



Desert Voices

The Newsletter of Nevada Desert Experience • Volume 19, Number 1 • January 2006

ISSN 1539-9869

Nukes and the SOA

Two Tools of US Domination, Two Movements for Social Change

by Sr. Megan Rice, SHCJ

**Report
Back from
Action at
the School
of the
Americas**

This past autumn, Fr. Roy Bourgeois, founder of School of the Americas Watch, spoke at the University of San Francisco as a benefit for NDE, an event which raised awareness of the alignment of both the NDE and the SOAW movements under the issues of US policies of domina-

tion. In November, NDE had a presence at the Call to Action gathering in Milwaukee. It was fitting that some of us were able to be present at the SOAW Vigil in Columbus, Georgia to protest the existence of SOA/WHINSEC (as described from jail by Frs. Louie Vitale and Jerry Zawada in this issue). Megan was able to stay on after the action of the 41 arrestees for the court arraignment on November 20th. The words spoken, as Louie and Jerry refused the bail ordered by the judge (who had sent both to federal prisons previously for similar actions of resistance) were powerful reiterations of the truth for which they and each of us act.

Louie's gentle, loving dialog clearly impressed Judge Faircroft, and modeled for us all the real power of relating with the 'opponent' nonviolently. Fr. Jerry spoke last and used his time to testify of the integrity of his fellow arrestees, offering his own willingness to serve time for any of them if the bail charges could be remitted, to allay any fear by the court that they might fail to return for trial on the 30th of January. It was indeed heartening to be present in court that day. What Gandhi in 1947 named as blunders of violence: politics without principle and science without humanity, are being redeemed now by acting, as the SOAW and NDE movements attempt to do: to work for politics *with* principles and science *with* humanity.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- New Experiment in Reconciliation and Nonviolent Communication *by Anne Symens-Bucher*.....3
- Disarming our Hearts, Disarming the World *by Chelsea Collonge*.....4



Bill Quigley, Father Jerry Zawada and Father Louie Vitale stand behind a security fence near the entrance to Fort Benning, home of the School of the Americas. Bill and Jerry are second and third-time resisters respectively at Fort Benning. Bill Quigley leads the Legal Collective team. Photo by Sr. Megan Rice, SHCJ.

Reflections from Muscogee County Jail, Georgia

by Fr. Louie Vitale, OFM and Fr. Jerry Zawada, OFM

The 15th annual School of the Americas gathering at Ft. Benning this November was larger than ever – 19,000+ and included more young people than ever. Although the focus continues to be closing the School of the Americas (renamed WHINSEC) the event included a broader range of issues, particularly ending the war in Iraq and raising awareness about various forms of injustice and oppression. We are not only concerned about US teaching “torture” and “interrogation” and such methods of intimidation in Latin America, but also the involvement of the US in torture at places like Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo Bay and other locales in the Middle East and throughout the world. Sr. Helen Prejean reminded us of the “torture of the death penalty,” while others spoke of human trafficking, especially of women and children for sexual and economic exploita-

Letter from Louie and Jerry - continued on page 7

As Nevada Desert Experience Enters Its 25th Year of Witness in the Desert ...

by Patrick Finn, Sr. Megan Rice, SHCJ and Amy Schultz

The nature of our work is that it brings many transitions, and with them, consolations and desolations. Our staff and board have gone through many changes in the last six months.

Zachary Moon and more recently Paul Colbert have left the NDE staff to continue their peace-building journeys; Paul remains in Las Vegas, while Zac has relocated to North Carolina. We have

also gained a variety of talented part-time employees in both Las Vegas and the Bay Area: Gary Cavalier and Mario Intino, Jr. collaborate with Sr. Megan in Las Vegas, while Chelsea Collonge and Patrick Finn work with Amy in the Bay Area. Gary, a husband, father and Las Vegas Catholic Worker, is a long-time NDE supporter and Mario has worked with Pace e Bene and the Catholic Worker for several years. Chelsea is in her final year at Cal Berkeley, earning a B.A. in Peace and Conflict studies and Patrick is finishing an M.A. in Theology at the Berkeley Graduate Theological Union.

