

Aquidneck Island Intertribal Indian Council

(est. Oct. 14, 2007)

Rewsletter Nov 2017 10 years; we're still here



#### Council News

November is: NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN AWARENESS & HERITAGE MONTH



Help keep the spirit alive.

Our annual "Healing of the Water" ceremony was Sat Oct 21<sup>st</sup> It was a great day; warm, sunny, light breeze and a great attendance. We all offered up our prayers to and for the water, I thank Richard Thunderhawk for his prayers for those who have crossed over. I was honored to give Lisa her Native name, as well as a long distance Name to Steve in California. We concluded with a Pipe ceremony and later; a Pot Luck lunch where there was plenty of food. All in all it was a great day. Thank you all that attended and participated.

Upcoming Event: Fall Pot-luck Lunch & Dance Social. →

As stated above, Nov is Native American Awareness Month. As in previous years, this is usually our busiest month for educating the public about "mixed" Native Cultures and History. At present time we already have 2 requests to conduct presentations in local schools.

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..

See you at the next meeting: <u>Sunday Nov 5</u>

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Fall Pot-luck Lunch & Dance Social

Saturday, Nov 11 \*\*note time change 1:00

@ Tiverton Rod & Gun Club, 1529 Fish Rd, Tiverton, RI

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

(please bring something to share) (Coffee, water & soda will be provided by the Council)

Drumming by: the Soaring Eagle Singers All Native entertainers welcome. \*(Please contact us)

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



"You just show up here illegally and expect us to tell you about corn?"

## Spiritually Speaking



All things in the world are two. In our minds we are two, good & evil. With our eyes we see two things, things that are fair and things that are ugly... We have the right hand that strikes and makes for evil, and we have the left hand, full of kindness, near the heart. One foot may lead us to an evil way, the other may lead us to good. So are all things in two, good & evil.

#### Letakots-Lesa, Pawnee

Teach your children that the ground beneath their feet is the ashes of our grandfathers and grandmothers. So they will respect the land, tell the children that the earth is rich with the lives of our kindred. Teach your children what we have taught our children – that the earth is our mother. Whatever befalls the earth, befalls the sons & daughters of the earth... This we know: all things are connected like the blood which unites one family.

#### Chief Seattle, Duwamish-Suquamish

We believed in a power that was higher than all people and all the created world, and we call this power the "Man Above". We believed in some power in the world that governed everything that grew, and we called that power "Mother Earth". We believed in the power of the Morning Star (sun), and of the Night Sun (moon), and the "Four Old Men" who directed the winds, the rains and the seasons and give us the breath of life. We believed that everything created is holy and has some part of the power that is all over.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

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

Sat Nov 11 Fall Pot-luck Lunch & Dance Social Tiverton Rod & Gun Club, Fish Rd Tiverton 401-683-4589 1:00 – ?

Sat Dec 2 Tiverton Rod & Gun Club Black Powder Shoot & Toy Gathering Fish Rd Tiverton 10:00

Sun Dec 3 Aquidneck Indian Council's Monthly Meeting, Nikomo & Christmas Social 222 Middle Rd, Portsmouth RI 401-683-4589 1:00 - ?

Sat Dec 9 Winter Pot-luck Lunch & Dance Social Tiverton Rod & Gun Club, Fish Rd Tiverton 401-683-4589 12:00 – ?

\*\* 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.

#### Fall & Winter Socials:

We are happy to announce that the Tiverton Rod & Gun Club is allowing us to use their meeting hall for our upcoming Socials again this year. We thank the officers & members of the Gun Club. Remember: ALL are welcome to attend any/all our functions, invite your friends. Notices/flyers will be in the monthly newsletters and in Facebook events. Always a fun time, good food, good raffle items, great friendships, and the drum isn't too bad either  $\bigcirc \odot \odot$ 

> Tiverton Rod & Gun Club 1529 Fish Road, Tiverton

\*\* Note time changes on Nov & Feb's Socials.

Saturday	Nov 11,	1:00
Saturday	Dec 9,	12:00
Saturday	Jan 13,	12:00
Saturday	Feb 10,	1:00



### Please support our advertisers:

For all your photography needs Photos: stills, motion or slideshows of any & all occasions.

