



Desert Voices

The Newsletter of Nevada Desert Experience • Volume 14, Number 1 • January 2001

Crossing the Line: A Nonviolent Action

by Ken Butigan

"We went to the Test Site for a really beautiful interfaith service. Then I, along with many others, crossed the line. In the desert I felt very peaceful. Everything was really reduced to the basics: earth, air, fire, and water.... I thought a lot about the message that comes through much spiritual writing, that there is one boundless reality, and at the same time, we are grounded in our individual separate bodies. The desert was a good place to reflect on boundaries, because it did seem so limitless and simultaneously I was very aware of being one person, breathing my breath and feeling my own body on the ground.Crossing the line is an act of liberation, of declaring this is a false line that is not true. The line of the government is a false line because it pretends we are not all affected by the test site: it pretends such divisions are even possible." —Jean McElhaney

The Beginnings

On December 18, 1950 President Harry Truman approved the opening of the Nevada Test Site. Operation Ranger, the first series of atmospheric tests at the new facility began on January 27, 1951 at an area called Frenchman's Flat. Thirty years later, as the Reagan administration urged dramatic increases in U.S. military spending and the United States and the Soviet Union escalated their decades-old nuclear arms race, a small band of Franciscan sisters, Franciscan priests and brothers, and laity gathered at the gates of the Nevada

Test Site simply to pray, act, and bear witness for peace.

Overcoming "Us" and "Them"

Since then, NDE has welcomed thousands of people from around the world to engage in a set of powerful spiritual practices at the Nevada Test Site. As an integral part of its effort to fashion a

nuclear-free future, these activities have often been designed to undermine a deeply-rooted conviction that "we" are the people of truth and peace and "they" are people (if people at all) of evil and violence. For nearly two decades, NDE pilgrims have created rituals that emphasize (See Butigan, continued on page 2)

Nuclear Abolitionists Pray at Los Alamos Nuclear Laboratory

by Diana Winston

From September 5-8, we held a retreat and vigil at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The retreat was organized by people from the Los Alamos Study Group, Mountain Cloud Zen Center (both in Santa Fe, NM) and the Buddhist Peace Fellowship (BPF). The retreat had originally been planned for May,

but had to be rescheduled due to the fires in New Mexico.

We met at Ponderosa Pine Campground, pitched our tents, spent several hours organizing, as many of the details had not yet been worked out, and introduced ourselves. In a parking lot in the isolated nether-regions of the lab we were (See Winston, continued on page 6)



Some of the retreatants from California & New Mexico meditate in the parking lot designated for a week of quiet abolitionist activity at Los Alamos Lab.

**20 years of resistance
to Nuclear Weapons!
(LDE XX: see poster)**

PHOTO BY GREG MELO

(Butigan, continued from page 1)

the humanity of people on both sides of "the line." As long time NDE participant Julia Occhiogrosso puts it: "There is a definition of approach and style. NDE has its...code of nonviolence. There is a way of seeing ourselves in the world, a way of seeing ourselves in relation to the opponent. ...I think the bottom line is the deeper sense of understanding who we are we recognize that we have a lot in common." Occhiogrosso attributes the persistence of this commitment – a pledge to break the spell of enmity between witness participant and NTS personnel-- to the Catholic Christian conception of the "mystical Body of Christ" which implies that "God is everywhere, and that we all somehow interconnected... We all were somehow mysteriously one."

But it's also true that the implications of this approach were drawn out and realized only through interaction. As NDE co-founder Michael Affleck emphasizes, NDE people had as much to learn about "the desire for the well-being of all" from Nye County Sheriff Jim Merlino and Test Site Manager Bob Nelson as they had to learn from the NDE participants. And this learning took place in a kind of delicate ballet between the contending parties on the grounds of the Nevada Test Site. Over the last eighteen years, both sides of these invisible lines, have had to learn how to "cross over" to one another. This "crossing over" was perennially dramatized in the process of NDE participants respecting their opponents even as they struggled with them.

