



Desert Voices

The Newsletter of Nevada Desert Experience • Volume 13, Number 1 • February 2000

525 Attend Millennium 2000 Event!

by Anja Ulanowicz

"Where were you at the turn of the millennium?" Surely, such a question, one that celebrates the unity and differences that characterize human experience, will continue to be asked for decades to come. And certainly, the 500 nuclear abolitionists who gathered at the Nevada Test Site on New Years Eve will have especially provocative responses to this question. At least 313 of these brave souls were arrested shortly after midnight as their candlelight procession crossed the line, in what has been called the first act of organized civil resistance for the year 2000. The midnight prayer-action marked a climax of a four-day event held primarily at Bishop Gorman High School in Las Vegas, NV. This gathering, **Millennium 2000: Walking the Ways of Peace**, was the latest major event sponsored by Nevada Desert Experience (NDE).

The New Year's Eve event followed an intense day of seminars and workshops, which included talks given by Rabbi Mel Hecht, Reverend Joyce Hollyday, Bishop Tom Gumbleton, Dr. Rosalie Bertell, and Fr. Dan Berrigan, sj. [The weekend also included the following presenters and performers: abolitionist author Jonathan Schell, dancer Carla De Sola, Shoshone spiritual leader Corbin Harney, musician Jesse Manibusan, composer Janice Freeman, Bishop Daniel Walsh, noted Muslim activist Ibrahim Abdil-Mu'id (Clayton Ramey), Franciscan Sister Rosemary Lynch, and John Dear, sj.] Participants came from as far away as Japan, Canada, and Belgium to visit the Site where about 1000 nuclear

tests have occurred, the last nine of which have been subcritical nuclear "experiments". Among the individuals who walked a half mile from Peace Camp to the entrance of the Test Site were representatives of various faith traditions and political organizations, including presidential candidates Brad Lyttle (Pacifist Party), Eric Thompson (Reform Party), and David McReynolds (Socialist Party). The candlelight march was led by Johnnie Bobb, a Western Shoshone Marshall, carrying the flag of his people. Bishop Gumbleton, Corbin Harney, and Fr. Louis Vitale (co-founder of NDE), were also at the front of the march.

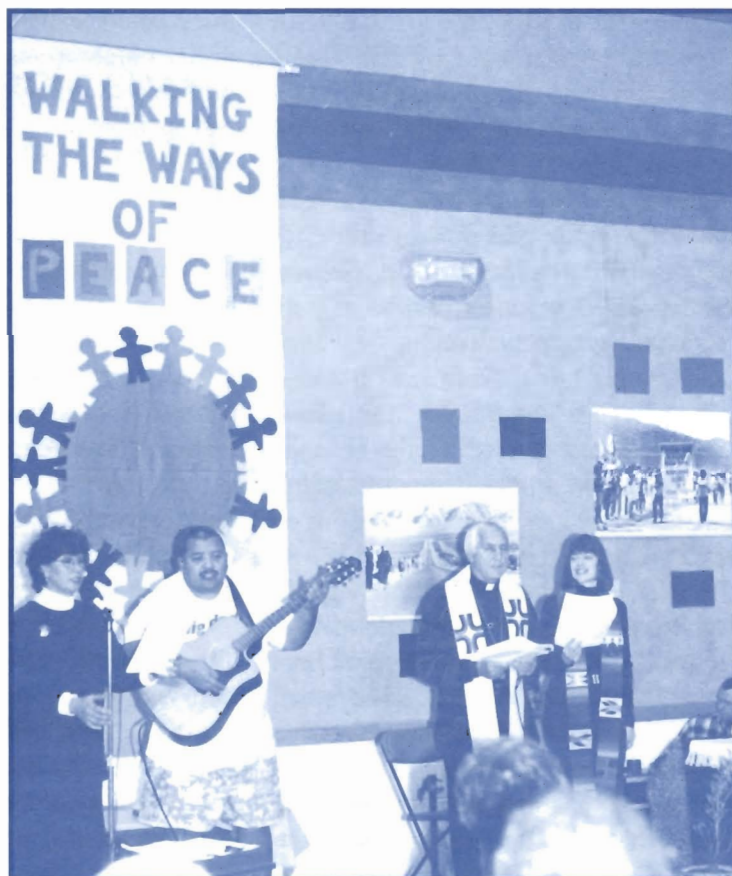
Older veterans of the peace movement linked arms with young, nonviolent anarchists as the group wove its way toward

the Test Site. Some sang traditional peace hymns, while others maintained a prayerful silence as they approached the brightly lit gate, where a handful of Wackenhut Security Guards and Nye County sheriffs awaited the protesters' arrival. A quiet excitement ran over the crowd as various individuals checked their watches and informed those nearest them of the turning of the century. After kneeling in prayer with his fellow protesters at the Site entrance, actor and Catholic activist Martin Sheen enthusiastically rang in the new year by tolling a large, heavy bell as he and others crossed the line. The sheriffs & Wackenhuts allowed the procession to cross the line in waves of about 40 people at a time.

