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Life

Anti-nuclear activist to speak in Port Huron

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By Jim Bloch
Voice Reporter

May 11 marks the second anniversary of the Japanese earthquake that triggered the tsunami that flooded the cooling systems of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear reactor, resulting in the meltdown of reactors 1, 2 and 3. This was the world's worst nuclear disaster since the meltdown at Chernobyl in the old Soviet Union in 1986.

In recognition of the catastrophe, anti-nuclear activist Cecile Pineda will speak in the auditorium of the Port Huron Municipal Office Building, 100 McMorran Blvd., on from 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 13. In addition to many works of fiction, Pineda is the author of "Devil's Tango: How I Learned the Fukushima Step by Step."

From 8-8:30 p.m., Pineda will sign copies of her book.

"It's not easy for you or me or anyone to pay attention to the consequences of the nuclear energy cycle," says Pineda in her book. "Why? Because you can't see radiation. And you can't tell if your cancer happened because 10 years earlier you were in a place it would have been better for you not to be. You can't tell if your stillbirth happened because your tiny fetus couldn't lie in an irradiated world. And you can't tell if the child born to you 10, 25, 50 years ago, and who is a 'different' child, affected by autism or ADD or any number of unidentified syndrome complexes, was born different because the air was contaminated from 'testing' or because the milk that year was tainted from fallout."

Pineda explained she was as asleep to the dangers of nuclear power, like most Americans, before Fukushima, which woke her up. The only way to stop the spread of nuclear power is through mass democratic action, she said, quoting Abbie Hoffman, a Yippie and anti-war activist in the 1960s: Democracy isn't the sporadic casting of a vote, but something one must do continuously, Hoffman said: "You participate. If you stop doing it, democracy stumbles and falls. If you participate, the future is yours."

The event is sponsored by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and co-sponsored by Blue Water Sierra Club and Blue Water Season for Non-Violence. For details, call (810) 346-4513.

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