



From The Eagle's Nest

Newsletter of Eagle's Nest Center, Inc.

Volume I No. 3

July 2010

Navajos and Other New Mexicans Will Remember The Nuclear Industry's Legacy of Death on July 16

Censored News — www.bsnorrell.blogspot.com — By Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety

July 16th is a historic day in New Mexico because it was the day in 1945 when *the first atomic bomb was detonated at the Trinity Site and it was the day in 1979 when the Church Rock Uranium Mill Tailings Spill took place.* To commemorate these events, prayer walks, candlelight vigils and community education events will be held.

First, to remember the communities affected by the Church Rock Uranium Mill Tailings Spill 31 years ago, the Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment will hold events in the Red Water Pond Road Community. From 7 to 9 am there will be a Prayer Walk on Highway 566 in remembrance of the communities affected by the spill. There will be a Commemoration Proclamation and Reaffirmation of the Navajo Nation's Uranium Mining Ban that was set forth in the Dine' Natural Resources Protection Act of 2005. A luncheon will begin at noon.

On the morning of July 16th, an earthen tailings dam at the United Nuclear Corporation Church Rock Uranium Mill failed, spilling large amounts of liquid radioactive waste into the Puerco River in New Mexico, which eventually flowed downstream into Arizona. The Church Rock spill is second only to the 1986 Chernobyl meltdown for the amount of radiation released from an accident. The spill contributed to the long-term contamination already present in the watershed from the release of untreated or poorly treated uranium mine water into the Puerco River. The commemorative event serves as a reminder that the Dine' communities throughout the area still carry the burden of the uranium legacy to this day.

Church Rock: For more information, contact Teddy Nez at 505 879-2910.

Second, the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium and Las Mujeres Hablan will hold a statewide gathering in Tularosa in support and remembrance of those who were exposed to the radiation released from the detonation of the first atomic bomb at the Trinity Test Site, near Socorro.

On Friday, July 16, the Consortium will hold a candle-

light vigil from 8 to 10 pm for those who have lost loved ones to cancer or are cancer survivors.

On Saturday, July 17, the Consortium and Las Mujeres Hablan will hold an all day community gathering at the Tularosa Community Center, beginning at 9 am. Participants will have the opportunity to share their memories of the Trinity Test. They will learn also about the amendments to the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, proposed by Senator Udall, which would cover those exposed to radiation from the Trinity Test. <http://tomudall.senate.gov/?p=video&id=484>

For more information, please contact Tina Cordova at 505 897-6838.

WIKIPEDIA:

The Church Rock Uranium Mill Spill occurred in New Mexico, USA, in 1979 when United Nuclear Corporation's Church Rock uranium mill tailings disposal pond breached its dam. Over 1,000 tons of radioactive mill waste and millions of gallons of mine effluent flowed into the Puerco River. Local residents used river water for irrigation and livestock and were not immediately aware of the toxic danger. In terms of the amount of radiation released the accident was comparable in magnitude to the Three Mile Island accident of the same year and has been reported as the largest radioactive accident in U.S. History.

On July 16, 1979, United Nuclear Corporation's Church Rock uranium mill tailings disposal pond breached its dam and 1100 tons of radioactive mill waste and approximately 93 million gallons of mine effluent flowed into the Puerco River. The contaminated water from the Church Rock spill travelled 80 miles downstream, reaching as far as Navajo, Arizona. Shortly after the breach below the dam radiation levels of river water were 7000 times that of the allowable level of drinking water. The flood backed up sewers, affected nearby aquifers and left stagnating pools on the riverside.

(Continued on page 3)

Founder’s Message



Eagle’s Nest Center, Inc is continuing to “fight the good fight”. The economy is persisting to present a struggle for most of us who make up the common people of this Turtle Continent. Those who were having a hard time are now struggling and those who were struggling are now devastated. For Eagle’s Nest Center, it has been about survival. Many of the plans we have been involved with have been set aside and we have had to narrow our focus.

I would like to thank again, those who continue to help those who are struggling, expecting nothing in return.

As I mentioned, with our focus narrowed, we are looking toward developing Project Venture in Wisconsin. This has been on the table for a long time, too long, and I ask for prayers that we can get this program up and running. My focus is to provide this to children of incarcerated native parents. This proposal falls outside of the parameters of this model program’s structure but I am hopeful this can be accomplished.

