

Aquidneck Island Intertribal Indian Council

(est. Oct. 14, 2007)

Newsletter

November 2014



Council News

On Sat Sept 27 we crossed the big water (Narragansett Bay) to conduct a presentation at the Paine House Museum for Coventry's Heritage Day celebration. It has grown over the years. We were well received and we were happy to share our culture and medicine with all that attended.

On Sat Oct 18 a few of the male members fulfilled their Life Arrow journey with a late night fire ceremony, followed by a pipe ceremony. We thank Raven Speak for her gift of a pipe to the Council to be used for men's medicine. Meanwhile the women folk got together to eat and attend a mystical fair.

On Sun Oct 19, we traveled to Rehoboth to drum at the Brockton Church. The drum had many different voices that day, but the most impressive was as we performed our final song, the Mother Earth song, the ladies of the Council joined hands with the members of the church, the drum didn't sound loudly, but resonated and vibrated the floor.

On Sat Oct 25 we will be conducting the Healing of the Water ceremony, a Naming Ceremony for 3, possibly 4, people and a pipe ceremony. All are welcome to attend. The write up was in last month's newsletter.

*On Sat Nov 8th 12:00 – 5:00 we will be hosting a "Potluck Lunch and Dance Social Gathering" at Sandywoods Farm in Tiverton. (See flyer for info). Eagle Sings will be joining us in drumming, and the floor is open to dance and enjoy yourselves. If there are any Native entertainers who would like to join us, please contact us. There is no admission fee, we just ask that you please bring a dish to share and come join us for a fun filled afternoon.

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..

There are still many of our extended family members who are still sick or injured. I ask you all to keep them in your prayers.

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 Nov 2**

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Aquidneck Indian Council's Fall Pot-luck Lunch and Dance Social



We are happy to announce that we will again be able to host our:

Fall "Pot-luck Lunch & Dancing Social" at
Sandywoods Farm - Center for the Arts
43 Muse Way Tiverton RI.
Saturday Nov 8
12:00 – 5:00

***Free Admission**

Please bring a dish to share.

"Eagle Sings" will be joining us again this year. We extend an invitation to any Native music artist to join us.

Mark the date on your calendars.

Hope to see all our friends there.

Always a fun way to spend a Saturday afternoon.

*Raffle proceeds to benefit:
St Joseph's Indian School*

On the lighter side:



Spiritually Speaking

We had no churches, no religious organizations, no Sabbath day, no holidays, and yet we worshiped. Sometimes the whole tribe would assemble and sing and pray; sometimes a smaller number, perhaps only 2 or 3. The songs had 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 each prayed aloud; sometimes an aged person prayed for all of us. At other times one would rise and speak to us of our duties to each other and to Usen (God).

Geronimo, Apache

Almost every evening a myth, or a true story of some deed done in the past, was narrated by one of the parents or grandparents, while the boy listened with parted lips and glistening eyes.

Ohiyesa, Santee Sioux

Our fathers gave us many laws, which they had learned from their fathers. Those laws were good. They told us to treat all men as they treated us, that we should never be the first to break a bargain, that it was a disgrace to tell a lie, that we should only speak the truth.

Chief Joseph, Nez Perce

Oh, Eagle, come with wings outspread in the sunny skies. Oh, Eagle, come and bring us peace, thy gentle peace. Oh, Eagle, come and give new life to us who pray. Remember the circle of the sky, the stars, and the brown eagle, the great life of the Sun, the young within the nest. Remember the sacredness of things.

Pawnee Prayer



Upcoming Events:

November is Native American Awareness Month

Try to attend an observance to honor our heritage.

Sun Nov 2

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

Sat Nov 8

Aquidneck Indian Council
Fall Potluck Lunch & Dance Social
Sandywoods Farm
43 Muse Way Tiverton RI
401-683-4589 12:00 - 5:00

Tues Nov 11

Veterans' Day Observance
Portsmouth High School Gym
Patriots Way, Portsmouth RI
9:00 - 12:00

Fri Nov 14

NAAM observance
Shinning Start Preschool
Valley Road, Middletown

Sat Nov 15

Metis Wolf Clan Craft and Culture Fair
Sandywoods Farm
43 Muse Way Tiverton RI
10:00 - 4:00

Weds Nov 19

NAAM observance
Naval Station Newport
Time & place TBD

** 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.

Veteran's Day



American Indians have proudly fought in every branch of service starting in World War One.

