

COLONIZATION AND THE DAKOTA LANGUAGE

A presentation by Čhantémaza, Neil McKay



www.dahkota.org

7:00 pm, Wednesday, August 17

East Side Freedom Library
1105 Greenbrier Street
St. Paul, MN 55106

Fourth in a 2016 series:
“What’s in a Name?”
Presented by the East Side Freedom Library

What does it mean for a people to lose its language?

“The land called Mnisota Makoce is home to the Dakota people. The Dakota language reflects that relationship and it is evident in the names of different places throughout the present day state of Minnesota. The land, language, and way of life are all connected for the Dakota people and they cannot exist without each other. . . . [As part of their assimilation,] many Dakota children were punished for speaking their own language. They were verbally, mentally, or physically abused for practicing their own traditions and speaking their language.” *Dahkota.org*.

Čhantémaza, Neil McKay, Dakota Language Specialist and Instructor in the American Indian Studies Department at the University of Minnesota, will speak about current efforts to rediscover and use the Dakota language in everyday life. His presentation will reflect on the devastating effects of federal policies of colonization and genocide on the culture and the necessity of supporting efforts to reverse those effects.

The program is free and open to the public.

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