I have spoken with the Founder of Project Venture about this idea (MacClellan Hall) and he was receptive to this high-risk group and informed me that Project Venture has already been looking into other ways to reach out to our young people. We need to fill in the cracks that too many of our young people are falling through. This has been what Eagle’s Nest Center has focused on and what we will continue to do.

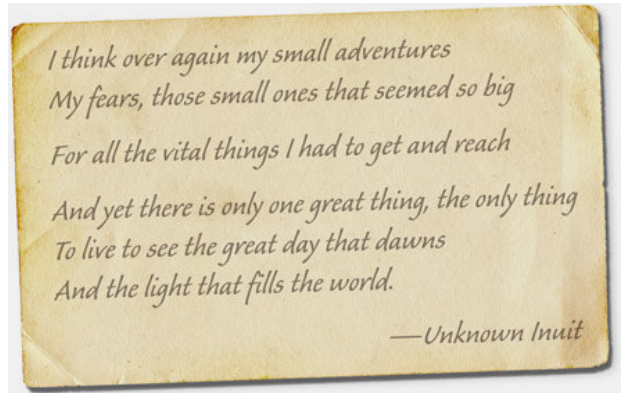
In the coming months we will be doing what is necessary to get Project Venture off the ground. If you feel you may be able to help, please contact us.

Until later, Keep Fighting the Good Fight and Simply, Keep Going.

Toksa Ake,
Robert (Mato Inyankahan)

Founder
Eagle’s Nest Center, Inc

Suicide Prevention in Native Populations: Helping Youth “Live To See the Great Day That Dawns”



This guide begins with a poem (above) and ends with a poem (see below). “We needed a way to capture the humanity,” said Cynthia K. Hansen (see her first-person story [Commitment, Hope, Community](#)).

“Suicide and suicidal behavior are preventable.” Those are the first words in the recent free publication from SAMHSA that offers guidance to communities with a particularly high-risk population—American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth and young adults.

The 172-page publication, *To Live To See the Great Day That Dawns: Preventing Suicide by American Indian and Alaska Native Youth and Young Adults*, helps address the problem of suicide and promote mental health among Native young people. The guide answers the question, “What are the strengthening factors that are known to help protect young people against suicide?”

As a culturally appropriate resource, this guide is urgently needed. More than 61 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives are under age 34. That means “they are the center of hope for the survival of their people and their culture,” the guide explains.

(Continued on page 3)

Table of Contents	
Church Rock Spill	page 1
Founder’s Message	page 2
Suicide Prevention.....	page 2
Benefactors Retire.....	page 3

Church Rock Spill (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

Read more:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_Rock_Uranium_Mill_Spill

WIKIPEDIA excerpts: Trinity was the code-name of the first nuclear-weapons test of an atomic bomb. This test was conducted by the United States Army on July 16, 1945, at a location about 35 miles (56 km) southeast of Socorro, New Mexico, on the White Sands Proving Ground, of the U.S. Army. Trinity was a test of an implosion-design plutonium device. The weapon's codename was "The Gadget". Using the same conceptual design, the Fat Man device was detonated over Nagasaki, Japan, on August 9, 1945. The Trinity detonation produced an explosive power equivalent to the explosion of about 20 kilotons of TNT explosive. This date is usually considered to be the beginning of the Atomic Age.

While U.S. and British attempts to investigate the feasibility of nuclear weapons began as early as 1939, practical development began in earnest in 1942 when these efforts were transferred to the authority of the U.S. Army and became the "Manhattan Project". The weapons-development portion of this project was located at the Los Alamos Laboratory in northern New Mexico, though much other development and production work was carried out near Oak Ridge, Tennessee, (the separation of uranium-235); near Hanford, Washington, (the production and separation of plutonium-239); and in and near Chicago, Illinois, (at the University of Chicago and at the Argonne National Laboratories).

Read more: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trinity_\(nuclear_test\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trinity_(nuclear_test))

[In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. section 107, this material is distributed without profit or payment to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving this information for non-profit research and educational purposes only.]

Eagle's Nest Center, Inc Benefactors Retire

After 19 years in business as Turtle Island Beads (Baraboo, WI) Dick and Diane Steffenson have retired their business and plan to retire in southern Arizona. Both have been staunch supporters of Eagle's Nest Center with donations of craft materials, raffle items, gifts and discounts to our organization. We cannot thank them enough for their continued kindness and generosity and we wish them all the best and abundance of blessings in their new home.



GOOD LUCK Dick and Diane!