## Capture the Moment Photography

Lora *{Lone Wolf}* Parker 401-662-0068 <u>terra2570@aol.com</u> (Official photographer of the Aquidneck Indian Council)

## Mystical products for the New Age. Natural & Native items & collectables. *the Enchanted Cottage*

508-617-6024enchanted11@cox.net\*\*Visit their Website:www.enchantedkottage.com

This Space Available



790 Aquidneck Ave. Middletown, RI 02842 401-849-2799 <u>callott@ailt.org</u>

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 2017 Season www.OnisetWigwam.com

## 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



## <u>Native Teaching:</u> Keeping traditional ways



In spite of the many changes that have beset Indian peoples since the arrival of the first white settlers, their core beliefs have remained firm. In essence, these are that Creator ordained the laws of nature and the ways of the sacred, which are solid and clear. As one Southern Cheyenne woman, Viola Hatch, has recently put it, "We do not have a set of guidelines written on a piece of paper to show us how to live. We got it from the Great Spirit. He told us one time, we learned it and followed it to this day." It is believed that although people's material circumstances may alter, the sacred cycles of nature will continue as before, and the sacred past will always be close at hand. No amount of upheaval and human interference can alter the most important elements of Native life: one's people, one's family and one's sacred relationships with the animal, plant and spirit worlds. As the Lakota elder Matthew King has said, "We have been here for millions of years. God gave us the laws to govern our people. We cannot change them. No one can change them. We cannot make laws, only Wakan Tanka makes laws."

The oral tradition is central to the survival of Native American ways. One generation passes ancient stories on to the next as a way of teaching traditional morality and history, and the correct way of performing the ancient rituals and ceremonies. The importance of maintaining the oral tradition is that it prevents ancient stories from becoming fossilized, a tendency whenever sacred narratives are written down. Details of a story will change to reflect new circumstances in the life of the people.

Sacred objects, such as those kept in sacred bundles, also contribute to the maintenance of traditional ways. Bundles may contain items that are said to go back to the first people, and they may represent the entire history of a clan. Personal "medicine bundles" remind the owner of his or her personal relationship with the spirit world, as revealed in visions or dreams. A Crow man who had dreamed of a beaver would make a medicine bundle from beaver skin, and put in it rocks, beads or animal parts that he perceived to be a source of personal "medicine" (spirit power).

Like the details of ancient orally transmitted stories, the contents of a sacred bundle may be renewed periodically. Objects in personal bundles are added or removed as the owner has a new spiritual revelation. This openness to change, above all, has ensured that the most ancient traditions have remained relevant to Native Americans in the modern world.

## A truer story of Thanksgiving

by Susan Bates



Most of us associate the holiday with happy Pilgrims and Indians sitting down to a big feast. And that did happen - once.

The story began in 1614 when a band of English explorers sailed home to England with a ship full of Patuxet Indians bound for slavery. They left behind smallpox which virtually wiped out those who had escaped. By the time the Pilgrims arrived in Massachusetts Bay they found only one living Patuxet Indian, a man named Squanto who had survived slavery in England and knew their language. He taught them to grow corn and to fish, and negotiated a peace treaty between the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Nation. At the end of their first year, the Pilgrims held a great feast honoring Squanto and the Wampanoag.

But as word spread in England about the paradise to be found in the new world, religious zealots called Puritans began arriving by the boat load. Finding no fences around the land, they considered it to be in the public domain. Joined by other British settlers, they seized land, capturing strong young Natives for slaves and killing the rest. But the Pequot Nation had not agreed to the peace treaty Squanto had negotiated and they fought back. The Pequot War was one of the bloodiest Indian wars ever fought.

In 1637 near present day Groton, Connecticut, over 700 men, women and children of the Pequot Tribe had gathered for their annual Green Corn Festival which is our Thanksgiving celebration. In the predawn hours the sleeping Indians were surrounded by English and Dutch mercenaries who ordered them to come outside. Those who came out were shot or clubbed to death while the terrified women and children who huddled inside the longhouse were burned alive. The next day the governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony declared "A Day Of Thanksgiving" because 700 unarmed men, women and children had been murdered.

Cheered by their "victory", the brave colonists and their Indian allies attacked village after village. Women and children over 14 were sold into slavery while the rest were murdered. Boats loaded with a many as 500 slaves regularly left the ports of New England. Bounties were paid for Indian scalps to encourage as many deaths as possible.