At the same time, many NDE participants have also "crossed over" to an encounter with the wounded and sacred desert. Many accounts offered by NDE pilgrims testify to the unutterably beautiful and graceful desert terrain where the Test Site is situated. It is as if this unexpected beauty re-frames one's orientation from focusing on the horrors of nuclear war to the tenderness of the world and its beings. It is not that the anger and horror disappears, but it is re-contextualized within the horizon of compassion, a sense

of care and respect that the desert itself seems to counsel. For many, the desert has become a place for gently contemplating their own woundedness and sacredness – for "crossing over" to see both the roots of nuclearism within and the roots of its healing within as well.

"Civil Disobedience as "Crossing Over"

Nevada Desert Experience dramatized this spiritual practice most vividly through faith-based nonviolent civil disobedience. This form of public action, while not welcomed by NTS management, nevertheless was designed by NDE to deepen, rather than scuttle, the relationship with these so-called opponents. As Julia Occhiogrosso suggests, the contrast between "threat force" and "integrative force" made a deep and consequential impact on all witnesses, including those "on the other side of the line." The symbolic language ... – the inspired body – helped extend a conversation to NTS personnel, but also to the wider society.

Civil disobedience at the Nevada Test Site has become a spiritual journey. The culmination of the sojourn to the vicinity and the procession to the gate, [nonviolent civil resistance] has become a jour-

ney of "crossing over" onto restricted and taboo space: "crossing over" to the desert and to the government officials who occupy it. In doing so, NDE has struck a delicate balance between opposition and openness. This "compassionate contestation" has created the possibility for many people to take part in significant and growing resistance.

Beginning with the first vigil in 1982, NDE and [the] NTS intuitively worked out a relationship that, in the end, encouraged the creation, deepening, and broadening of a modern anti-nuclear testing movement that played a decisive role in creating the moral and political conditions for the 1992 moratorium on nuclear testing in Nevada and the promulgation of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Ken Butigan, a former NDE board member, has recently completed his Ph.D. dissertation at the Graduate Theological Union entitled, Journey through a Burning World: Nonviolence in Action at the Nevada Test Site. This study focuses on NDE and its first forty-day vigil at NTS in 1982. The excerpt above is the second installment published by Desert Voices.



First Lenten Desert Experience, April 1982

Nellis Air Force Base Fails Nuclear Weapons Inspection

by Marcus P. B. Page

After notifying Major General Johnston (and two Lieutenant Colonels) of our intent to conduct a Citizen's Weapons Inspection at Nellis Air Force Base, NDE held a vigil outside of the Visitor's Gate on October 16, 2000. We invited the Base to show us their nuclear weapons (about 400 stored there on the outskirts of our town). The Base is near the enormously larger Nellis Bombing range, which encompasses the Nevada Test Site and the infamous "Area 51". All of that land, of course, is part of the Western Shoshone Nation's homelands known as Newe Sogobia. But Nellis Air Force Base (AFB), so close to the "nuclear-free zone" of Las Vegas, NV, is not coming clean about their weapons of mass destruction.

The official policy is to neither deny nor confirm the presence of nuclear weapons at Nellis. So it is difficult for the Base to communicate with us about these deadly facts. Colonel Delwyn R. Eulberg sent us a letter stating: "For safety and security reasons, however, visitors are not permitted on the Nellis Air Force Base installation."

For "security & safety" reasons? How safe are nuclear weapons? I guess all of us, (even more our institutions), are capable of ignoring cognitive dissonance and denying our truths. For the sake of the larger realm of security and safety, we are compelled to work for nuclear abolition, for no human is SAFE from the radioactive hazards of nuclear bombs. The SECURITY they offer is at the expense of others. This is the security that says: "Because my people are ready to commit genocide against your people, we know you will

obey us: we are secure." Far from being a matter of self-defense, such threats known as "deterrence" are OFFENSIVE; they are inherently violent, and in their indiscriminate scope of mega-violence, actually contradict the traditional discipline of warriors. The belief that using nuclear weapons can be a reasonable military tactic is one reason NDE held a vigil that day.