Suicide Prevention (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 2)

Related Stories

- The Making of To Live To See the Great Day That Dawns
- Learning about American Indian Culture
- Helping Teens Through Tough Times
- Suicide Prevention on Campus: Cultural Competency Matters

Unfortunately, data show that these young people have the highest suicide rate of any cultural or ethnic group in the United States.

Acknowledged as a "starting point," the guide is organized to help readers understand the complex, but necessary, process of developing suicide prevention plans within a cultural context. The publication is for tribal leaders, elders, healers, youth activists, community organizers, school administrators, and others in the community.

"So many people helped with this publication and made an effort to address this topic with reality and also a profound sense of hope that we can save lives," said Anne Mathews-Younes, Ed.D., Director, Division of Prevention, Traumatic Stress, and Special Programs, at SAMHSA's Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS). "It's definitely a work in progress. It's a real collaboration, emerging from the community."

Holistic Approach

As one of SAMHSA's 10 Strategic Initiatives, "Prevention of Substance Abuse and Mental Illness" encompasses more than a focus on those who may be at risk for suicide. Prevention also includes programs to promote youth mental health, as well as actions that a community can take in response to a suicide, to help the community heal and to prevent related suicidal behaviors.

Specifically, this guide:

- Explores cultural issues around prevention.
- Describes approaches that respectfully address these issues as part of prevention planning.
- Provides practical tools and resources for assessment, program selection, coalition-building, and strategies used as part of a comprehensive plan.

"Suicide is a complex issue," said CAPT Maria Dinger,

(Continued on page 4)

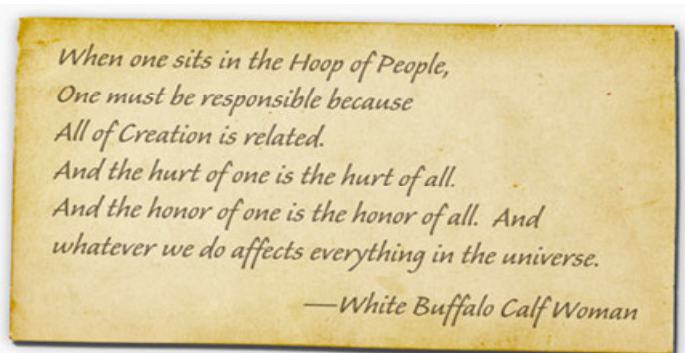
Suicide Prevention (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 3)

R.N., BSN, M.S., Chief, Suicide Prevention Branch, Division of Prevention, Traumatic Stress, and Special Programs, at CMHS. “Everyone is needed, and everyone has a role in suicide prevention.”

As the guide began with an Inuit poem, the guide ends with a poem from White Buffalo Calf Woman of the Lakota, to give a creative voice to this experience of families dealing with suicide.

To order a free copy, call 1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727). Ask for publication number SMA10-4480. For more information, see SAMHSA’s CMHS Web site.

**Eagle’s Nest Center, Inc.**

N8968 Deerborn Ave

Westfield, WI 53964

Phone: 608-296-4023

E-mail: eagleinc@eaglesnestcenter.org

Web site: www.eaglesnestcenter.org

What’s in the Guide? Chapter by Chapter . . .

Illustrated with graphics on almost every page, To Live To See the Great Day That Dawns includes:

Culture, Community, and Prevention explores risk and protective factors and the ways in which AI/AN cultures can help promote the mental health of young people.

Breaking the Silence around the Suicide Conversation helps break down the myths that often surround suicide. These myths are barriers to a community’s open discussion of potential solutions.

Responding to Suicide deals specifically with actions that a community might take after a suicide occurs.

Community Readiness discusses the stages of change that a community goes through as it confronts the possible causes of and solutions to suicide.

Community Action describes the public health approach to prevention, with SAMHSA’s Strategic Prevention Framework as a model for action.

Promising Suicide Prevention Programs describes programs for preventing suicide among AI/AN youth.

Throughout the guide are boxes titled “Questions for Seeking the Wisdom of Elders.” The questions explore a community’s traditional ways of maintaining “balance” or “harmony” among its members.

The guide includes a suicide prevention assessment resource tool created by R. Dale Walker, M.D., Director of the One Sky Center in Portland, OR. In addition, the guide includes myths, a glossary, statistics, Web resources, an extensive bibliography, and an entire chapter of Federal resources.

Help us continue to do great work by volunteering your time, energy, donations and dollars.