Following an especially successful raid against the Pequot in what is now Stamford, Connecticut, the churches announced a second day of "thanksgiving" to celebrate victory over the heathen savages. During the feasting, the hacked off heads of Natives were kicked through the streets like soccer balls. Even the friendly Wampanoag did not escape the madness. Their chief was beheaded, and his head impaled on a pole in Plymouth, Massachusetts -- where it remained on display for 24 years.

The killings became more and more frenzied, with days of thanksgiving feasts being held after each successful massacre. George Washington finally suggested that only one day of Thanksgiving per year be set aside instead of celebrating each and every massacre. Later Abraham Lincoln decreed Thanksgiving Day to be a legal national holiday during the Civil War -- on the same day he ordered troops to march against the starving Sioux in Minnesota.

This story doesn't have quite the same fuzzy feelings associated with it as the one where the Indians and Pilgrims are all sitting down together at the big feast. But we need to learn our true history so it won't ever be repeated. This Thanksgiving; when you gather with your loved ones to Thank God for all your blessings, think about those people who only wanted to live their lives and raise their families. They also took time out to say "thank you" to Creator for all their blessings.







# Invites you to attend

our Fall Potluck - Lunch, Dance & Social Gathering Sat Nov 11<sup>th</sup> 1:00 – 5:00 @ Tiverton Rod & Gun Club, 1529 Fish Rd, Tiverton, RI Raffles, Dancing and afternoon fun. Open to the public - all are welcome.







Please bring something to share. (Coffee, water & soda will be provided by the Council) Drumming by: the Soaring Eagle Singers All Native entertainers welcome.

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

Directions to: Tiverton Rod & Gun Club

From Fall River, Providence, and points north, take Route 195 east to Route 24S. Follow 24S to Fish Rd exit in Tiverton. Take left off the ramp and follow Fish Rd approx. 2 miles past the Tiverton Police station. Tiverton Rod & Gun Club is on your right. If you see Bulgarmarsh RD, you passed it.

From southern RI, take the Jamestown and Newport bridges and continue through Middletown & Portsmouth on Route 114 (West Main Road) to Route 24N. Once across the Sakonnet River Bridge, take Fish Rd exit. Bear to right at Police station and follow approx. 2 miles.

## For more info contact us at 401-683-4589

Aquidneck\_Indian@verizon.net

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.

<u>Native Recipe</u>



{A great use for your leftover turkey}



Wild turkeys were found in great numbers when the white man landed on the New England, or Northern Woodland shores, some weighing as much as 50 pounds. Since they were a little tougher than today's varieties, they were usually cooked on a spit over a fire for a long period of time. Stewing them for hours was another method of tenderizing them. Because of their size, many meals were made from just one bird, and consequently there are hundreds of recipes for using leftover turkey meat, below is one of the best.

FYI: Turkey was one of the most exciting new exports to Europe from the New World. They were first brought back to Europe by explorers in the  $16^{th}$  century.

#### Ingredients:

2 cups sliced or cubed cooked turkey1 cup grated cheese (cheddar, swiss, etc)1 can cream of celery soupSpice to taste with: salt, pepper, garlic, or parsley.

4 cooked potatoes sliced <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> onion large (chopped) <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup of cranberries (if desired)

Butter a baking dish/pan and layer it with potatoes and turkey. Sprinkle onion and grated cheeses over it.

Mix soup with 1/3 can of water or milk, if you want it extra creamy, and pour over dish.

Bake covered 40 minutes at 350\* Serves 4



Inspirational:

Too many have strayed from the path shown to us by the Great Spirit.

Sequichie Grandfather

#### From 3 Horses:

The holidays are almost upon us. Thanksgiving is a sore subject for some Native people, when you recall the history, but, Thanksgiving is a time of being with family and giving thanks to the Creator for everything He has given us. Take a moment to speak with Him. Whether you call Him; God, Wakan Tanka, Tung-ka-she-la, Usen, Gitche Manitoo, Father, Grandfather, or Great Spirit; talk to Him, thank Him for all you have, thank Him for your family, friends, homes, everything and anything. Remember He makes everything for us. Also remember those who don't have the things you have. There are many people out there who have a lot less than the rest of us. Remember the 4 Cardinal Virtues: "*Peace, hope, love & charity; among these, there is no greater thing than charity, for with charity you will always find peace, hope and love*".

See you along the Good Red Road.

*Peace*.....

3 Horses & Dreams of Wolves



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