



Desert Voices

The Newsletter of Nevada Desert Experience • Volume 25, Number 2 • Summer 2012
ISSN 1539-9869

Sacred Peace Walk and NDE Take Flight!

The participants of this year's Sacred Peace Walk (SPW) were particularly cohesive and relaxed together. These walks are truly a blessing of spirit and politics, colored with the ever-changing, ever awe-inspiring desert light. A sampling of their beautiful reflections is scattered about the photos of the SPW and other important actions and events that Nevada Desert Experience attended or organized over the past four months. See page 4 for

important event announcements. Other news items are inside too. NDE continues to need your financial support. We especially are looking for a few, new **Friends of the Desert** who can make contributions at least three times a year. Help our actions grow and our swamp coolers running. The rest of the country may be as hot as Las Vegas right now, but we still have the desert light that magically transforms the colors of rock throughout the day! ☽



Fr. Louis, Robbie, Rev. Felicia and Dennis briefly stopped traffic from entering Creech AFB to operate drones during the Sacred Peace Walk. Clark County later dismissed the charges. Later, other walkers created a gauntlet of peace signs for cars exiting the base to drive past. (Photos: Anderson) ☽

Reflections on the Wind

by Eleanor Amidon

The wind was relentless.
It did not let up for our convenience or comfort,
ignoring human conventions of lunch time,
supper time, ritual time,
Sweeping all clean,
Blowing away our insensitivities, racing by our
ears, reminding us of its power.
Blowing against us as we walked, we knew we
were walking against the current.
We are walking against a current of human
ignorance.
We are walking to awaken awareness of how we
are impacting our mother, the earth.
We are walking to free ourselves from
unhealthy desires, and listening for a better
way.
We must learn from the wind.
Be relentless.
Do not let up.
Embrace the earth, and all life upon it.
Cleanse and clarify your thoughts, then
express them.
Open your heart to your sisters and brothers.
Share your feelings and your knowledge.
Surround all, with heart. ☽



I'm really thankful I got to be there,
to meet people who have the
same concerns, to learn more
about the Nevada Test Site, about
NDE and about the Shoshone
Nation.

-Cecilia Chavez

The Sacred Peace Walk reminds
us that prayer is an active process
to engage in, not a passive wish to
indulge in.

If you're not careful, you'll get
sunburns, blisters, and life changing
experiences.

-Cody Meyocks

Photo, Above: Cecelia flashing a peace sign and
carrying 1,000 paper cranes, a gift of peace from
Japan. The wind helped make Mark's flag's message
of "PEACE" full and unrumpled. (Photo: Haber)

Photo, Right: Harry "Goodwolf" Kindness leading
a stretch of the final day of walking with his Eagle
Staff. (Photo: Markey) ☽

The Sacred Peace Walk is an amazing
integration of an individual's mind and
body that also gathers and leads people
towards social justice.

-Robbie Majors



Healing Wounds with Willows of Hope

by Mary Lou Anderson

The Shoshone Mothers Day Walk/Run is anchored in the intention of praying for the healing of Mother Earth. By offering walking prayers and the planting of many willows in a symbolic gesture of strength and re-birth for the tainted soil from years gone by of nuclear weapons testing and radioactive fallout.

In Goldfield, everyone walked through town carrying sacred staffs and symbols of peace and an end to all nuclear weapons. As we approached the southern edge of Goldfield, Donzie and Deanna again began their walk of healing. As we took a break in the hot, desert sun, we reflected upon the damage of the earth caused by man, and the intentions of the Shoshone never to forget, by planting Willows of hope and healing. ♪



After an interfaith prayer service and blessing we started walking to the Strip, the bright lights and ostentatious hotels and casinos for which Vegas is famous. The reality far exceeds its reputation. I was stunned by the elaborate gardens, waterfalls, and lush landscape of the glitzy city, all using precious water in the desert. We walked with signs, banners, poles flying 1000 origami paper cranes folded by people in Japan for this peace group. I found a palm in a trash can and waved it, my tribute to Palm Sunday. We drummed and sang and called out peace blessings to all around us, most of whom ignored us completely. The people on the strip did not even make eye contact.