Our current co-founders and board members, Anne Symens-Bucher and Louie Vitale continue to be voice and vision for NDE. In addition to returning board of directors members Rick Kidd and Chris Montesano, we have gained several new members: Peggy Maze Johnson of Citizen Alert, Alan Senauke of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship and Karin Holsinger, who works for the Jesuit Volunteer Corp West. We are grateful for this new life in our small community!

As this newsletter goes to print in early January, the NDE staff is gathered in Las Vegas. Currently, we are hosting an Immersion Program for a small group of college students and young adults from UC Berkeley and Santa Barbara. We are extremely pleased to be able to offer this program, which seeks to introduce participants to the links between nuclear weapons and indigenous sovereignty, environmental degradation, militarism and economic injustice. During our week in Las Vegas, we will visit the Nevada Test Site and the surrounding desert; we will stay with Corbin Harney, Western Shoshone spiritual leader, at his healing center, Poohabah; and we will serve with the Catholic Workers on their morning soup line and attend their weekly peace vigil. We will also visit the new Atomic Testing Museum and view the Las Vegas strip through the alternative lens of the environment and a just economy. We are grateful to the students for choosing to spend a week of the holiday break in service and learning, and we are grateful to all of our hosts, particularly to the community of St. Francis House on the West Side of Las Vegas.

We look forward to an active spring season! Our upcoming events are detailed throughout the newsletter. Of particular excitement is the weekend retreat of March 30th-April 2nd. In addition to marking 25 years of NDE, it is our hope to provide a space for dialogue and healing between the many different voices and experiences that mark the nuclear movement. We



Photo by Greg Tarczynski.

The mission of Nevada Desert Experience (NDE) is to stop nuclear weapons testing through a campaign of prayer, education, dialogue and nonviolent direct action. NDE mobilizes people of all faiths to work toward nuclear abolition and nonviolent social change. We are committed to providing support for communal and personal renewal in the desert tradition. Our immediate attention focuses on ending sub-critical tests and other war-making preparations at the Nevada Test Site and preventing the return of full scale nuclear testing.

NEW ADDRESS

NDE's Las Vegas office remains in the St. Francis House community. Please note our new mailing address as we are closing our P.O. Box. The Bay Area office address remains the same.

Las Vegas Office:
Nevada Desert Experience
1420 West Bartlett Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89106-2226
(702) 646-4814

Bay Area Office:
Nevada Desert Experience
P.O. Box 7849
Oakland CA 94601-0849
(510) 849-1540

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

Please use our new email address: info@nevadadesertexperience.org to reach either of our offices.

www.nevadadesertexperience.org

New Experiment in Reconciliation and Nonviolent Communication

by Anne Symens-Bucher

We came to the desert in 1982 to experiment with nonviolence. It was the 800th anniversary of the birth of St. Francis and a time a great activity and anti-nuclear protest across the country. On June 12 of that year, one-million people marched in New York City, creating the largest peace and disarmament protest in US history. One-hundred-thousand gathered in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena on the same day. In Livermore, CA, thousands protested on June 21 in the largest civil disobedience action to date at Livermore Labs.

At the Nevada Test Site, our numbers were much smaller—perhaps 350 over the course of the 40-day vigil. But we were excited to be at the test site, a place where there had been very little anti-nuclear protest since the late fifties. I came to the desert in the spring of 1982, captivated by the notion of the “Lenten Desert Experience,” feeling my own call to come away into the desert and see what I would discover about my faith, my activism and the direction of my attempts to live nonviolently. It was to be an experience that would change my life.