(see 2000 event, bottom of next page)

*From left to right:
Singers Janice
Freeman and
Jesse Manibusan,
Bishop Tom
Gumbleton and
Nevada Desert
Experience
Director Cindy
Pile during Mass
on Jan. 1, 2000
at Millennium
2000: Walking
the Ways of
Peace event.*

*Photo by Julia
Occhiogrosso*



Ash Wednesday Mass/ Livermore Action, College Student Retreat, Holy Week Walk (See Poster Inside)

Joyce Hollyday: Millennium 2000 Reflections

by Joyce Hollyday

...We all need to become multilingual for our survival; to hear the cries for justice and the petitions and praises to God in whatever language and posture they are offered. Only then will the violence cease. I stand here with deep gratitude today, because you have helped me to learn ...I am grateful for two decades of being among these ranks. And I say that being mindful and so grateful for those who paved the way for decades before I arrived on the scene.

I had moved [to the Sojourners community] in 1977. Within a few months, we began to see something new happening in our neighborhood: piles of furniture and clothing on the curbs possessions that belonged to people who had been evicted from the homes they had lived in, sometimes for decades. Our inner-city neighborhood was undergoing a process called "gentrification." Wealthy, usually white, professional couples were moving in and displacing people, sometimes several families at once. In the tenement across the street from us, six families, all women with children, were told they had to leave. Their home had been bought by real estate speculators, who were going to sell it for a 100 percent profit. Five families left immediately.

One day a knock came on our door. It was Katherine, who wanted to fight for her home. She wanted our help...Several members of Sojourners moved in with their sleeping bags and toothbrushes. They were arrested very early the next morning for trespassing...In the eyes of the world, it is a crime to move into a building and try to help a poor woman keep her home. It is not a crime to put her out on the street because of greed.

It may seem insane to believe that peace is possible that we could have a world without nuclear weapons or at least naive... I have been so blessed to travel the country and the world to meet people who believe in the impossible. People fighting development on South Carolina's sea islands, marching on picket lines for the United Mine Workers in Virginia, doing

war tax resistance in Massachusetts and anti-death penalty work in Georgia. Mothers in Detroit fighting gun violence for the sake of their children; people all over the country serving soup, and ministering to people with AIDS, and protecting the environment and doing too many other things to mention here. I've helped carry toilets into the mayor's office in a demonstration for public toilets in Atlanta.

...During Lent of 1991, when I was

(2000 Event, from front page)

For many, the ritual protest was a symbolic recognition of the violence (nuclear and otherwise) carried out in the last century, and a prayer for peace for the next. "Coming to the Nevada Test Site as our final act of the 20th century was a way to say goodbye to the insane nuclear violence of the past 60 years," said Marc Page, NDE's Las Vegas Manager.

Many described the event as a spiritually exhilarating experience. On January 1st the Rev. Joyce Hollyday commented on the divine power in the desert as contrasted with the urban spectacles, noting that revelers' experiences of multi-million dollar celebrations in Las Vegas were probably "nothing compared to what we had out there at the Test Site". There were more simple pleasures coming that evening. After sundown on New Year's Day about 150 of the Millennium 2000 participants formed an inspirational vigil and march on the Las Vegas Strip. They passed out leaflets to tourists, and, at one point, briefly shut down traffic in both directions as they marched across an intersection. "Las Vegas had expected twice as many people for the New Year holiday than they got... and so the march was the most exciting and memorable [event] of the day," said Page.

The peaceful nature of the vigil was also a success, said NDE director Cindy Pile, who noted that about a hundred police officers had been assigned to accompany the demonstrators. "The miracle was non-violence...and the media missed out on it," she said.

On Sunday, January 2nd, representa-

writing for Sojourners magazine, I was accorded a journalist's privilege to tour the site with a public relations officer from the Department of Energy. ...My tour guide and I headed past miles of pock-marked desert to Frenchman Flat, a dry lakebed that was the site of the first nuclear blast here, in January 1951. The wooden bleachers still remain on an embankment across from the flat, where invited dignitaries who had been issued

tives from various nuclear abolitionist organizations spoke about their groups' plans for the upcoming year. Matteo Ferreira of Shundahai Network pointed out that the Test Site "the most active [nuclear waste] dump site in the country." Ferreira reminded the listeners, "The waste stream is increasing...It's not just subcritical tests and... pounds of plutonium...in the ground when they conduct that test, but also the waste from the development of that plutonium is going to end up out here...These weapons of mass destruction...are ultimately killing us, not just the humans, but every living thing." Michelle Xenos of Shundahai assured the crowd that the people's presence and prayers in the desert bring profound happiness to the desert plants, animals, and other creatures.