-Rev. Carolyn Metzler



If you want to find out more about who you are and where you stand spiritually, politically, do this walk.

-Rev. Felicia Parazaider

Photos, Left, Top to Bottom: A willow planted during the Shoshone Walk/Run. (Photo: Anderson) Eunice, Robin, Stephanie and Adelle on Fremont St. during the Peace Walk's "in town" day. (Photo: Smith) Tommy's drumming during the Creech actions united police, military personnel and demonstrators as we all were impelled by his driving beats. (Photo: Anderson) Dennis and Iris' life-affirming banner. (Photo: Anderson) **Right, Top to Bottom:** The Western Shoshone Walk/Run in Goldfield. (Photo: Haber) Laura-Marie in prayer, with straight-forward sign. (Photo: Anderson) Johnnie Bobb explaining Shoshone history and world-view to NTS security (Photo: Lai) ♪



I've never been to a place like this, where people are working together like this for good--what a peaceful place to stay and work together with friends. I couldn't say thank you enough times. The peace walk was everything I thought it could be and more. I've never felt quite that kind of companionship of friends working toward a cause. The meaningfulness of our walk sustained me for many miles of walking. The desert is so beautiful, and I felt one with it.

My perceptions are changed, and I feel richer now. I go through life accumulating experiences, and this was a valuable one that changed me. When I look inside myself, I see something new. Keep up the good work and never lose faith in your mission.

-Laura-Marie Taylor



Getting arrested was beautiful. My favorite part of the entire walk was when John Amidon sang "Oh, Great Spirit" to me while the cop was writing my ticket and I was about to be released. I also loved the cheers of friends as I crossed the line. It was a great culmination.

-Laura Marie Taylor



Join & Support Nevada Desert Experience

We are grateful for your prayers and financial contributions!
Almost all of our income is from individuals, not grants.

Nevada Desert Experience

1420 W. Bartlett Ave.
Las Vegas NV 89106

702.646.4814, Twitter: NVDesertExp
info@NevadaDesertExperience.org
<NevadaDesertExperience.org>

Find and Friend NDE on Facebook!

NDE does not share our list; nor do we send lots of e-mail, but it is very helpful for the distribution of time-sensitive news.

Nevada Desert Experience is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible. Ask us for a receipt if you need one.

I want to be a NDE Friend of the Desert

Donating \$ _____ monthly or quarterly. THANK YOU!

Enclosed is my contribution of:

\$500 \$125 \$75 \$50 \$35 other _____

Want us to contact you about something specific?

Sacred Peace Walk August Desert Witness Nukes
Immersion or Internship Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

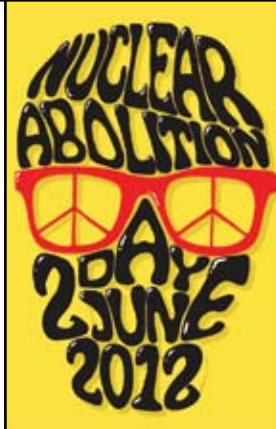
Phone _____

E-mail _____

Check here if you don't want physical mailings from NDE.



Chicago Anti-NATO Action Photos, clockwise from top left: A rally organized by nurses unions, veterans of **Voices for Creative Nonviolence** peace delegations carried pictures of Abdulai (who is presently applying for a US Visa) of the **Afghan Peace Volunteers** and wore blue scarves as part of an APV awareness campaign. (Photo: Haber) Unidentified demonstrator with sign in lobby of building where Pres. Obama's reelection headquarters is during Catholic Worker action against NATO summit (Photo: Anderson) Jim shrouded in die-in at Boeing offices (Photo: Anderson) NDE gave out artistically provocative cards for



ICAN's Nuclear Abolition Day. Mary Lou and Jim join Vets for Peace's Will, Elliot, Dennis and Ralph in photo with Iris' banner. ☺

NDE Council Members Thank you!