We had hoped Nellis AFB would allow us to inspect the weapons of mass destruction, as it is the duty of conscientious citizens all around the earth to stop the violence. Bound by conscience and international law requiring us to prevent crimes against humanity, we went to the Base to uphold moral standards for soldiers and civilians alike. We held a vigil which included passing out flyers to interested motorists and pedestrians. The flyers contained quotes from former Generals who have begun to decry the nuclearism they once defended. Coming from high-ranking pro-military individuals, these statements against nuclear weaponry should be taken seriously by other pro-military individuals. Or so we thought. As some of the Air Force personnel said from their vehicles during our vigil, they must do their jobs. *Just following orders, man.* We were there to remind them, that "while you are part of the military, each of you has not forfeited your right to prevent war crimes, nor your right to freedom of thought. You are legally protected by the Nuremberg Principles (established after the Nazi war crime trials following WWII) to take action to prevent human-engineered catastrophes." (Excerpted from my follow-up letter to the Base.)

The Base sent photographers to videotape and shoot still photos of the first five people vigilling in the first hour. (Vigillers arriving later than 10:30 am did not have their photos taken at close range.) Major Zabbo and Chaplain Major Stutts were very cordial, polite and accommodating of our needs that did not pertain to an actual INSPECTION of Nellis Air Force Base. We were not hindered from our prayer that all people (including those whose jobs depend on the Pentagon) will work to support life instead of preparing for nuclear war. (But should our prayer become more proactive, we were warned of certain consequences.) Regarding the matter of potential crimes against humanity or war crimes, the tactic upheld by our Major liaisons was non-compliance with an inspection. The policy of nuclear deterrence has extended to professional deterrence, as the Base actually threatened the Citizen Inspectors with arrest, fines, and jail time, should anyone try to "cross the line", i.e. approach the Visitor's Gate to begin the inspection. None of us were prepared to risk arrest. In a sense, we reflected the failure of the Base to act courageously. Were we giving the empire the benefit of the doubt?

This, as far as we know, was the first chance for Nellis AFB to identify itself as "not-guilty" of conspiracy to commit genocide. Unfortunately, they fell in line with the rest of the U.S. subterfuge. Despite the age-old tradition of consensual violence between warring parties, the U.S. military consistently chooses death for the masses, and threatens eco-cide. So, of course, Nellis AFB failed this inspection, due to non-compliance. We are saddened that the entire military establishment irritates any prospect of peacemaking, perpetuates our nation's failure to abolish nuclear weapons, and ultimately terrorizes people—creating more hell on earth for future generations. Perhaps someday we will all have success—if Nellis finds another opportunity to confess their war crimes, their hypocrisy, their deception of "defense"—before it's too late. More importantly, the personnel there can still turn from the works of war to the works of mercy. For Love's sake we need to keep inviting them to do so.

Marc Page is the Las Vegas manager of NDE. In his spare time, he operates Catholic Worker Community Radio.