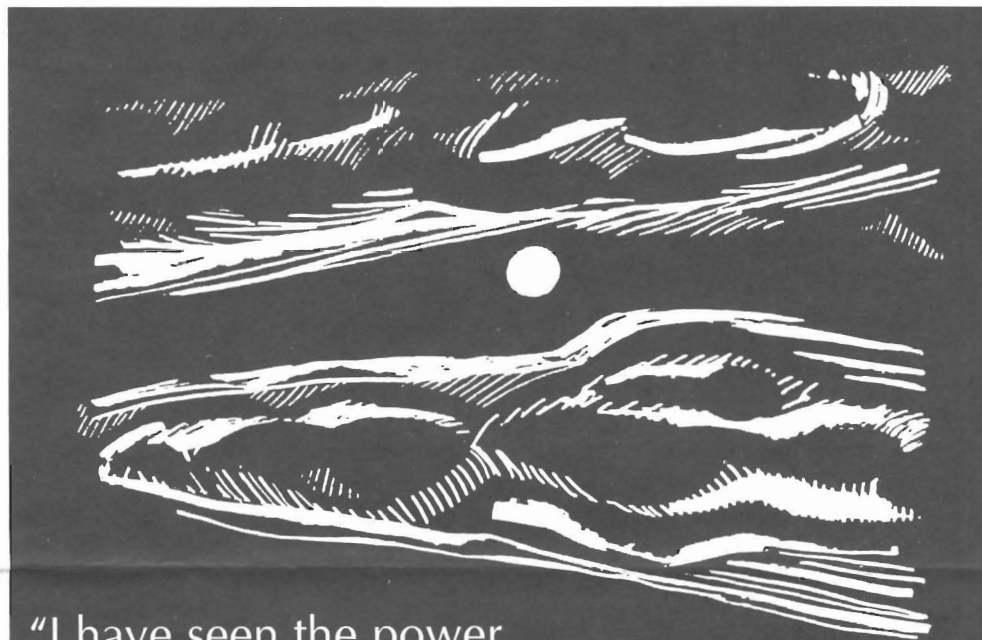
The NDE Board and staff hope that Millennium 2000 will reinvigorate of the faith-based anti-nuclear movement in North America. One of NDE's specific plans to continue enlivening this contribution was introduced on the last day of the event. This is the offer to equip regional groups with information and action alerts regarding nuclear weapons testing. Pile invited the people to accept the small duty of becoming a "NAG" (NDE Affiliate Group). You can read about NAGs elsewhere in this issue of Desert Voices, or on the Nevada Desert Experience website: <www.NevadaDesertExperience.org>.

ANJA ULANOWICZ lived and worked at the Tacoma Catholic Worker from 1998-1999. She is currently pursuing graduate work in English at the University of Pittsburgh.

"protective" glasses applauded the power and beauty of the colorful fireballs and mushroom clouds that rocketed into the sky in the 1950s.

...It was March 1991, the 10th year of organized Lenten protests at the test site. Desert Storm had just been unleashed against the people of Iraq, prepared for here in the Nevada desert. On March 8, the day after my tour, a large throng of peaceful people crossed the white line and

...Things don't always go the way we plan them. But I always think of my D.C. neighbors when they don't....We never know what might come of our small efforts. I think of Fr. Roy Bourgeois, scrambling up a tree and blaring taped sermons by Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador at soldiers at the School of the Americas. Last [November] 12,000 people gathered to protest at the School of the Americas.



"I have seen the power of the human spirit to overcome the greatest of evils...this is the power that comes when people are willing to trek the loneliest road in the world to be tested and transformed in the desert.

(ARTWORK: YOUR DWELLING PLACE BY MEINRAD CRAIGHEAD)

were arrested. After our release, we returned to Las Vegas. At 1:08 in the afternoon, as we were finishing lunch, we received word that a nuclear weapon had just been exploded at the test site. It was a 10-kiloton bomb buried 1,100 feet in the ground. The explosion registered 3.8 on the Richter scale. Thirty-eight minutes after detonation, a crater 600 feet in diameter formed in the desert floor. It was a solemn and sobering moment for the more than 500 people of peace from all over the country who were gathered there buffeted first by the winds of Desert Storm and now by an explosion in a much closer desert.

And I think of friends in South Africa. I made my first visit there in the spring of 1988, back when that country was still very much in the stranglehold of the system of racial hatred known as apartheid. I went to South Africa at the invitation of church leaders there, at a time when the church was under siege from the South African government. Church leaders were receiving death threats and several had been arrested during a march a few weeks before.

I urge us not to underestimate the power of that which convicts us. Not to underestimate the power of the good news whatever religious tradition it comes from

for you to change the world.

As I traveled throughout South Africa that first time, I asked virtually everyone I met if they thought apartheid would end in their lifetime. Everyone said: "no"...The only exception to this typical response came from a 10-year-old boy in the township of Mamelodi, outside Pretoria. I asked him if he thought that his children would get to grow up without apartheid. He got a determined look on his face, raised his fist, and said, I will see to it.