The Lenten Desert Experience in 1982 was never intended as the “first” of many. But after this vigil, we were so excited, so moved, so changed by being in relationship that we wanted to keep coming back. As we approach the 25th Lenten Desert Experience and I reflect upon the story of my desert journey over these many years, I am struck by several things. We were Catholic Workers and Franciscans; these were the spiritualities that informed our choices. We were Christians who placed ourselves firmly in the traditions of Francis and Clare of Assisi, Mahatma Gandhi, Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Cesar Chavez. We were nonviolence novices, hungry for experiential learning. We had much to learn. We had certain ideas back at the beginning about the roles everyone would play. We saw ourselves as opponents of those who were testing the bombs; we were on one side of the line and they were on the other. We thought we were right and they were wrong and that we could change them through our nonviolence. We saw ourselves as conducting our own Gandhian “experiments with truth.” Gandhi wanted the

British to leave India as his friends; we wanted this kind of relationship with those who operated and worked at the test site. In our inexperience and idealism, I guess we thought that if we were nonviolent enough, those in charge would leave their jobs, thanking us for loving them in spite of the error of their ways.

After that first 40-day vigil, the line we had drawn began to blur, especially in relationship to the security forces who were out in the desert with us each day. We had wanted to know our opponent; being in relationship with the folks guarding the test site was our closest contact. These people were becoming our friends. Getting to know them was confounding and confusing. Loving them was even more so. Over the years of this deepening relationship, I began to question the rightness of my position. What did it even mean to be “right?” I knew from my experience that when I began to love someone it was because I was connected to that person’s humanity. There was no longer

a place for “right-wrong thinking” because I wanted my heart to be open. Holding on to my right position seemed to be hindering my deepest longings to embody nonviolence and to experience transformation.

Transformation has happened in my life over the years by being in relationship: with the security forces at the test site, the people in the nuclear industry with whom I’ve had contact and with people who have participated in our many events since 1982. I invite you to join us for **Speaking from the Heart, Lenten Desert Experience XXV**. We have created community over these many years. LDE XXV will be a time to celebrate that community and to wrestle with what we mean when we say we are engaged in a “nonviolent campaign.” It is my personal hope that this event will inform the future direction of our nonviolent campaign at the test site and elsewhere.

Practically speaking, over the years we never got very close to our opponents, with one or two exceptions.

New Experiment - continued on page 7



St. Francis of Assisi, role model for many of the people who participated in the first Lenten Desert Experience, is known for his reconciliation work, for example with the Sultan, so-called enemy of the Crusaders. Photo by Josh Kearns.

Disarming Our Hearts, Disarming the World

Confronting Nuclear Weapons Requires a Nonviolent Way of Being

by Chelsea Collonge

On June 21, 1999, Dr. Steven Younger gave a talk that included information about the W-76 warhead, a thermonuclear weapon seven times as powerful as the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima:

"The W-76 warhead is the backbone of America's strategic nuclear deterrent. There are lots of these things out there. They are out there right now on submarines, submarines moving very quietly. We don't know where they are. The bad guys don't know where they are. Thirty minutes, however, and they can deliver this type of weapon to just about any target on earth.... Now they're intended to prevent other countries, other states, other national entities from doing something that really isn't in our national interest. You get people's attention when you threaten the existence of their nation."

Younger, a top nuclear weapons scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory, was speaking to his colleagues, all University of California employees at the UC-managed lab. The United States currently has 1500 W-76 warheads on active duty, while the firepower of its total arsenal of 10,000 nuclear weapons is 400-times that of all explosive power used during WWII. Not even counting the nuclear arsenals of the seven other countries that possess nuclear weapons, the US has enough firepower to destroy the entire world.

How can we counter this specter of ultimate violence prowling through our waters? How can we counter the dehumanized attitudes of intelligent people who talk of making other countries "go away"? As Einstein said, "The splitting of the atom has changed everything, except our way of thinking." By offering destruction on such an overwhelming scale, the nuclear bomb numbs our ability to comprehend it; this psychic numbing leads to nuclear entrapment, in which the very horror of the bomb removes our ability to struggle against it. But are we truly entrapped?

