

# Aquidneck Island Intertribal Indian Council

(est. Oct. 14, 2007)

## Newsletter

Sept 2017



### Council News

On Sun Aug 6<sup>th</sup> we ventured to the Wig Wam Spiritual Retreat in Onset MA to share our culture & medicine (drum & songs). As always, the people of the Wig Wam showed us hospitality and appreciation. We thank Patti & Bob for the cookout and the invitation to share with their people. It was a great day.

At this month's meeting, if the weather permits, we will have our meeting outside. We hope to see some guests and possible future new members. All are welcome to attend our meetings.

Also at this month's meeting, we will be discussing October's "Healing of the Water" ceremony. Also we will talk about our Fall/Winter dance Socials. The dates have been submitted to Tiverton Rod & Gun Club, just waiting to see if the dates are available.

On Sat Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> (raindate: Sun Sept 24) we have been asked to conduct a presentation at the Country Day @ Pardon Grey Preserve on Main Rd in Tiverton. The event starts at 10:00. This is our 4<sup>th</sup> year supporting this event. We will offer drumming/singing (for those who would like to come and dance, feel free), show & tell for the children, history/cultural lectures for adults and maybe storytelling. There will be other events/attractions, so come by and make a day of it.

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: Sunday Sept 3*

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### *Native American Ten Commandments*

- 1. Treat the earth and all that dwell thereon with respect*
- 2. Remain close to the Great Spirit*
- 3. Show great respect for your fellow beings*
- 4. Work together for the benefit of all humankind*
- 5. Give assistance and kindness wherever needed*
- 6. Do what you know to be right*
- 7. Look after the well-being of mind and body*
- 8. Dedicate a share of your efforts to the greater good*
- 9. Be truthful and honest at all times*
- 10. Take full responsibility for your actions*

Smiley 2011



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## *Spiritually Speaking*

### PEOPLE WHO ARE WILLING TO BE USED

*Robert Soto, Lipan Apache*

I am sure you have heard of the saying, "We have too many chiefs and not enough Indians." For some people this is an offensive phrase, but for me it just brings things to a point of reality. It seems like everyone wants the glory but no one wants to help. It is like the story of the little hen who wanted to bake a cake. She went around to all her friends and asked, "Will you help me bake a cake?" It seemed like everyone had an excuse for not being to help. But when the cake was cooked and ready to be served she asked, "Who wants to help me eat the cake?" and everyone she asked said, "I will." So when someone is needed for a helping hand, no one wants to help. The whole thing of being useful for the master is thrown out the window and we need to decide whether we want to be useful and help, or just sneak away and let someone else do the work.

As we get ready to try to be the helpful person God the Creator desires us to be, we read what Paul wrote: "In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master..." All of us need to be a useful servant and be ready to be, as Paul wrote, "... useful to the master." It isn't that God the Creator wants us to go beyond the obligation to serve, but that He wants us to be eager to help. This means that we take every opportunity to do the good we should and help others in the right way they should go. It is taking the time to be used by God the Creator and ready to do as He desires you to do.

**Upcoming Events:**

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

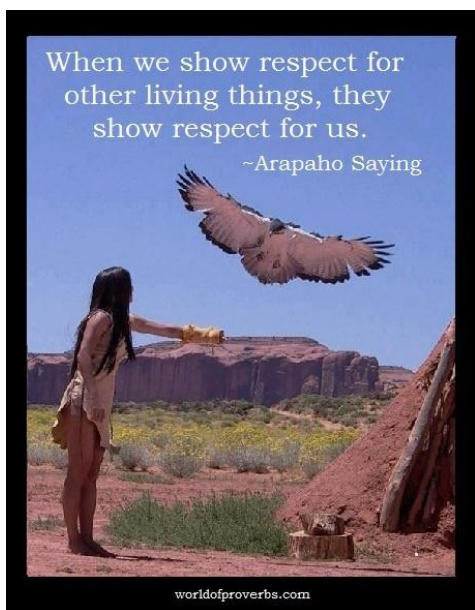
Sat Sept 23 (raindate Sun 24)  
Country day at Pardon Gray  
Pardon Gray Preserve Main Rd in Tiverton.  
10:00 – 4:00

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

\*\* 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.