And see to it he did along with hundreds of thousands of other South Africans. Apartheid has been declared illegal, and Nelson Mandela was elected the first black president of South Africa. I returned in 1997 to observe the astounding work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for six weeks. The country that at one time was arguably the most divided and violent on the globe is now shining a beacon of hope as it works toward healing and reconciliation. Nothing is impossible with God as long as there are willing vessels to carry out God's work.

This is not easy work and sometimes hope is hard to find. Lent of 1991 was a time in my own life that seemed hopeless. On Ash Wednesday, the allied forces in the Persian Gulf bombed the Amariya shelter in Baghdad, killing hundreds of Iraqi women and children. That same night, a malfunctioning civil defense siren wailed eerily over Washington, sending the city into a panic about a terrorist attack. I stayed awake late into the night, realizing that such terror was real and a regular part of life for the children of Baghdad. I was kept awake by other sirens as well sirens of police cars or ambulances, sounds of a drug raid or another shooting in the neighborhood.

My neighborhood was indeed a war zone. In the span of a few months, three teenagers were killed on its streets one stabbed, two shot. One had been in the Sojourners day care center as a child, and all three had participated in our after-school program. The world was not at all the way I wanted it to be. Too many children were dying in Washington as well as Baghdad. I decided to keep a fast during Lent, as (see *Hollyday*, on page after poster)

Nevada Desert Experience presents LENTEN

Palm Sunday College Student Weekend in the Desert

Co-sponsored by the Wesley Foundation at UC Berkeley and the Catholic Campus Ministry at UNLV • April 14-16, 2000

Join retreat leaders Cindy Pile and Schuyler Rhodes for a retreat in Las Vegas and in the desert near the Nevada (Nuclear Weapons) Test Site, as we explore our faith in the context of the continuing nuclear age. We claim the love of God in Jesus Christ while our taxes pay for the continuing construction of six nuclear warheads each day. We follow the Prince of Peace while our Universities are major sites for nuclear weapons research and development.

How are Christians who seek an authentic life of faith called to respond?

As we sit on the edge of Holy Week, watching Jesus enter the city to the sounds of cheers and waving branches, what are we to think? How are we to vision? Where does our God call us to focus, to live and to pray?

Together, we will plumb the depths of the connection between spirituality and action. Join us.

Where? Catholic Campus Ministry at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas

When? April 14-16

How Much? \$50

What should I bring? Sleeping bag, pillow, towel and toiletries, teddy bear, bible, musical instruments, note pad and pens.

How do we get there? A Van will leave from the Wesley Foundation Parking Lot on April 14th at 9:00 am. Trip is free. We will return Monday afternoon (approximately 3pm). If you're coming from elsewhere, please call us at (510) 549-1244 or (510) 849-1540.

And what are we going to do once we get there? We hope that the group will work together to set some of our agenda. But here is a rough outline of our schedule:

FRIDAY AFTERNOON: Arrive at Interfaith Student Center at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

FRIDAY EVENING: Gathering, Dinner, Worship and Bible Study

SATURDAY: Workshops, Prayer and Reflection Groups

SUNDAY: Bless the Holy Week Walkers, Drive to the Nuclear Test Site to worship God and reclaim the land for peace, hope and healing. SUNDAY AFTERNOON:

Departures

Ash Wednesday Services • P

with Bishop Tho

Embark on a Lenten Practi

Ash Wednesday Services (Mar. 8):

9:00 a.m.: St. Bonaventure Church
5562 Clayton, Concord, CA

12:10 p.m.: St. Mary's Cathedral, 1111
Gough (at Geary) San Francisco, CA

3:30 p.m.: Wesley Foundation, United
Methodist Ministry at Cal, 2398
Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA

7:30 p.m.: St. Ignatius (USF) 650 Parker
(at Fulton), San Francisco, CA

PILGRIM TO THE HOLY PLACES BY ADE BETHUNE



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by Toni P

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Send to: Nevada Desert Experience, P. O. Box 46645, Las Vegas, NV 89114-6645

Name: _____

School: _____

Campus Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Campus Ministry: _____

Campus Pastor: _____

Who to contact in case of emergency: _____

Address: _____

Phone(s): _____

☐ I'd like to help plan worship. ☐ I'd be interested in assisting in leading prayer groups.

☐ I'm interested in the possibility of Civil Resistance/risking arrest at the Test Site.