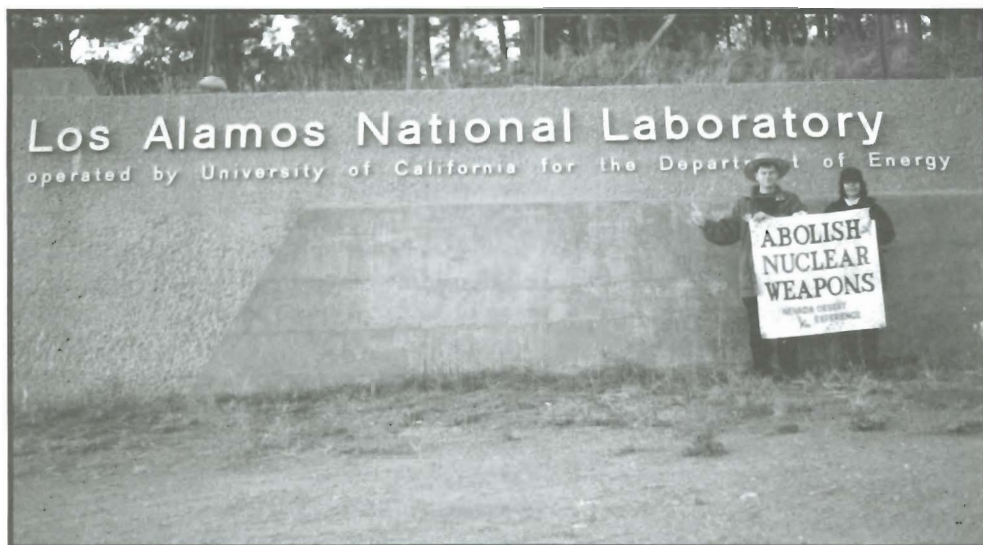


PHOTO BY GREG MELLO

First monthly vigil at the entrance to Los Alamos National Laboratory on Oct. 26, 2000. On left is Marcus Page of NDE, on right is Vilma Ruiz of Los Alamos Study Group.

Lenten Desert Experience XX: Twenty Years

Weekend Retreat and Action

"Remember, Reflect & Renew the Covenant"

Friday, March 2nd to Sunday, March 4th, 2001

Christ Church Episcopal, Las Vegas, NV and the Nevada Test Site

Co-sponsored by the Episcopal Peace Fellowship
& All Saints Nuclear Weapons Abolition Ministry



Join **BRUCE GAGNON** of the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, **JANET CHISHOLM** of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, **PAULA OLIVARES** of All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena and Bishop **TOM GUMBLETON** of Detroit.

During this weekend retreat, we will pray about the ongoing violence of nuclear weapons "stewardship", be updated on the latest developments in the weaponization of space, discuss how we feel about these issues, spend time praying amidst the natural beauty of the desert, and practice the ritual of "crossing the line" at the Nevada Test Site.

At the retreat in Las Vegas and at the nearby nuclear Test Site, we will **"Remember, Reflect and Renew the Covenant."** Friday, there will be an optional day-long tour of the Test Site. Saturday, we will hear Bruce Gagnon of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space. Corbin Harney (Western Shoshone Spiritual Leader) will invite us to take action, Janet Chisholm (Interim Co-Director of Fellowship of Reconciliation) and Tom Gumbleton (Catholic Bishop, Detroit) will lead reflections on "Following Jesus into the Desert." Sunday, the Reverend Shari Young will preach and celebrate the Eucharist in preparation for Nonviolent Action at the Test Site. Registration is \$75/person includes the program, optional bus tour and five meals Friday lunch through Saturday supper (\$50 before January 27). Sleeping bag space will be available at Christ Church. Motel rooms are available at additional expense.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR TEST SITE TOUR IS JAN. 27TH

PLEASE REGISTER USING FORM AT RIGHT ➡

Ash Wednesday

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28th, 2001: M

followed by Noon Mass and Discussion



These Arms

The Journey of Embrace

Co-Sponsored by NDE, Center for A

Monday to Saturday, February 5th to 10th, 2001

or Monday to Saturday, May 21st to 26th, 2001.

Join us for a new week-long immersion experience where we will explore the violence of nuclear weapons, the spirituality & practice of active nonviolence, and the discipline of contemplative prayer. We will also practice yoga.

It is possible, even probable that New Mexico has the most extensive nuclear weapons research, management, testing and training facilities in the world. We will enter into this "nuclear colony" through an on-site visit to Los Alamos National Lab & respond to it by joining in a public witness condemning the weaponization of space. This week is a chance to learn about society's greatest expression of violence: weapons of mass destruction.

Undergirding this experience will be our prayer and reflection. **THESE ARMS OF OURS** is for anyone who desires to grapple with the reality of nuclear weapons.