**Following the Good Red Road:**



Respect is to be given for all beings placed upon this earth by the Creator.

Respect is to be given to elders, who are rich with wisdom.

Respect one's privacy, thoughts and wishes.

Respect human siblings by only speaking of their good qualities.

Respect one's personal space and their belongings.

Respect another's spiritual path and do not judge their choices.

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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?  
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9 Crescent Place, Onset, MA.  
Opening May for the 2017 Season  
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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 [evrotty@aol.com](mailto:evrotty@aol.com)





## **Native Teaching: The Story of the Drum**

*Narrated by: 3 Horses*



### ***An Abenaki Legend***

It is said that when Creator was giving a place for all the spirits to dwell who would be taking part in the inhabitation of Mother Earth, there came a sound, a loud BOOM, from off in the distance.

As Creator listened, the sound kept coming closer and closer until it was finally right in front of Him. “Who are you?” asked Creator. “I am the spirit of the drum”, was the reply. “I have come here to ask you to allow me to take part in this wonderful thing.” “How will you take part?” Creator questioned. “I would like to accompany the singing of the people. When they sing from their hearts, I will sing as though I was the heartbeat of Mother Earth. In that way, all creation will sing in harmony.” Creator granted the request, and from then on, the drum accompanied the people’s voices.

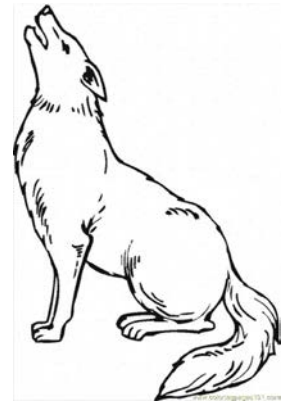
Throughout all of the indigenous peoples of the world, the drum is the center of all songs. It is the catalyst for the spirit of the songs to rise up to the Creator so that the prayers in those songs reach where they were meant to go. At all times, the sound of the drum brings completeness, awe, excitement, solemnity, strength, courage and the fulfillment to the songs. It is Mother’s heartbeat giving her approval to those living upon her. It draws the eagle to it, who then carries the message to Creator.

It changes people’s lives....



## *Native American Legends*

### A Shoshone Legend: "Wolf tricks the Trickster"



The Shoshoni people saw the Wolf as a creator God and they respected him greatly. Long ago, Wolf, and many other animals, walked and talked like man.

Coyote could talk, too, but Shoshoni people kept far away from him because he was a Trickster, somebody who is always up to no good and out to double-cross you.

Coyote resented Wolf because he was respected by the Shoshoni. Being a devious Trickster, Coyote decided it was time to teach Wolf a lesson. He would make the Shoshoni people dislike Wolf, and he had a perfect plan. Or so he thought.

One day, Wolf and Coyote were discussing the people of the land. Wolf claimed that if somebody were to die, he could bring them back to life by shooting an arrow under them. Coyote had heard this boast before and decided to put his plan into action.

Wearing his most innocent smile he told Wolf that if he brought everyone back to life, there would soon be no room left on Earth. Once people die, said Coyote, they should remain dead.

If Wolf takes my advice, thought Coyote, then the Shoshoni people would hate Wolf, once and for all.

Wolf was getting tired of Coyote constantly questioning his wisdom and knew he was up to no good, but didn't say anything. He just nodded wisely and decided it was time to teach Coyote a lesson.

A few days after their conversation, Coyote came running to Wolf. Coyote's fur was ruffled and his eyes were wide with panic.

Wolf already knew what was wrong: Coyote's son had been bitten by Rattlesnake and no animal can survive the snake's powerful venom.

Coyote pleaded with Wolf to bring his son back to life by shooting an arrow under him, as he claimed he could do.

Wolf reminded Coyote of his own remark that people should remain dead. He was no longer going to bring people back to life, as Coyote had suggested.

The Shoshoni people say that was the day Death came to the land and that, as a punishment for his mischievous ways, Coyote's son was the first to die.

No one else was ever raised from the dead by Wolf again, and the people came to know sadness when someone dies. Despite Coyote's efforts, however, the Shoshoni didn't hate Wolf. Instead, they admired his strength, wisdom and power, and they still do today.