☐ Enclosed is \$50 for my registration plus \$ _____ voluntary donation to help with scholarships. (Make checks payable to Wesley Foundation)

☐ I'm interested in applying for a scholarship. I will contact you at (510) 549-1244

Gods. The God. The Tao. Somew
able. Somewhere there is the Son
from Bondage. Somewhere the Fa
Ancestors watch and wait. And S
a Great Thirst. Somewhere Som
Somewhere Bread ... Wine ... Bo
Hair. Somewhere Unconditional
Known. The Unknown. The Unkn
Something Surpasses all Understa
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The King. The Queen. The Virgi
Somewhere the Saint. Somewher
Pain haunts Hearts. Somewhere
The Beginning. The Dreamer. Th
Wind through Trees. The Cry of

Nevada Desert Experience, P. O. Box 46645, Las Vegas, NV 89114-6645, Ph

PILGRIMAGES, *Walking the Ways of Peace*

Prayer/Action at Livermore Labs

Thomas Gumbleton

Peace for Peace in Our World

Lawrence Livermore (March 9):

The next morning gather for prayer and action at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory: 7:00 a.m.: meet at the corner of East and Vasco Roads in Livermore, CA (take the Vasco Exit off I-580, go south to the corner of Vasco and East). For more info contact Cindy Pile at Nevada Desert Experience, Northern California office: (510) 849-1540

E PILGRIM

lynn

There is the Pilgrim. Somewhere the Wanderer. Somewhere in the Darkness. Somewhere there is the Abyss. Emptiness. Somewhere there is the Lotus Petal, the Bud, the Bodhi Tree. Somewhere a Light. Illumination. Nirvana. Peace on the Moon. Somewhere the Mother. The Goddess. The

Force. Somewhere the Chaos. Somewhere the Question. The Burning Bush. The Answer. The Unanswered. Poetic Ecstasy. Somewhere the Lover. Somewhere the Beloved. Somewhere the Eternal Embrace, and release the Son...the Holy Spirit. The Great Spirit. Somewhere Wakantana. Vishnu. Yahweh. Allah. Somewhere the Someone is turning toward Mecca. Somewhere there is the Belly of the Whale and a Great Hunger and someone is doing unthinkable Harm to Someone Else. Somewhere there is a Savior being born. Jesus. The Christ. Blood. Forgiveness. Somewhere there are Dusty Feet and Scented Oils and the Wet Strands of Magdalene's Love. Somewhere the Yin. Somewhere the Yang. The One. The Many. Somewhere Life. Somewhere Death. The Swallow. Somewhere a Woman draws Water from a Well. Somewhere the Mystic dances with Mystery. Somewhere the Zorba laughs. Somewhere Godzilla and King Kong fight to the Finish. Somewhere War. Bombs bursting away Glimmer of Peace. Somewhere the Sage. The Seer. The Priest. The Cathedral and the Almshouse. Camelot. The Crone. The Prince and Princess. The Knight...the Steed...the Armor...the Sword. Somewhere the Harlot. The Beggar. Somewhere the Lepers are blessed and Someone is binding up their Wounds. Somewhere a Phantom healing happens anyway and People wash their Laundry and hang it to dry beneath the Sun. Somewhere the End. The Dream. Never ending Longing. Somewhere the rustle of Angels' Wings. A Field of Wildflowers. The Sound of a Baby. The Howl of a Wolf. Space and Freedom. A Path. And the Pilgrim upon a Path. Amen

Holy Week Peace Walk to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

**From Las Vegas to the Nevada (Nuclear) Test Site
Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday (April 16 - 23, 2000)**

Spend a week with Nevada Desert Experience praying, walking, eating, vigiling, camping, laughing, chanting and just living in the powerful desert.

Palm Sunday, April 16: Walk through impoverished areas of Las Vegas.

Monday to Thursday (April 17-20): Walk on the desert highway.

Good Friday (April 21): Nuclear Stations of the Cross at the Nevada Test Site.

Holy Saturday (April 22): Desert Sabbath at Peace Camp.

Easter Sunday (April 23): Closing Ritual

at Peace Camp.

Throughout the 1990's hundreds of people have walked during Holy Week for the cause of abolishing nuclear weapons. The annual 65 mile trek stretches from Las Vegas to the Nevada Test Site. Since 1951 the U.S. has contaminated the desert with radiation by exploding about 1,000 nuclear weapons tests. Each year the U. S. Department of Energy explodes more multi-million dollar subcritical nuclear bombs at the Site. Come walk in prayer for the healing of this beautiful desert.

Return to: Nevada Desert Experience, P. O. Box 46645, Las Vegas, NV 89114-6645

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone(s): _____

Electronic Mail Address: _____

☐ I will join the Walk, enclosed is my registration fee (\$50 per person)

(No one is turned away for lack of funds, if you need help, ask us for a sponsorship form.)

☐ I can't do the walk this year, here is a donation to sponsor a walker: \$ _____

☐ I will drive a car to Las Vegas (with extra room for _____ people.

☐ I am under 18, enclosed is a medical emergency permission slip signed by my guardian.

☐ Send me flyers so I can help publicize.

Phone: (702) 646-4814, Web: NevadaDesertExperience.org E-mail: nde@igc.org

(Hollyday, from page before poster)

many of us did that year. I didn't know what else to do to keep from lapsing into despair.