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

of Faithful Resistance to Nuclear Weapons Testing

ay Prayer Service

orning Prayer & Action at the Nevada Test Site,
with Catholic Bishop TOM GUMBLETON.



PROVING GROUNDS BY ANNE DOWNEY JEROME, 1985

ns of Ours: ing Active Nonviolence

tion and Contemplation & Pace E Bene

ons from a faith perspective, and who is committed to an in-depth exploration of one's own woundedness & sacredness, as well as that of one's opponent.

Presenters Include: Cindy Pile, Kathleen O'Malley, Bruce Gagnon, Jim Reale & Richard Rohr.

The FEBRUARY version of this program costs \$475 and includes meals, transportation, and materials. It does NOT include housing. Scholarships and payment plans available.

The later (MAY) version of this program--for college students and full-time young adult volunteers--costs \$200 and includes sleeping bag accommodations. (Please note that the fee is subsidised for the May 21st-26th version as to be affordable for this specific non-wage-earning population.)

Please contact Center for Action and Contemplation for more info: P.O.Box 12464, Albuquerque, NM 87195 or phone (505) 242-9588. Or call Cindy Pile of NDE: (510) 849-1540.

Annual Peace Walk



Walk from Las Vegas to the Test Site

Sunday, April 8th to Friday, April 13th 2001

Walk 65 Miles in 5 days! WALK INCLUDES Desert Seder meal and Nuclear Stations Of The Cross.

TO REGISTER SEND IN FORM BELOW



These activities are part of the DECADE OF PEACE & NONVIOLENCE. The Nobel Peace Laureates have called for this ten-year campaign (2000-2010). Nevada Desert Experience joins this effort by continuing the work to end the violence of nuclear weapons.

SEND THIS FORM TO:

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

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone(s): _____

e-mail: _____

☐ I WILL ATTEND THE WEEKEND RETREAT.

☐ I WILL ATTEND THE D.O.E. TEST SITE TOUR. **(Deadline is Jan. 27!)**

☐ I WILL JOIN THE PEACE WALK.

☐ ENCLOSED IS \$15 FOR THE VIDEO: NDE IN THE NUCLEAR AGE

☐ Here is my/our registration fee: ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$150

☐ other \$ _____

The RETREAT costs \$50 per person. The WALK costs \$50 per person.

(No one is turned away for lack of funds.)

☐ I can't join the WALK nor the RETREAT this year. Here is a donation to sponsor others: \$ _____

☐ I will drive a car to the RETREAT (with room for _____ people)

☐ I will drive a car for the WALK (with room for _____ people)

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

Nevada Desert Experience Represented at Conference of Women for Responsible National Security

Nevada Desert Experience (NDE) Executive Director Sally Light represented NDE in a Dec. 2-3, 2000 event in Washington, D.C., the Conference of Women for Responsible National Security. 140 women from across the country attended the event, which is the kick-off of a two year public education campaign, headed by Peace Links, on nuclear and missile defense issues. Participating on a panel entitled "Constituency-Based Organizing," Sally Light spoke about NDE's past accomplishments as well as its plans to rapidly expand its activities in order to meet the challenge of the US's current rise in militarism, including nuclear issues. Others on the panel included Doloris Cogan of Peace Links in Elkhart County (Indiana), Tiffany Heath of Church Women United, Annette Kane of the National Council of Catholic Women, Mary Lou Nelson of Min-

nesota Alliance of Peacemakers, and Wendy Starman of Nuclear Reduction/Disarmament Initiative. "The conference was an excellent opportunity for networking and forging ties with eminent women activists and their re-

spective organizations," stated Sally.

For further information on the conference as well as on the two year campaign, please contact NDE (at P.O. Box 46645, Las Vegas, NV 89114-6645, (702) 646-4814.