Gandhi answered this question in 1946 with a resounding no. "Do I still adhere to my faith in truth and nonviolence? Has not the atomic bomb exploded that faith? Not only has it not done so but it has clearly demonstrated to me that the twins (nonviolence and truth) constitute the mightiest force in the world. Before it the atom bomb is of no effect. The two opposing forces are wholly different in kind, the one moral and spiritual, the other physical and material. The one is infinitely superior to the other which by its very nature has an end. The force of the spirit is ever progressive and endless. Its full expression makes it unconquerable in the world." Adam Michnik, leader of the Polish nonviolent movement that helped end the Cold War, made a similar point: they had "discovered the political equivalent of the Atom bomb" — for People Power had done what an A-bomb could not do, namely to

bring about freedom and justice for Poland.

The nuclear disarmament movement of the past 60-years has a strong record of using nonviolent resistance. In 1955, a handful of people joined Dorothy Day in openly flouting mandatory national "civil defense" drills, meant to prepare the populace for nuclear war. In 1961, 2,000 people demonstrated and brought an end to compulsory participation. Numerous activists have used symbolic actions of nonviolence. In the early 1980's, several thousand people participated in direct actions to shut down Livermore Lab. These acts have been critical—for when destruction has been civilized, civil disobedience is more important than ever.

But we need more. We need to do more of what Gandhi called Constructive Program, actually building alternative social structures; the Nuclear Weapons Free Zone movement is a promising example of this constructive form of resistance. We also need to do more to engage with science and engineering students who are thinking of working for the nuclear weapons labs, for example by collecting signatures for a Scientists' and Engineers' Pledge to Renounce Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Despite the power of the nuclear establishment and the entrenched ideologies of those working within it, it is important not to give up hope that people can and will exercise transformative agency. To keep this hope and to reach out effectively, it is essential to recognize the basic human needs that nuclear weapons work fulfills for the scientists, and to recognize

that they are trying to serve their country.

This belief is very much linked to the emphasis on Person Power within nonviolence. Jonathan Granoff, president of the Global Security Institute writes, "I believe that the mystery that placed the power of destruction in the binding forces of the atom has placed the healing power of love in our hearts and further gifted us with the courage and wisdom to use that power effectively." In the words of Henry Wieman, we must "split the atom of human egoism." This is why it is so important for disarmament activists to embody nonviolence as a living alternative to militarism. Instead of nationalism, we need a "species mentality"; instead of nuclear competition, a recognition of interdependence; instead of arrogance, humility and a recognition of human fallibility. In other words, we must work on disarming our own hearts as we work to disarm the world.

Nuclearism represents our society's powerful commitment to the Untruth of militarism, that violence makes us more secure. NDE combats Untruth through witnessing—bringing out into the open what the government would prefer to remain hidden—the cancers caused to downwinders by the testing, the environmental damage and the security failures. Through their presence and their concern, NDE participants dissolve the great Untruth that nuclear weapons are nothing to



The Peace Pole at the Francis House Community where NDE's Las Vegas office is located. Photo By Greg Tarcznski.

worry about; by focusing on the survivors they break through the psychic numbing brought about by alienating numbers and the overwhelming threat.

By inviting people into an antinuclearist spirituality, NDE helps to create a new culture that enables creative imaging of a nuclear-free world and resistance to the current nuclear system. It helps to create a new faith, a faith in the preciousness of the earth and the possibility of change, which at the same time leads people to new social practices with each other. These social practices, in turn, show the possibility for new social relations in the form of collective security, therefore replacing faith in nuclear weapons, as well as technocracy in general.

This summer I had the beautiful opportunity to go on the Peace Boat, a Japanese cruise ship that organizes global voyages for peace education. I was one of seven Anti-Nuclear Youth Ambassadors from seven nuclear weapons states on the Peace Boat's 50th anniversary voyage in Northeast Asia. The voyage fell on the 60th anniversary of the end of WWII and was a joint effort by Korean and Japanese people to examine the legacies of war and to do truth and reconciliation work.