The fast brought me a sharpness of vision, a feeling of looking at the world differently and a deepened sense of the presence of God. When my physical strength gave out, the assurance of God's sustenance took powerful hold. But still I didn't feel hope.

I had to go to the desert to find it. In the third week of Lent, I came back here. After our public witness, I went to a spot where there was just me, and the gravelly sand, and an occasional Joshua tree with spiny branches outstretched like arms toward God. There, like other pilgrims to the desert had for centuries, I fell to my knees and discovered an emptiness beyond any I had ever known.

As I knelt in the sand, photographs came to mind, pictures that had been shown to me just days before by missionary friends just returned from three years in Laos. These friends showed me seedlings growing in the casings of bombs that were dropped in the war that ravaged Southeast Asia. And they showed me other bomb casings transformed into prosthetic limbs for children, to replace legs blown off by land mines. Swords hammered into plowshares. The world transformed. A little bit at a time.

I have seen the power of the human spirit to overcome the greatest of evils. I have witnessed the power of what happens at the Nevada Test Site. Not the power of bombs that move 12 million tons of earth with a single blast, or spew a mushroom cloud 10,000 feet into the air. A stronger power. This is the power that comes when people are willing to trek the loneliest road in the world to be tested and transformed in the desert. To walk the way of peace.

"For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; and a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way" (Isaiah 35: 6, 8). God needs people, and churches, and nations, to be vessels of transformation, in a world dying for our love and our hope. Can God count on you?

NUCLEAR NEWS & NOTES:

JAPANESE PHOTO EXHIBITION AVAILABLE FOR LOAN

The Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, Tottori Prefecture Gensuikyo of Tokyo, displayed a 40 panel photo exhibit at the recent Millennium 2000 event in Las Vegas. The "A-Bomb and Humanity" framed and ready-to-hang 2' X 4' poster-sized exhibit, valued at \$800, was presented to NDE as a gift with the hope of getting it disseminated throughout the U.S. Each photo panel contains a very informative explanatory text in English. The hope is that the words of Hibakusha could be delivered even after they are gone. This heart-touching exhibit promises to reach and teach everyone who views it. June Stark Casey, Hanford Radiation victim, was so moved by the powerful exhibit, she volunteered to handle arrangements for individuals and groups who wish to feature the display. If you are interested, please contact her at 521 Westfield Way, Oakland, CA 94619, telephone (510) 531-5357, facsimile (510) 482-9468.

DOWNSIZE THE WAR MACHINE!

If you pay federal taxes, you pay the wages of the war-makers. Tax time is upon us. Once again we face the prospect of forking over large chunks of cash to the government, 23% of each dollar going to the current military programs, including \$12 Billion (about 1%) for the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons. We ask you to consider a principled refusal to pay some part of this tax that goes to fund our enormous war machine. You could then consider tithing this amount to the peace organization of your choice. We hope you would choose NDE. This is a serious choice and there are many things one must know and consider. Mary Loehr of the National War Tax Coordinating Resistance Committee is available to answer your questions and offer the necessary support. You can reach her at 1-800-289-7467, write her at P. O. Box 6512, Ithaca, NY 14851 or email her at <nwtccc@lightlink.com>. Their website is: <www.nonviolence.org.wtr>. You can resist with a purely symbolic amount, and your vote of protest will be heard.

THE PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN FOR NON-VIOLENCE - July 1st to August 9th 2000

From July 1-August 9th, 2000, people from every religion and way of life will gather in Washington D.C. to call for an end to our culture of violence and injustice and for the creation of a culture of nonviolence and justice.

Leading peace and justice groups from

around the country have pledged to bring one hundred people to spend one day or more in prayerful vigil and peaceful protest at the Pentagon, the White House, or the Congress, and/or other key spots in D.C.

As a part of this summer of nonviolence, NDE will join with the Methodist Peace Fellowship on July 4, 2000 to sponsor an afternoon vigil at the Washington Monument.

See the next issue of Desert Voices or: <www.NevadaDesertExperience.org> for info.

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION RETREAT - May 22nd to 26th, 2000

From May 22 through May 26, 2000, there will be a silent prayer and meditation retreat at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the nucleus of the U.S. nuclear weapons enterprise. The vigil, which is open to people of all faiths, is being organized and sponsored by the Buddhist Peace Fellowship, the Mountain Cloud Zen Center of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and the Los Alamos Study Group, a secular disarmament research and advocacy organization.

First and foremost, we expect that our religious life will be deepened and enriched by our quiet meditation and prayer in this place of violence. For despite its campus-like atmosphere, Los Alamos remains chiefly devoted to the design, production, and promotion of weapons of mass destruction. The role of these weapons in foreign policy is now sadly expanding, and the budget for their design and production, already substantially greater than Cold War levels in constant dollars, is growing again. In effect, these weapons are not unlike portable, miniaturized ovens, built to provide a holocaust whenever and wherever one is quickly needed.