More than 8,000 Indians served in WWI, 25,000 in WWII, 43,000 in Vietnam and 24,000 in Desert Storm.

Nov 19, 1986: The American Indian Vietnam Plaque, commemorating the diligent service of approx. 43,000 American Indians who served in the Vietnam War, was dedicated at Arlington National Cemetery.

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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

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:

Difference Of Women and Men Versus Being a bully and unfair criticism.

by Robin Riley (*Raven Speak*)



Criticism is something you can easily avoid by saying nothing, doing nothing, and being nothing.”

At the end of the day, when I feel completely exhausted, it often has nothing to do with all the things I've done. It's not a consequence of juggling multiple responsibilities and projects. It's not my body's way of punishing me for becoming a late-life jogger after a period of laziness. It's not even about getting too little sleep. When I'm exhausted, you can be sure I've bent over backwards trying to win everyone's approval. I've obsessed over what people think of me, I've assigned speculative and usually inaccurate meanings to feedback I've received, and I've lost myself in negative thoughts about criticism and its merit.

We as women/men are so different when it come to seeing the points and views on others that women tend to gossip about another person's appearance as in, "OMG, did you see how she is dressed?", or "Did you see how all the men talk to her when she is around?", or "She is out smoking a cigarette with my husband again." - ASSUMING AUTOMATICALLY that your husband is "all that and a bag of chips". (Wrong ladies) It's called friends. Your self-esteem is your own worst enemy. Stop saying mean cruel stuff that is not true or fair to that other woman.

It is sad that women can be ok and all for the moment with the women that they call friends. But as soon as that one woman, who might walk with confidence, speak with a little intelligence and stand tall and proud with who she is, the moment she leaves, the rest of the women belittle her, speak very mean cruel stuff that is not true. You should be very ashamed of yourself. It's not her fault she is different than you. It's not her fault you're choosing to not find your inner strength, to become a strong woman. Most of the women I know, like this, pretend to be strong women with many hidden secrets that don't allow themselves' to be better women. And that's sad.

Now for the men: In a group of men, they have a tendency to speak of the surrounding and actions of life. Example; "Did you see his new truck?" "Did you see Carl has a new girlfriend?" Then it's discussed and dropped. They see the action happening in front of them. Bring it to the surface as a subject. Then it's dropped and on to the next subject. I can not remember ever hearing any man speaking cruel mean rude stuff or telling lies on another guy for any purpose of insecurities. That's just not how men work ladies. So just maybe, knocking down the men in your life is not always a needed thing. Maybe it's time we give credit where credit is due.

So now you ask why I am writing this. WELL, I am a 38 year old woman who has 3 great boys and a great husband. I get up every day just like you do and go to work and make sure at the end of the day my bills are paid and my kids are happy.

I have recently over the past few months have been belittled, spoken badly of and told lies on because I had a difference of an opinion on a matter. So this is where I want to remind you that being a **ROLE MODEL** to the young children in our lives is a great gift. But acting the age of the young children and **BULLYING** is not. It's not fair. It hurts a great deal to know stories can be spoken so easy and how people will believe them before questioning the possibilities.

So please next time you choose to use the lapping cruel tongue to speak negative stories on someone, put yourself there and wonder "Are you being that bully"?

Be Blessed



Editorial:

What Do I See?

by *Dreams of Wolves*



Lately I look around and all I hear is very harsh words being said. Maybe we all need to look into our own hearts, using harsh words hurt people and even a negative thought hurts badly.

Someone used harsh words with me and seriously, it made me think “I don’t want this person around me, I don’t need that person in my life”. It’s been said we should forgive – that’s all well and good, but sometimes it is harder to forgive or maybe to forget. I guess when you love a friend, you should forgive. I am a person who takes things said to me, to heart, and being hurt too many times all my life. I watch people & see so much harshness and negativity floating around and it makes me sad. We need to stop! Life is just too short to be angry.

I sometimes get the negative attitude and speak a little abrupt with people. Lately I told a friend, when I am like this, give me a sign to let me know “smooth those feathers out girl”. When she see’s I’m in a mood, she gives me the sign and I stop.

So all of us should stop, breathe and love each other because Creator would want it that way - be cordial no matter how you feel. If you need to vent walk away, talk to a tree, Mother Earth will listen, the Tall People will listen and they won’t argue with you, and when you are through, come back and give that person a hug.