The voyage also came in the context of the North Korean nuclear crisis and the 60th year of the hibakusha, the atomic survivors, which is why we antinuclear youth were invited. It was so moving to be involved in the kind of citizen diplomacy that was common during the Cold War, aimed at building trust and cooperation among nations by building trust and cooperation among people. We also worked together to create a 2, 5, and 10-year plan for disarming our countries and creating a new system of collective security, in which trust and cooperation combine with international law to create a world in which countries recognize that none are safe until all are safe.

Today, as in the Cold War, we continue to face "a choice between nonviolence and nonexistence," as Martin Luther King, Jr. put it. But since the fall of the Soviet Union, the nuclear threat has fallen out of people's consciousnesses, and we no longer see the kind of mass civil disobedience that were common during the 1980's when people feared for their lives. The nuclear abolition movement today will only grow and be sustainable if it is motivated not by fear but by love for the world and the desire to embody something better. As King said, "I refuse to accept the cynical notion that nation after nation must spiral down a militaristic stairway into the hell of nuclear annihilation . . . I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality."

Edited and reprinted with permission from PeacePower: Berkeley's Journal of Principled Nonviolence and Conflict Transformation. www.calpeacepower.org.

Methodist Weekend

March 17-18

At our annual Methodist gathering we come together Friday evening for prayer and an information session that includes updates on NDE, nuclear weapons, the Nevada Test Site and nonviolent direct action. Saturday morning we will proceed to the gates of the Test Site for a prayer service, led by a Methodist Bishop or Bishops and participate in a nonviolent public witness at the site.

If you are interested in learning more or attending this event, please contact NDE.

Holy Week Peace Walk

April 9-14

Our annual pilgrimage from Las Vegas to the Nevada Test Site will begin on Sunday, April 9 in Las Vegas and conclude at the gates of the test site on April 14, Good Friday. During the walk, we will honor and celebrate the many interfaith religious holidays taking place that week including Buddha's birthday, Passover, Holy Week, Mohammed's birthday and a full moon.

This event is also a walk-a-thon fundraiser for NDE, in which participants will be sponsored for "a-dollar-a-mile" during the 65-mile walk.

We will be walking in the footsteps of a long legacy of peace walkers and spiritual leaders to draw attention to the nuclear dangers that continue to threaten our sacred planet and the community of life.

Our journey will include community-building activities, camping, song, prayer, a peace and justice Seder dinner and the Nuclear Stations of the Cross. Please contact NDE and join us!

Taking Heart in Tough Times

A Retreat with Joanna Macy

May 5-7

This weekend workshop sets our personal spiritual journeys within the context of our global crisis. It brings into focus the silent revolution now occurring: the shift to a life-sustaining society. This noble and necessary adventure, which we call the Great Turning, invites our full engagement and rewards us with new depths of courage, creativity and community. Our time together will include talks, interactive exercises and meditative practices. Come prepared to work hard and fall in love again with life. Full time attendance required.

This retreat is a benefit for NDE and will be held at the San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville, California. Registration is from 4:30-6:30 on Friday evening and the retreat concludes on Sunday with lunch. Costs are on a sliding scale from \$225-\$195 for a private room and from \$195-\$165 for a double room. For further information contact Lorraine at San Damiano Retreat Center, 925-837-9141 x 306 or visit www.sandamiano.org. On-line registration is available.

Joanna Macy is a scholar of Buddhism, deep ecology and systems theory, and is known worldwide for her workshops for activists. Her books include *Coming Back to Life*, *World as Lover*, *World as Self*, *Widening Circles* and translations of Rainer Maria Rilke's poetry. For more information about Joanna and her work, visit www.joannamacy.net.

LENTEN DESERT EXPERIENCE XXV

Celebrating 25 years

of Witness at the
Nevada Test Site
.....

**MARCH 30 -
APRIL 2, 2006**
.....

Christ the King Church
in Las Vegas
& the Nevada Test Site
.....

Registration on Thursday at 4:00 pm

Christ the King Church
4925 S. Torrey Pines Ave.
Las Vegas, NV

followed by dinner, event ends with
lunch on Sunday.
.....