The fee for this retreat will be \$15 per day. For information on registration you may contact gmello@lasg.org (preferred) or by regular snail mail to: Greg Mello, Los Alamos Study Group, 212 East Marcy Street # 7, Santa Fe, NM 87501. Call 505-982-7747 if you have any questions. Or see the NDE website: <www.NevadaDesertExperience.org> for info.

BILL WHITE PASSES ON

On Feb. 7, 2000, a week after his 73 birthday, Bill White passed over to the other side. The world lost one of its kindest, gentlest, bravest souls to cancer that day. Bill White drove the support vehicle for NDE's Holy Week Peace Walks for the past 4 years. His ashes will be scattered so he may reunite with his beloved mother earth. We will miss him.

Plutonium Bombs and Nuclear Waste in Nevada

by Marc Page

January and February 2000 have been active months for nuclear abolitionists in Nevada. On January 11th the Department Of Energy (D.O.E.) held a final hearing for the public to speak about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Yucca Mountain (which is designated to be the only high-level nuclear waste dump for the United States), right next to the Nevada Test Site. At the same time the D.O.E. was preparing to explode "Oboe 3", the 9th subcritical nuclear test since 1996. As we go to press, the D.O.E. is preparing to detonate another subcritical bomb, which will be the 4th such "experiment" in a six month period. Plutonium production and destruction creates nuclear waste. The D.O.E. is increasing the amount of subcritical explosions, and therefore the amount of nuclear waste, over the next year.

At the end of January members of Shundahai Network organized resistance to the D.O.E.'s path of nuclear violence. Individuals with the Alliance of Atomic Veterans, NDE, and other organizations joined these prayers, media events, and direct actions at the North Las Vegas D.O.E. headquarters, Las Vegas' Federal Building, and the Nevada Test Site (NTS). In my short time in Southern Nevada, the dedicated and passionate volunteers with Shundahai Network have taught me well about the inextricably linked problems of nuclear bombs and nuclear waste.

Although resistance to **nuclear weapons Testing** is NDE's focus, the entire industrialized nuclear business is a chain around the neck of humanity. Just as the business of **weapons** production and testing are linked to the social injustice of poverty, so are nuclear wastes from weapons and power plants linked by environmental injustice. The threat of violence to humans which is implicit in the production of a single nuclear weapon is actual violence to cellular tissues and many complete organisms (including humans) right now in this generation, and the radioactive materials will continue to cause torturous actual damage to life for generations to come.

On January 10th, while riding in a Shundahai van through Las Vegas pulling a trailer with a mock nuclear waste cask (to publicize the proposed high-level radioactive waste shipments the D.O.E. wants running through Las Vegas to Yucca Mountain), we had a megaphone to alert the public of their chance to speak out against the irresponsible violence of the D.O.E.

It was then, as we charmingly and obnoxiously moved through the poor and wealthy neighborhoods, that I realized we were unwittingly part of a long and honorable tradition. The wild, outrageous oddballs of the Old Testament did the same as the Shundahai folks are doing now. Many messages of the ancient prophets were essentially the same as our nuclear abolitionist message: "Change your ways of darkness and foolishness! Turn back to the cleanliness and good ways of Our Creator! Cease your immorality towards your neighbors, your relations, your environment! For if you don't you will suffer! You will have disease and pestilence and cancers strike you and your offspring! Your descendants will be slaughtered if you don't return to the healthy ways of our foremothers and fathers our ancestors who tended the land and respected the power of God's Wisdom and Love. Do the right thing or else!"

Corbin Harney has led many prayer services as part of NDE events in the past ten years. In 1994 Corbin initiated the Shundahai Network to further the communal cause of stopping nuclear testing, stopping nuclear waste dumping at the NTS, cleaning up the NTS and returning stewardship of it to the Western Shoshone Nation, voicing Native perspectives on the nuclear chain, and multi-cultural net-

working on Native issues. Harney is the spiritual leader for the Western Shoshone Nation, and as such, works as tirelessly as the strongest compassionate Bishops, Rabbis, or Pastors I know. His prophetic witness, prayers and inspiration have motivated many people to work hard and courageously with the Shundahai Network.

On February 3rd, one of Shundahai's most active organizers, Susi Snyder was arrested with me and seven others a few hours before the D.O.E. exploded Oboe 3. In our attempts to thwart the D.O.E.'s subcritical nuclear testing Snyder was singled out, roughed-up, and taken away from the NTS, unlike the rest of us who were released on-site. She was unjustly jailed for a past charge that had been lawfully resolved over a year ago. Such is the cost of following the will of the Creator, against the wishes of the destroyers of life.