50th Anniversary of First Nuclear Explosion at Test Site! Atomic Vets plan event for January 27, 2001

January 27th 2001 will be the 50th anniversary of the first nuclear explosion at the Nevada Test Site. This weekend is sponsored by the Alliance of Atomic Veterans (AAV) and will include a **SATURDAY RALLY & ACTION** at the Test Site, a **TEACH-IN** (on Friday) in Las Vegas, focusing on atmospheric testing, nuclear submarines, depleted uranium, atomic workers, and other issues, and a **SUNDAY SOLIDARITY SPEAK-OUT** in Las Vegas, where we can share issues and action ideas for the new administration of the U.S.A.

FOR MORE INFO, contact Charlie Hilfenhaus: Phone: (702) 648-1575, email: <chilfenhaus@juno.com> or contact Marcus Page: (702) 646-4814.

(Winston, continued from page 1)

to set up our "zendo" which consisted of a giant blue tarp and many brown zabutons and zafus (pads to sit upon while meditating). Very few of the 12,000 workers would get to see us; nevertheless, we persevered. Our only shade in the ninety degree heat would be from the shadows emitted from our carefully positioned RV, which we rented when the lab refused us access to their toilets. The RV was fondly dubbed, the Protestmobile. On the first morning Greg Mello, Director of the Los Alamos Study Group, gave us a tour around the lab, showing us where plutonium was stored, where the original bombs had been developed before they exploded over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which pueblos had been destroyed to set up the lab, and where genetic research was being done.

The retreat had a beautiful low-key community feel where the twenty of us grew quite close. Many of us were from BPF, including Maylie Scott, Trena Cleland, Donald Rothberg, Kaz Tanahashi, Greg Mello, Sarah and Stefan Laeng-Gilliat. In addition, there were several Christians affiliated with the Center For Action & Contemplation (Albuquerque, NM), the Sisters of Loretto, and Nevada Desert Experience.

Three morning sits (meditation sessions) and breakfast were held at the campground. This was followed by meditations and ser-

vices at the Lab. We took a break for lunch and a daily field trip, and resumed our sitting about 2:30 till 5:30. Later we returned to the campground for soup and an evening program. As this was an interfaith retreat, several people had never meditated before. So we combined sitting and walking meditation with dharma talks, a beautiful Christian prayer service with readings from Dorothy Day's autobiography, and powerful chanting led by Ed Rippy from Soka Gakkai International. Maylie's dharma talk had us inquire into "who" was meditating and performing this vigil. Donald talked on structural violence and why it's hard to respond to. One morning we did Christian meditation, on another, metta, on another, zazen.

One of the most striking pieces of our time was lunch when we ate at the cafeteria with the lab workers. Most of us felt it was an extremely odd experience in that we were eating in a setting much reminiscent of a college cafeteria, with thousands of workers all dressed in casual clothes, looking very much like anyone else. Yet there was something slightly off-- the fact that these people were either working directly on or in support of the machinery for weapons of mass destruction. As Kaz said, the suffering here is not obvious like at Auschwitz, it's too beautiful and cheerful here (incidentally, Oppenheimer chose Los Alamos because he liked to go hiking in the area). Instead you have to interpret it to realize there is just as much if not more suffering

(or capacity for it). There were several discussions among our group around the delusion needed to maintain the facade and where was morality in all of this? How does one live with the disconnect between one's values and one's work? Many of us sat with lab workers during lunch, two to four at a table, some of us debating our political agenda, others listening solemnly to the "other's" point of view.

Did our presence make a difference at all? For LANL workers, retreatants, the nuclear age, or socially engaged Buddhism in general?

FOR THE LAB WORKERS: It is hard to say. They were definitely aware of our presence through their intranet and the obvious wandering hippies with large sun hats in the cafeteria. They were somewhat confused by us as we definitely didn't fit the classical mode of protester-- we weren't shouting, we didn't have signs, no police were detaining us. But our sitting site was very isolated, far from the majority of workers. I often wondered if we were having any impact at all. On the first morning, however, a woman, clearly a lab worker, walked into our parking lot, and stood in front of each of us and bowed. It was an extremely poignant moment for all of us. Later she came back and offered a bouquet of flowers which we later offered to the earth in a healing prayer.

