

Desert Voices

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Earth, Wind, Fire & Water An Environmental Justice Teach-In Gard Jameson / John Hadder Judy Treichel March 14-15

When the ancients referred to the basic elements of life, "the stuff of the universe," they spoke in terms of Earth, Air, Fire & Water. The sun was often worshipped. The clean air blew in their faces and they breathed deeply. Pure water was precious and all land was sacred. Now at the beginning of the 21st century, we cannot help but ask what has happened? The weather has become more violent. The rains have diminished greatly. Our lakes and rivers are disappearing. In many places the water and air are unsafe to drink or breathe and the land itself appears tortured and is dying. What has happened?

The Nevada desert is a land of great beauty and harshness, of gentle delicacies and very sharp and pointed edges. Living here, we know the fire of the summer sun, the importance of life-giving water, the winds and the beauty of the land and its mountains. Sadly, even with its unique capacity for survival, our Nevada desert is now threatened. What can we do?

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Complex Transformation Public Hearings

The Bush Administration's proposal, Complex Transformation, seeks to consolidate current nuclear facilities and increase the production capabilities of material for new nuclear weapons. Billions may be spent on the pretext of nebulous future threats.

It is possible to stop this process as environmental regulations require public comment and a series of 13 public hearings have been scheduled starting on February 21st, in North Augusta, South Carolina and ending on March 19, 2008 in Livermore, California. Other cites include Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Amarillo, Texas, Tonopah and Las Vegas, Nevada, Albuquerque, Los Alamos and Santa Fe, New Mexico and Tracy, California.

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Frs. Zawada & Vitale in happier times at NDE. Jerry has recently been released from jail and Fr. Louie is expected to be released on March 14th.

Torture on Trial by Peter Ediger

A brilliant rainbow arched over the Tucson sky Monday afternoon, February 4, offering a cosmic blessing to the conclusion of a trial in federal court for Betsy Lamb, Mary Risley and Fr. Jerry Zawada, who by their moving testimony, in effect turned the table on their prosecution and put torture on trial.

Guided by their veteran peace movement attorney, Bill Quigley, they had stipulated to the "facts" of their case, and were found guilty of trespass and failure to obey an officer. Then, prior to sentencing, Judge Jacqueline Marshall allowed each of the defendants to speak at length about what had brought them to their prayerful nonviolent protest action at Ft. Huachuca, the home of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and interrogation training school.

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Thank you Chelsea!

Could any peace movement have been blessed as our NDE community has been these past two years with so gifted and youthful a coordinator? Indeed we had experienced Chelsea Collogne's thoughtful, ever-considerate presence as a part-time assistant to Amy Schultz during Chelsea's final months at UC Berkeley. From June 2006, until this January, Chelsea combined her commitment to lead in all aspects of NDE as its "focalizer" with a growing awareness of a need to serve as a Catholic Worker in Albuquerque. Chelsea will continue as coordinator of this year's Sacred Peace Walk. We shall miss her gentle wisdom, as much as we thank her for her service.

Comment on War

Langston Hughes

Let us kill off youth
For the sake of *truth*.

We who are old know what truth is-
Truth is a bundle of vicious lies
Tied together and sterilized-
A war-makers' bait for unwise youth
To kill off each other
For the sake of
Truth.

.....
• 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.
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NevadaDesertExperience.org



Chelsea Collogne on the 2007 Sacred Peace Walk

Job Announcement NDE Executive Coordinator

NDE is still accepting applications for an Executive Coordinator. Full details are posted on our website: NevadaDesertExperience.org.

Complex Transformation *continued from page 1*

Letters can also be sent to:

Theodore A. Wyka
Complex Transformation
SPEIS Document Manager
Office of Transformation, NA-10.1
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Clearly we need to honor the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and dismantle our nuclear stockpile. More information may be found at:
http://www.fcnl.org/issues/item.php?item_id=2158&issue_

Las Vegas Public Hearings March 6th

Atomic Testing Museum
755 E. Flamingo Road
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Please join us at this very important hearing and voice your opposition to Complex Transformation.