SPEAKERS:

Takashi Tanemori
Fred Sly
Joyce Hollyday
Bill Wylie-Kellerman
Bob Nelson
Terry & Anne Symens-Bucher
Claudia Peterson
Mike Affleck
and others

SPEAKING FROM THE HEART:

Testimony & Healing in the Desert

How do we create peace within ourselves and in the world? How do we speak to those with whom we disagree? How do we communicate across our social, political, religious and economic differences? What does it mean to integrate nonviolence in every relationship in our lives? You are invited to explore answers to these questions in a meeting of those whose lives have been significantly marked by the nuclear age: those who survived the bombing of Hiroshima, those who lived downwind of the Nevada Test Site, those who worked in the nuclear industry, those who were employed at the Nevada Test Site and those who opposed nuclear testing. Share your journey in nonviolence with others who have sought alternative ways of resolving conflicts. By receiving each other with open hearts, we will connect compassionately with the humanity of everyone's choices as a way to create the peace we seek.



Nevada Desert Experience

Nevada Desert Experience (NDE) is a faith-based organization working for nuclear abolition and nonviolent social change. NDE's mission is to stop nuclear weapons testing through a campaign of prayer, education, dialogue and nonviolent direct action. NDE's immediate goals include ending subcritical tests and other war-making preparations at the Nevada Test Site and preventing the return of full scale nuclear testing. Visit our website at: www.nevadadesertexperience.org or call (702) 646-4814.

Nevada Desert Experience XXV

TO MAKE A RESERVATION:

Send this form and
a \$25 deposit per
person to:

NDE
1420 West Bartlett Ave
Las Vegas, NV 89106

info@
nevadadesertexperience.org
(702) 646-4814

"Lenten Desert Experience XXV" • March 30 - April 2, 2006

Name(s): _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip+4

Phone: () _____ E-mail: _____

Cost: Sliding scale \$120 - \$90 (includes meals). No one turned away for lack of funds.

Housing Choice: Limited sleeping bag space available at church.
 We have a block of rooms in a nearby motel; if you are interested we will contact you with the information.
 We can arrange for you to stay with a local family if you have your own transportation.

www.nevadadesertexperience.org

Letter from Louie and Jerry - continued from page 1

tion. In personal and public testimonies, we heard of the growing disparity of the very rich who place the world in peril for corporate and personal greed, and the desperately poor struggling to survive. Our special role (as representatives of NDE) was to underscore the “muscle” for global domination that underlies “superpower might” through the reckless, world-threatening expansion of nuclear weapons by the US.

In our NDE special workshop we explored the connections between the SOA and the nuclear threat. Later, at a panel discussion, the above concerns were reiterated in plenary. Medea Benjamin opened with a view of the progress being made to stop the School of the Americas and the growing solidarity in world-wide movements for justice and peace. We closed with an energizing call to direct the growing nonviolence movement. We called for the closure of SOA/WHINSEC in 2006 and the end of the Iraq war along with a world-wide shut-down of nuclear domination, localized domination by torture anywhere, exploitation of the vulnerable and the taking of lives “to save lives.”

The net result is that our efforts are succeeding. Though we could be on the verge of global annihilation, we are on a course to transform this possibility into the dawn of a “new creation” where peace, justice and integrity of all



Patrick Finn tabled at the SOA rally and made many connections with people from the Midwest and East Coast. Photo by Sr. Megan Rice, SHCJ.

creation are on the horizon. The persistence of “old warriors” still marching in procession and crawling under the fence and the growing life force of the youth signals to all of us a new hope not yet experienced for sometime – “nosotros venceremos” – “we shall overcome.”

