

The Dakota Genocide

Calendar of Events for April, 2014

Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month

Presented to the governor April 25, 2013

Signed by the Governor in Fall 2014

Beginning in 2013, the month of April is designated as Genocide Awareness and prevention Month in recognition of the state's desire to combat all acts of genocide and all human rights atrocities. Following the Holocaust, on December 9, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 260(III)A, the United Nations Convention on the prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, declaring genocide to be a crime under international law, and defining genocide to include the commission of certain acts, including killing members of a group, causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of a group, deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about a group's physical destruction in whole or in part, imposing measures intended to prevent births within a group, and forcibly transferring children from one group to another group, with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group. The state declares that in order to educate the public and help prevent future genocides, the governor may promote and encourage the observance of Genocide Awareness and prevention Month.

The indigenous peoples of the Americas suffered genocide at the hands of the colonizers. Certainly, this was true for the indigenous Peoples of the United States, and, also, for the **Dakota People** of Minnesota who were victims of genocide perpetrated by the U.S. government and by the State of Minnesota. The Dakota People experience and suffered from genocidal acts such as: forced marches, concentration camps, bounties, mass hanging, forcible removals, in addition to their lands being stolen, their treaties broken, their Spirituality and ceremonies suppressed, their language prohibited and suppressed, and their children forcibly taken to residential boarding schools. When the Dakota declared war in 1862 against the State of Minnesota and against the U.S. government and tried to drive the white people out of the Minnesota River Valley, the attitudes of white superiority, and racial hatred emerged full-blown. Statements such as Governor Ramsey's "extermination or removal", Jane Swisshelm's "exterminate the wild beasts", General Pope's desire to "exterminate the Dakota, and the calls for extermination by the newspapers of the day and by the Euro-American citizenry resulted in a genocidal mentality and a killing frenzy, especially in the punitive military expeditions by Sibley and Sully in what is now known as North and South Dakota. Genocide was so successfully perpetrated upon the Dakota of Minnesota that **today only 2400 Dakota remain in their Minnesota homeland.** Of these, the number of fluent speakers of Dakota can be counted on the fingers of two hands, their spiritual and cultural practices have been limited by U.S. government control of their sacred waters, lands, and burial grounds. Cultural Genocide continues today for the Dakota of Minnesota.

EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 2014

April 1, 2014 "Exterminate the Wild Beasts": The Genocide of the Dakota People of Minnesota" at Normandale Community College, Partner's Building 0862 by **Dr. Chris Mato Nunpa, 7:45 pm – 9:00 pm**

April 5, 2014 "Dealing with the Genocide Texts in the Christina Tradition" i. Questions: What are the genocide texts and how were they used for genocide in the U.S.? 2. What do we do about those texts? a panel discussion at Cherokee Park United Church of Christ, 371 W Baker St, St Paul, **3:00pm-5:00pm**

April 16, 2014 "Sica Tanka Kin,'The Great Evil": The Genocide of the Dakota People of Minnesota" at Minneapolis Community and Technical College, Library 6000, **6:00pm-8:00pm**, by **Dr. Chris Mato Nunpa**

April 22,2014 "Kill the Lazy Vermin: The Genocide of the Dakota People of Minnesota" , Dayton's Bluff Community Council 798 East 7th St. St. Paul, MN **7:00pm-9:00pm** by **Dr. Chris Mato Nunpa**
A Discussion of the Rhetoric of Extermination which led and contributed to the Ensuing Acts of Extermination. Names will be mentioned and the acts of Genocide will be described.

April 27, 2014 "Sica Tanka Kin,'The Great Evil": The Genocide of the Dakota People of Minnesota" at Just Food Co-op Meeting Room, 516 Water Street South, Northfield, MN by **Dr. Chris Mato Nunpa, Dakota Elder 1:30 pm -3:30 pm**

April 29, 2014 Documentary film: "Doctrine of Discovery." Sundin Music Hall, Hamline University, **7:00pm**

As part of Minnesota's inaugural Genocide Awareness Month, Healing Minnesota Stories, an initiative of the St. Paul Interfaith Network (SPIN), is hosting a showing of the documentary film: "Doctrine of Discovery." A post-film discussion will be led by filmmaker **Sheldon Wolfchild**, a member of the Lower Sioux Indian Community,with **Steven Newcomb**, founder of the Indigenous Law Institute and **Howard Vogel**, professor emeritus at Hamline Law School.