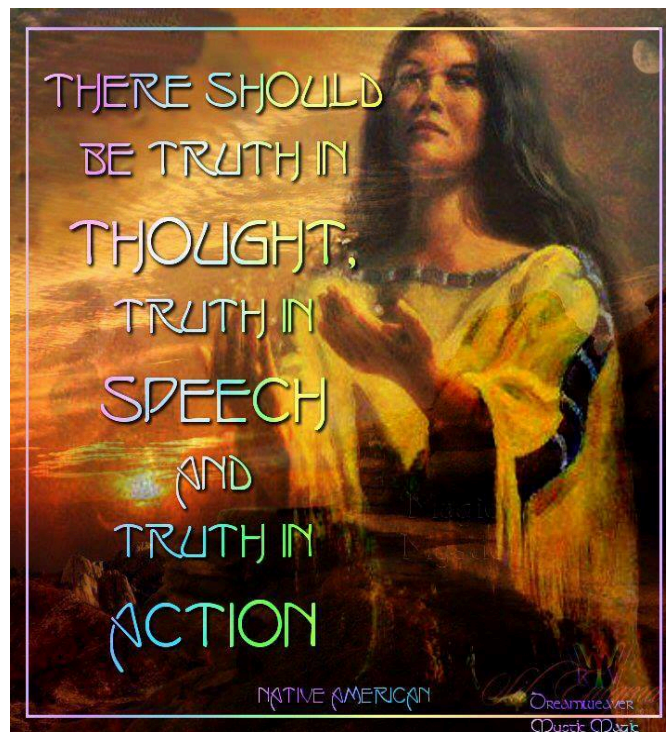
Introduction: The first thing that I would like to address is that there are so many people who totally do not understand what we believe in and that we are not practicing some kind of witchcraft.

I was recently asked by a woman deacon to be part of a Holistic Health and Wellness group that she felt led to start. I was a little reluctant at first, however, I felt well let me just go and see for myself what it was all about. This woman was not affiliated with my church, but I honor all people, and believe we only have one Great Spirit/God who created us all as equals. I was welcomed by her and several others and we sat down and was asked to say a few words about ourselves and why we were drawn to healing others and a little about our backgrounds. Each person told their stories and then it was time for me to tell mine.

Well things began to go a little backwards about then because prior to me speaking she stated she did not like REIKI healers and I just happen to be a Reiki Master, and then she went on to say it was very difficult to get people to change in this area where we live unfortunately, due to the fact that years ago gypsies and for course the Native American Indians influence were here and it was all very bad energies. Anybody who knows me knows that by now I was exploding inside and I had plenty to say to her but in a kind and decent matter.

Finally it was my turn to speak, I asked her did she know anything about Native American Spirituality at all and she admitted she only heard bad things about it. I informed her that I WAS Native American and how we honor the GREAT SPIRIT in all things; the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat etc. and yes we call the earth Mother Earth because what does a mother do but clothe us, nourish us, provide for us etc. By the way yes, it is true we do have ceremonies: we have ceremonies to heal the earth, heal the water, the people of the earth, to thank our Creator for He has blessed us with lots more besides these.

Well needless to say after I spoke she was full of apologies and ask my forgiveness and I also told her I am a REIKI Master and when I do Reiki I ask Great Spirit to send healing to the person wherever he/she may need it because after all He is the healer not me. I am only the vessel that He uses. Why am I writing this today; it is because more than ever we as Native Americans NEED TO HONOR our Ancestors by teaching the younger generations the truth about our people. For so long; we have been look upon as HEATHENS and it rest upon us not to have hatred or bitterness in our hearts, but to speak in kindness and compassion to those who have been misled to believe these lies and mistruths.



Conclusion: We in this generation have to speak up and teach the truth and walk the Red Road and set an example for the young ones to follow in our footsteps. Our ancestors gave us instructions to follow if we will only listen and be the teachers that will unite the people and be the rainbow tribe that has been predicted by many for this time.

Editorial: Prayer

Narrated by 3 Horses

"Prayer is the best answer to all of the trials that face us, because without prayer, even if we succeed in accomplishing some great goal in the eyes of men, we have failed in our sacred responsibilities, and thus we have failed in what is truly important."

--Thomas Yellowtail, CROW



What are our sacred responsibilities? One is to be of maximum service to the Creator, and two is to serve the people. In a way, it's like the Great Spirit is the employer and we are the employees. We live each day, do what we do, accomplish our goals, face our difficulties, overcome them all to the Glory of the Creator. We do these things to make Him proud! Even if we work for a company, agency or tribe, they are not really our employer; the Creator is our employer. Working for the Creator is better than working for a human being, because each night we can talk to the Creator and ask Him, "Well, how did I do today?" He answers back each night, "I'm proud of you, my child; sleep well, and in the morning I'll give you a new set of growing experiences."

Great Spirit, today, let me work for You. You will be my new boss.



Native Recipe

Pumpkin Oatmeal Loaf



Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour	1 cup uncooked oatmeal	2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda	½ teaspoon salt	¼ teaspoon nutmeg
½ cup shortening	1 ¼ cup sugar	2 eggs
1 ½ cups pumpkin	¾ cup buttermilk	1 teaspoon vanilla

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350* Grease 9 x 13 pan.

Combine the flour, oatmeal, baking powder, baking soda, salt & nutmeg. Mix well, set aside.

At medium speed of electric mixer, cream together the shortening and sugar until light & fluffy. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well.

At low speed, add the flour mixture, alternately with the buttermilk and mashed pumpkin, beginning and ending with the flour mixture. Beat only until the ingredients are blended; do not overbeat. Stir in the vanilla.

Spread evenly in the baking pan. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes.

Allow to cool for 10 minute before serving.

Next meeting:



**** Sunday May 6, 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

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- Men's T-shirts (all sizes)
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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
Website: www.aquidneckindiancouncil.org

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



Inspirational:

“We must remember that the heart of “our” religion is alive and that each person has the ability within to awaken and walk in a sacred manner.”

Thomas Yellowtail, CROW

From 3 Horses:

Spring is here. As Ten Bear stated, it’s good when you can get out and see your friends and families again, after being cooped up all winter. Even throughout this winter, we have gotten together a lot and have gone through much. As Spring starts, I make this wish; that we can continue to grow and always work together as a family. Creator has called us together for a greater purpose. I believe that purpose is to remind people of a tattered and injustice filled past, but to show that we, and our brothers and sisters, have prevailed. As the saying goes, “We’re Still Here”. Let’s continue to show people that we are still here, and show that our purpose is to educate the people and bring our heritage to the forefront that others may understand it, join with us and enjoy it.

Creator, Tunkashila, Wankan Tanka, Great Spirit, Great One Above: Now that spring is here, I ask You to renew us and pour out Your blessings upon us. Lead us along the right path. Be there with us at every turn. Open our eyes that we may see You in everything. Open the eyes of those we come in contact with that they might understand. A-ho!

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.