Many prophets who existed in earthly form hundreds or thousands of years ago warned their people to turn from sin and to instead embrace the ways of the Divine Architect. If humanity survives another century, Corbin Harney and Shundahai Networkers will certainly become known as prophets of our age, helping to focus the question directly before the people: "Do you want the poison fire of nuclearism or will you choose life?"

A MESSAGE FROM BOARD MEMBER AND

Millennium 2000 Visionary

by Chris Montesano

*"If the West continues to neglect
the spiritual heritage of the East,
it may hasten the tragedy
that threatens man [sic]
and his civilizations."*

—Thomas Merton 1967

What has inspired me about the Nevada Desert Experience is that it regards the integration of different religious traditions as a key tool to the abolition of nuclear weapons.

For me the [Millennium 2000] event showed what power lies in freeing the Spirit to work among us. We have a long road ahead of us to eliminate war and Nuclear Weapons. If all of us continue to work together to bring to this problem the best in

Native traditions along with the best of the traditions of the East and West; we will be successful in averting "The tragedy that threatens man and his civilizations." Pope Paul II recently ended his sermon on a gathering for Christian Unity with this word said in many different languages: "Unity! Unity! Unity! Unity! Unity!" ...Let us continue to work together!

We wish to thank all of the speakers and presenters for their inspirational presentations. A special thanks to the NDE staff and all those who participated in the committees that made this event a success. Also we want to thank Shundahai Network volunteers for the beautiful preparation of the Peace Camp. And a thank-you to all who participated in this event, many of you who were new [to NDE]. Please come again and bring with you more new people!

ON THE ROAD WITH CINDY PILE (call 510 849-1540 for info)

Be sure to invite the locals to attend Cindy's presentations!

March 11-12: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Windsor, CA (preaching)

March 16-19: Reno

March 25-27: University of Arizona, Tucson

May 6: North American Conference of Associates and Religious Conference

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Forever!**

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Action Alert: *The Pentagon wants to spend \$1.9 billion on National Missile Defense (NMD), as part of their "Strategic Nuclear Program". In March, tell your Congresspeople "No \$ for NMD" (To find your Congressperson's number, call: (202) 224-3121). In April, tell Madeleine Albright: "No need for NMD", In May tell Bill Cohen: "No to NMD", In June tell Bill Clinton & the National Security Council!*

Calendar of Faith-Based Nuclear Abolition Events

March 8, 2000: Ash Wednesday prayer at Nevada Test Site; 6:00 am to 8:00 am; (see poster) for more info call (702) 646-4814

March 8, 2000: Ash Wednesday preaching by Detroit Bishop Tom Gumbleton in San Francisco Bay Area (see poster inside this issue) for more info call NDE California at (510) 849-1540.

March 9, 2000: Lenten Action for Disarmament at Lawrence Livermore National Lab; (meet at East & Vasco) for more info call NDE California at (510) 849-1540 (see poster inside this issue)

March 9 - April 13, 2000: Lenten Desert Experience at the Nevada Test Site continues (various days of limited vigilling at the Nevada Test Site gates) call (702) 646-4814 for more info.

April 1, 2000: Lenten Desert Experience part 2: Quakers & Unitarians Vigil at the Nevada Test Site.

April 14 - 16, 2000: College Student Palm Sunday Weekend in Las Vegas and at the Nevada Test Site. Co-sponsored by NDE and the Wesley Foundation, for more info call (510) 549-1244 or (510) 849-1540 (see poster)

April 16 - 23, 2000: Holy Week Peace Walk; Las Vegas, NV to Mercury, NV & Peace Camping (see poster)

May 7 - 13, 2000: Native American Walk & Run For the Damaged Land; Warm Springs to Mercury; for more info call Johnnie Bobb of the Western Shoshone Nation, Yomba Tribe (775) 964-2210

May 12 - 15, 2000: Mothers' Day at the Nevada Test Site; for more info call Shundahai Network (702) 647-3095

May 22 - 26, 2000: Silent Buddhist Retreat at the Los Alamos National Lab; (see 'Nuclear News & Notes' on page 6) for more info call Greg Mello or Sophia Phillips of Los Alamos Study Group (505) 982-7747 <gmello@lasg.org>

July 4, 2000: Vigil at the Washington Monument in D.C.; sponsored by NDE as part of the People's Campaign For Nonviolence; for more info call Cindy Pile at (510) 849-1540 (see 'Nuclear News and Notes' on page 6 of this issue)

August 9, 2000: LANL 2000 Protest; at Los Alamos National Labs, New Mexico, contact Peace Action NM (505) 982-4812

October 16, 2000: A Day Without the Pentagon; Regional activities including Prayers for Peace at the Nevada Test Site.

January 27, 2001: Remember Operation Ranger; 50th anniversary of nuclear bombing at the Nevada Test Site; for more info email Charlie Hilfenhaus of the Alliance of Atomic Vets, chilfenhaus@juno.com or call Marc Page of NDE, (702) 646-4814