## Native History



*Charles Alexander Eastman - Santee Sioux*

They are a heartless nation; that is certain. They have made some of their people servants - yes, slaves! We have never believed in keeping slaves, but it seems that the white people do! It is our belief that they painted their servants black a long time ago, to tell them from the rest - and now the slaves have children born to them of the same color!

The greatest object of their lives seems to be to acquire possessions - to be rich. They desire to possess the whole world.

For thirty years they tried to entice us to sell our land to them. Finally, their soldiers took it by force, and we have been driven away from our beautiful country.

They are indeed an extraordinary people. They have divided the day into hours, like the moons of the year. In fact, they measure everything. Not one of them would let so much as a turnip go from his field unless he received full value for it. I understand that sometimes their great men make a feast and invite many, but when it is over, the guests are required to pay for what they have eaten before leaving the house...

I am also told, but this I hardly believe, that their Great Chief compels every man to pay him for the land he lives upon and all personal goods - even those he needs for his own existence - every year. I am sure we could not live under such a law.

In war they have leaders and war-chiefs of different grades. The common warriors are driven forward like a herd of antelopes to face the foe. It is because of this manner of fighting - from compulsion and not from personal bravery - that we count no coup on them. A lone warrior can do much harm to a large army of them - especially when they are in unfamiliar territory.



*Tecumseh - Shawnee*

The way, the only way to stop this evil is for the red man to unite in claiming a common and equal right in the land, as it was first, and should be now, for it was never divided."

We gave them forest-clad mountains and valleys full of game, and in return what did they give our warriors and our women? Rum, trinkets, and a grave.

Brothers -- My people wish for peace; the red men all wish for peace; but where the white people are, there is no peace for them, except it be on the bosom of our mother.

Where today are the Pequot? Where are the Narragansett, the Mohican, the Pokanoket, and many other once powerful tribes of our people? They have vanished before the avarice and the oppression of the White Man, as snow before a summer sun.

Will we let ourselves be destroyed in our turn without a struggle, give up our homes, our country bequeathed to us by the Great Spirit, the graves of our dead and everything that is dear and sacred to us? I know you will cry with me, 'Never! Never!'

## Native Recipe

### *Herbed Wild Rice*



Wild rice is not even a rice but is actually the seed of an aquatic grass. The Ojibwa of the Great Lakes area were known as the “Menominee” which means “Wild Rice People”.

This delicious food is native to both Asia and North America. It is still harvested in old Native fashion (using a canoe) in North Minnesota, a crop which produces the major portion of the world’s supply.



¼ cup wild rice

¾ cup white rice

2 ½ cups water

3 tablespoons butter

A pinch of: parsley, basil, marjoram, sage, thyme & salt

Cook all together slowly for about 25 minutes in the 2 ½ cups of water. When done, stir in 3 tablespoons of butter and serve.

Serves approx. 4



# Next meeting:



**\*\* Sunday Sept 3, 1:00**  
**@ 222 Middle Rd Portsmouth**  
*Guests Always Welcome*



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### AIHC 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](mailto:aquidneck_indian@verizon.net)  
Website: [www.aquidneckindiancouncil.org](http://www.aquidneckindiancouncil.org)

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&

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products labels. ----->

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



### Inspirational:

Creator, you know how busy I will be today, if I forget You, please do not forget me.

3 Horses, Comanche

### From 3 Horses:

I was once told that I’m too serious. Others tell me that I’m the only one they can turn to for advice or prayer. I seem to think that I’m a jokester, not Coyote – the trickster, but a person who tries to ease others pain with laughter & fun.

Isn’t it strange how others see you? Walking the Good Red Road, I’ve learned that you must be what is needed at that certain point in time. If a friend or family member needs a joke or funny story, to pick up their spirits, then be the clown. If a friend or family member is looking for strength, then be a rock. If a friend or family member is looking for Spiritual guidance, then open your heart and pray with and for them. If a friend or family member is just looking for a friend, then just be their friend. *Great One Above, I am here because it is Your will. Use me as You wish, let me walk a straight path and help others along the way...*

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.*