FOR THE INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING: Yes. Several of us felt we had learned a lot both about the issues and about what it meant to sit in meditation and solidarity for our be-

College Student Immersion Experiences

NDE, the Las Vegas Catholic Worker and Pace e Bene Franciscan Nonviolence Center invite all college students, campus ministers and professors to help us organize week-long immersion experiences/seminars in collaboration with your universities. We can tailor them to meet the needs of your school. You can probably receive academic credit for attending one. These immersion experiences can take place during your spring, winter, or summer breaks—hopefully the first one will take place in mid-March.

During our time together we will explore the violence of nuclear weapons by joining a Department of Energy tour at the Test Site, as well as obstacles which keep us from viewing such violence by visiting the Las Vegas Strip. We will consider the human, economic and environmental costs

of nuclear weapons by working with homeless people through the Catholic Worker and listening to the stories of the Western Shoshone people whose land has been used for testing. We will conclude our time together by traveling to the Nevada Test Site and holding a prayerful, nonviolent public witness which the group will help to create. This experience will include prayer, reflection on our shared experiences and the dynamics of violence and active nonviolence, as well as nonviolence training.

Contact **Cindy Pile** AS SOON AS POSSIBLE for more information or registration forms: (510) 849-1540 or cindypile@prodigy.net.

P.S. If you are a high school student and are interested in a similar experience, please give us a ring, as well.

liefs, even if at times it was humiliating. I personally had insight into the ways in which my inner struggles mirror those of the people who create nuclear weapons. We are all fearful and are seeking ways to make the world seem under our control. We all want power and fear powerlessness. I do too. One group member said when she was sitting on the tarmac in the beating-down sun, as embarrassing as it was, in that moment there was nothing else she wished she could be doing. Sitting there represented the perfect synthesis of her dharma practice and her wish for peace.

FOR EACH OTHER: Unquestionably yes. This was a tremendous time of community building and strengthening of ties, particularly among ourselves as a socially engaged Buddhist community and among the interfaith groups. Everyone agreed that we wanted to hold the event again next year, and many people volunteered to work on it. We worked together, strategized together, spent hours in logistical debates, painted together, talked about the deeper issues together, and grew in community together.

FOR SOCIALLY ENGAGED BUDDHISM: Definitely. The retreat represented a new form of Buddhist/interfaith protest where we practiced and sat for our beliefs. I think it is certainly worth replicating as our tradition develops, and can be a powerful form of protest for other issues, and an offering to the activist community in general. This experiment in form and in practice is clearly one extremely valu-

able expression of socially engaged Buddhism.

FOR THE FUTURE OF NUCLEARISM? Well it certainly was a way to make us feel like a tiny pebble in a vast ocean, but this is where my trust in the dharma is vast. Here I surrender to the mystery and say, who knows? The dharma is mysterious and as we used as a refrain many times on this retreat: sometimes we forget that the power of love and compassion is stronger than the power of violence and destruction. The earth was happy we were there. This much we knew.

Diana Winston is part of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: This retreat gave birth to a desire for regular, monthly vigils & meditation at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The vigils are now on the last Thursday of each month (except December). LANL failed to give permission for such an activity for the October prayers and employees were quite upset when three people stood in front of the Lab entrance sign holding an NDE banner proclaiming "Abolish Nuclear Weapons". Upon contact with Lab Security, the vigil ceased and was voluntarily moved off of LANL's property for the day. In November, permission was obtained from LANL for prayer, leafletting, and vigilling on LANL's property. Contact the Los Alamos Study Group to get involved with this faith-based resistance: (505) 982-7747.]



National Space Organizing Conference & Protest

Huntsville, Alabama
March 16-18, 2001

Join us at the home of the Army's Space & Missile Defense Command where space weapons and the nuclear rocket are being developed.

Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space

PO Box 90083 • Gainesville, FL 32607
(352) 337-9274 • globalnet@mindspring.com
www.space4peace.org

Following WWII, Nazi rocket scientists were brought to Huntsville to develop the U.S. space program. Today, Huntsville's Army Redstone Arsenal is in charge of the Theatre Missile Defense (TMD) system, and NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center is developing the nuclear rocket. Huntsville is also being considered as the space-based laser test site. This conference and protest will bring together key activists like South African poet Dennis Brutus, Janet Cuevas, Bruce Gagnon, Holly Gwinn Graham, Karl Grossman, Andrew Lichterman, NDE's Sally Light, Peter Lumsdaine, Chris Ney, Alice Slater, Bill Sulzman, David Waters, and others. This event will be co-sponsored by the War Resisters League and Veterans for Peace (North Alabama Chapter).

PAGE 7, September 2000

NEW VIDEO AVAILABLE!

This new video explains the purpose and activities of Nevada Desert Experience in the context of the movement to abolish nuclear weapons. It also summarizes the history of both nuclearism and nonviolent activism to stop the nuclear industries. \$15, see order form on page 5.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

U. S. CONDUCTS NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING!

On December 14th 2000, the Nevada Test Site exploded another subcritical test (Oboe-6).

Nevada Desert Experience is a non-profit group, with 501c3 status, so your donations are tax-deductable. If you need a receipt for your tax records, please don't hesitate to ask! We are happy to provide receipts upon request for your donations.

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Las Vegas, NV
Permit # 1009

Calendar of Faith-Based Nuclear Abolition Events

January 26-28, 2001: Remember Operation Ranger-50th anniversary of nuclear bombing at the Nevada Test Site (see ad on page 6); for more info e-mail Charlie Hilfenhaus of the Alliance of Atomic Vets: chilfenhaus@juno.com or call Marc Page of NDE: (702) 646-4814.

February 5-10, 2001: Embracing Active Nonviolence at the Center for Action and Contemplation (CAC) in New Mexico (see ad on page 4 & 5). Please contact CAC for more info: PO Box 2464, Albuquerque, NM 87195 call Tepeyec: (505) 242-1846. This event is co-sponsored by CAC, NDE and Peace Bene (see poster page 4 & 5 for details).

February 10, 2001: Noon to 3:00 p.m. Protest Vigil at the 18th Nuclear Space Symposium: Albuquerque, NM; contact Global Network for more info: (352) 337-9274 globalnet@mindspring.com www.space4peace.org

February 28, 2001: Ash Wednesday Prayer and Action at Nevada Test Site (see poster on page 4 and 5)

March 2-4, 2001: Weekend Retreat co-sponsored by EPF & All Saints Episcopal Church Nuclear Weapons Abolition Ministry of Pasadena, CA.

March 16-18, 2001: Conference and Protest re: Nuclear Space: Huntsville, Alabama; see ad on page 7 or contact Global Network for more info: (352) 337-9274

April 8-13, 2001: Peace Walk. Holy Thursday Seder & Good Friday Nuclear Stations Of The Cross at the Nevada (Nuclear) Test Site.

May 6-11, 2001: Shoshone Spirit Run around Nevada Test Site. Contact Shundahai Network for more info: (775) 537-6088.

May 11-14, 2001: Mother's Day Gathering at the Nevada Test Site. Contact Shundahai Network for info: (775) 537-6088.

May 21-26, 2001: Embracing Active Nonviolence at the CAC, youth focus, see February 5-10 for info.

NDE'S SPECIAL MAILING LIST

Once in a great while, we share our mailing list for one-use only on specific solidarity work with other peace & justice groups. Desert Voices currently has a circulation of 4,600. Only 7 people have asked to not be included at such rare times that we share our mailing list. Anyone who wishes to NOT have his/her/their names given out for these occasions should let us know, so we may protect their names on our database from being shared periodically with other groups. If you so desire, please notify us so we may keep your name from being included on any list that we occasionally give out.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:
www.NevadaDesertExperience.org