Torture on Trial *continued from page 1*

Despite their physical ills—Mary in a wheelchair weak with the flu, Betsy and Jerry weary from having endured a sleepless night in cold, overcrowded holding cells—each in turn spoke with articulate passion of their deep concerns, citing numerous sources documenting the practice of torture, and sharing from personal experiences with torture victims. Listening attentively and obviously moved by the testimony, Judge Marshall engaged the witnesses with good questions and some humorous exchanges in an hour-long conversation. When Betsy suggested that it is really not the three of them who should be on trial here, and that the Judge instead should put the government on trial, she asked, "and how would I do that?"

In the end, Judge Marshall rejected the prosecution's recommendation for extended incarceration for Fr. Jerry Zawada, given his record of numerous previous actions, and ordered the same sentence for each defendant: two years supervised probation, a \$5,000 fine with option to do 500 hours of Community Service @ \$10 per hour, and freedom to include in the community service their participation in education and protest actions promoting their cause as long as it is done legally.

A "Festival of Hope" celebration on the evening prior to the trial, attended by some 200 people, gave further witness to the growing movement to put torture on trial and reaffirmed strong expressions of support for Mary, Betsy and Fr. Jerry, as well as Fr. Louis Vitale and Fr. Steve Kelly, who are to be released in mid-March from their five month incarceration for their earlier protest action at Ft. Huachuca in November of 2006.



April 1st 2007 Peace Walkers at the Nevada Test Site

Photo: Mario Intino

Teach-In *continued from page 1*

Please join us beginning Friday, March 14 and Saturday, March 15 for a time of thoughtful conversation and community building. While focusing on environmental issues we will do the important work of inner dialogue also so that we might walk more gently on our journey and learn to act with thoughtful recognition of our need to renew and sustain our environment.

Complete conference information is available at www.NevadaDesertExperience.org or call Megan or John at (702) 646-4814.

Earth, Wind, Fire, & Water Environmental Justice Teach-In March 14th-15th Registration Form

Cost:

Adults: voluntary sliding scale \$20.00 - \$50.00

Students and Seniors: \$15.00

**Full & partial scholarships
are available upon request.**

**Early registration is greatly
appreciated to help facilitate
planning for food and the days' logistics.**

Thank you!

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name _____

Phone# _____

Address _____

Email _____

Please make checks to:

**Nevada Desert Experience
(On the memo line please write
Environment Justice Teach-In)**

Send Registration to:

**Nevada Desert Experience
1420 W. Bartlett Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106**



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



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

Please visit www.NevadaDesertExperience.org for the latest news about the Test Site and the nuclear abolition movement.

Nonprofit Organization

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SACRED PEACE WALK 2008

**Please Send This To: NDE ,1420 W. Bartlett Ave.,
Las Vegas, NV 89106**

- ☐ I am coming on the Sacred Peace Walk (March 17th-23rd).
I will arrive on _____
- ☐ I am recruiting sponsors in this walk-a-thon journey.
- ☐ I would like to receive a packet of readings
on desert spirituality and walking for peace.
- ☐ I am able to make a deposit of \$50 at this time
(total cost will be \$150, with no one turned away for lack of funds)
- ☐ I can't make the walk this year,
but I would like to sponsor another walker for \$_____.
- ☐ I am interested in being part of a gathering on March 14th and
15th to explore the theme of Environmental Justice.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Special Needs _____

Calendar 2008

Pacific Life Community Retreat: Feb. 29th - March 1st
at Vandenberg Air Force Base

Earth, Wind, Fire, & Water: Environmental Justice
Teach-In: March 14th-15th in Las Vegas

Sacred Peace Walk: March 17th-23rd from Las Vegas
to the Nevada Test Site, additional action on the 24th

July Desert Witness: July 16th @ the NTS remembering
Trinity Bomb Day

August Desert Witness & Teach-In: August 7th - 9th

Bridge to Forgiveness:
An exhibit by Takashi
Tanemori, hibakusha and
artist at the Atomic Testing
Museum in Las Vegas,
August 6th-31st

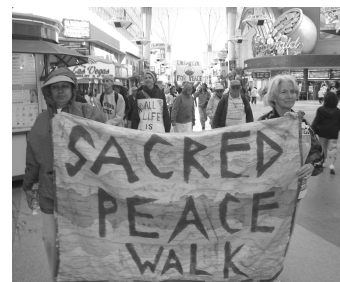


Photo: Alan Senauke