**A special note of gratitude to Laura Slattery and Zac Moon for their participation and expertise at the NDE Workshop in Ft. Benning.*

If you wish to write to Louie and Jerry, please use the following address and their proper names (Louis and Jerome): Muscogee County Jail, 700 10th St., Columbus, GA 31901-2899

New Experiment in Reconciliation and Nonviolent Communication - continued from page 3

Our relationships were forged with some members of the security forces, with a few people who did leave their jobs at the test site and with some Nevada Test Site officials. These people changed me, even as I thought my job was to change them. The change was not switching from thinking that they were wrong to thinking they were right. It was in my love. My judgments fell away. It seems fitting that as we mark LDE XXV, we also go back to the roots of our campaign and attempt anew to be in specific, personal relationships with those whose strategies for security and peace differ from ours.

Speaking From the Heart, Lenten Desert Experience XXV, will bring together a diverse group of individuals that have been actively affected by nuclear technology; those from within the nuclear industry and those adversely impacted by the nuclear age. We will then implement a Reconciliation Forum as a way to promote connection and reconciliation between participants by enabling each to understand the human needs behind his or her choices. By using the skills and consciousness of Nonviolent

Communication combined with a restorative justice form known as Council, we hope to create compassionate connection and understanding among those attending. I have become convinced that this is the path to peace.

As We Enter Our 25th Year - continued from page 2

are blessed to have this encounter be facilitated by Fred Sly, a certified trainer of Nonviolent Communication and volunteer mediator with the Victim/Offender Reconciliation Program of Mendocino County. Fred performs mediations with those struggling for peace, harmony and understanding in their relationships, and is working statewide to shift the current punitive justice system toward restorative justice.

One quarter of a century ago, the founders of NDE embarked on an experiment of nonviolence. Lenten Desert Experience XXV plans to celebrate our commitment to active non-violence by engaging in a new avenue of the experiment. LDE XXV promises new risks and new steps towards the actualization of the beloved community.

That is why I will lure her into the desert and there I will speak to her heart. And I will make a covenant with the birds of heaven and the creeping things of the earth. I will remove all weapons of war from the land, all swords and bows, and will let my people live in peace and security. (Hosea 2:14, 18)

Nevada Desert Experience is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, so your donations are tax-deductible. If you need a receipt for your tax records, please let us know. We are happy to provide receipts for your donations upon request.

**Nevada Desert Experience
1420 West Bartlett Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89106**

Congress approved 20-million dollars of funding for "Enhanced Test Readiness" (to make it faster to return to full-scale underground nuclear testing) at the Nevada Test Site for fiscal year 2006.

Nonprofit Organization

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming NDE Events

One of the key components for NDE is the experiential aspect of bringing people to the desert for spiritual rejuvenation. We have several events planned to bring folks to Las Vegas and the Nevada Test Site.

Bob Hurd, liturgical composer and performer, will conduct a fundraiser for NDE on **February 12** at 7.30 p.m. at St. Monica's Catholic Church, 1001 Camino Pablo, in *Moraga, California*. For more information contact Anne Symens-Bucher at sbjpic@excite.com or 510.536.3772, ext. 113.

Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Vigil at the Nevada Test Site. **March 1**, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information contact Megan at the Las Vegas NDE office.

The **United Methodist Lenten Desert Experience** will take place **March 17-18**. All are welcome!

Lenten Desert Experience XXV will be held **March 30 - April 2**. This event will be held at Christ the King Catholic Community in Las Vegas and at the Nevada Test Site. The theme

is *Speaking from the Heart: Testimony and Healing in the Desert*. Speakers include Takashi Tanemori, Bob Nelson, Joyce Hollyday and Bill Wylie-Kellermann.

The **Holy Week Peace Walk 2006** is scheduled to begin **April 9**. Walkers begin their trek from Las Vegas on Sunday and conclude the walk on Good Friday, **April 14**, at the Nevada Test Site. This event is also a walk-a-thon fundraiser for NDE.

Retreat with Joanna Macy: Taking Heart in Tough Times. Macy, a scholar of Buddhism, deep ecology, and systems theory, will conduct this retreat to benefit NDE from **May 5-7** at the San Damiano Retreat Center in *Danville, California*. For more information contact Lorraine at 925.837.9141, ext. 306 or visit www.sandamiano.org.