Ditch the negativity, it don’t belong here. There should only be love, peace and harmony. If negativity keeps taking hold, then this is not where you belong. Families might not like everything you do, but love should be stronger.

No family is perfect
we argue, we fight.
We even stop talking
to each other at times,
but in the end, family
is family. The love will
always be there.

NAPI, Polar Bear & the Fox

by Jerry Yellow Turtle



Several weeks after Napi had named all the animals, He went to sit under the Maple Tree by Skoo Kum Chuck. As he sat there the Polar Bears came to him, “Grandfather, you have made a big mistake.” Napi asked, “What have I done, or not done?” “As you know, you have called us ‘Polar Bears’, meaning of the snow, yet you have made us brown.” Napi said, “I see the problem and I will fix it.”



Looking at the clay, he found some that was white. He gathered the clay, mixed it with water, now he needed a big paintbrush. Just then a fox happened by. Napi asked to borrow his tail. Then using it, as his paint brush, he painted the bears. When he was done, he told the fox he would wash his tail. “Oh no!” said the fox, “The end of my tail is beautiful and all will know you chose it to paint the bears.

So to this day the end of his tail is white and as he walks along, bouncing with every step, he is proud to have been chosen for such an important job.



Native Recipe

In memory of our late Head Elder – Chief Joe Blue Eagle; on the anniversary of his crossing ...

Blue Eagle always enjoyed when I would put Native recipes in the newsletter. So in his honor I share one of his favorites (second only to Baked Virginia Ham).

Succotash



Succotash is an Indian word which means any dish containing both corn and beans. New England succotash usually contained meat and fowl; corned beef and chicken were popular as was wild turkey leftovers.

True succotash is a far cry from the corn and lima bean cans found in the markets. This recipe has been passed down through many generations, but modified to make it simple.

Ingredients:

4 cups baked beans	1 can whole kernel corn
1 can lima beans	3 cooked potatoes, cut up
½ pound corned beef, cooked	½ pound chicken (or turkey), cooked
1 can stewed tomatoes (optional)	Salt & pepper to taste (or any other preferred spices)

Instructions:

Put all above in a Dutch oven or large skillet. Be sure to include the liquid of the canned ingredients and cut up the meat. {You may substitute any leftover meat – pork, sausage or turkey adds a different flavor}

Cook over medium heat about 10 to 12 minutes.

Serves 4 to 6

You might want to refrigerate or freeze some, or all, of this dish. It is one of those things that may be better the second time it's heated.

Next meeting:



Sunday Nov 2, 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

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St Joseph's Indian School

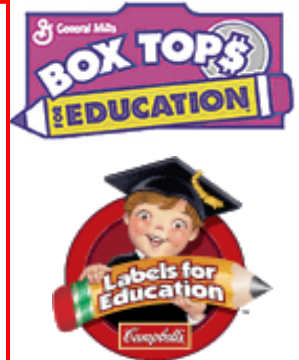
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- Men's deodorant
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- Little girls full slippers in sizes 8-14
- Children's robes
- Dish cloths
- School supplies
- Boys Boxers (all sizes)
- Bath towels
- Running shoes - men's & women's sizes
- Children's 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:

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 desserts... This I believe - and all my people believe the same.

Chief Joseph, Nez Perce

From 3 Horses:

November is Native American Awareness & Heritage Month as well as Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. As always we will be very busy fulfilling requests for presentations/observations. Try to attend any/some of the functions which are listed in our Events Calendar. It is always good to educate the people on Native culture, to do away with some of the stereotypes. Sometimes this can be done with song. *Let the calling of your heart be heard by all, most especially to Great One Above and to our ancestors.. Don't be afraid to sing...*

Thanksgiving is a day to reflect on family & loved ones. It's not about the turkey or football. It's about 2 different cultures with different ideals coming together in friendship. Sometimes we don't think about the truth, but it is hard to think that one people had to give up everything, be subjected to harsh and devastating treatment, so another could flourish. This ought not to have been. But during this time, think of the great things that have been passed on to us. Thank Creator for HIS blessings. Reach back across the generations and thank your ancestors. Don't let my cartoon about letting a "happy meal" become reality in your lives. Spend the day with loved ones. Spend the day outside communicating with nature and the Creator. Give true thanks and forget the pre-Christmas hype....

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.