Welcome to new members of the Nevada Desert Experience National Council, our board of directors: Iris Wolfe and Peggy Maze-Johnson. Thank you, Joe Kennedy and Allan Aedmonson, outgoing members of the Council. Your care and input were appreciated. ☺

Still Nevada Desert Experience After All These Years

At the NDE National Council's April meeting, **Nevada Desert Experience** was reaffirmed as the organization's name. Without a strong preference to change the name in the advisory runoff between **Nevada Desert Experience** (no change) and **Nevada Desert Peace Witness** the Council decided to avoid the cost and confusion associated with changing a 30 year old name. ☺

The Ediger Memorial Interfaith Celebration of Active Nonviolence

A stimulating afternoon and evening of
dynamic, thought-provoking presentations,
workshops and music

Sunday, September 23, 2012
3:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Islamic Society of Southern Nevada
4730 East Desert Inn Road, Las Vegas

Complementary Refreshments and Dinner
Free Admission (\$10 donation suggested)

Presenters include:

Vincent Harding, Veterans of Hope Project

Kathy Kelly, Voices for Creative Nonviolence
(just back from another trip to Afghanistan)

Mary Litell, Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service and
Capacitar International

Rae Abileah, CODEPINK Women for Peace and
Young, Jewish & Proud

Ahmed Younis, Silatech, Director of Strategic
Partnerships and Communication

The Choir of St. James the Apostle Catholic Church
[Free Child Care; RSVP to Jim Haber at Nevada Desert
Experience. Other questions? Contact Jim.]

Jim Haber, 702-646-4814 <Jim@NevadaDesertExperience.org>

Desert Voices is produced by NDE Coordinator Jim Haber.
Editorial assistance by Mary Lou Anderson.

Fr. Steve Kelly, SJ, recently released
from prison for the Disarm Now
Plowshares action, in the guise of
Jake of the Blues Brothers. Kelly
visited NDE briefly, running, but NOT
"on the run," full of good humor
and anti-nuclear power. Blessings
also on his co-conspirator, **Susan
Crane**, who has a 7/23 probation
revocation hearing.



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



Nonprofit Organization

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

August Desert Witness August 5 - 9

August 5, 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Book Reading and Signing with Medea Benjamin

Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control

Emergency Arts, 520 Fremont Street (NW Corner of 6th and Fremont)

Come hear Medea Benjamin, co-Founder of the organization

CODEPINK: Women for Peace, read from her new book, *Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control*. This is an excellent conversation starter and well-rounded introduction to the subject.

Benjamin is great at connecting the dots, raising ethical questions and speaking passionately. The **Beat Cafe** will be open, and the event will be in the Common Gallery on the first floor.

August 6

Protest Against the Largest Drone Trade Show in the World

Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI)

Meets at Mandalay Bay Convention Center

8000 People from 40 Countries

If you want to help be a fly in the ointment of this new killing machine's smooth running, check in with NDE as plans develop further with other allies.

August 8, 6:00 pm

Breaking Bread in the Name of Peace

Sekhmet Temple, Cactus Springs

Dinner and discussion in synch with the 67th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Nagasaki

Spend the night in the guest house or your tent if you want to be near the Nevada Test Site for the Sunrise Ceremony in the morning.

August 9, 5:00 to 8:00 a.m.

Nagasaki Day Vigil of Resistance and Sunrise Ceremony

Nevada National Security Site (Mercury exit on US-95)

Join Johnnie Bobb, friars Louis Vitale, Jerry Zawada and friends for sunrise in memory of all victims of nuclearism. Take offramp for Mercury; make U-turn before you cross the line to the NNSS; demonstrator parking area is off the road on the right almost all the way back to the freeway overpass. It takes about 65 minutes to drive to the NNSS from Las Vegas.

August 9, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Educational Picket at the National Atomic Testing Museum

Greet visitors to this museum that is devoted to remembering the Cold War in all its nuclear glory...and not much about the horror. We will informally supplement the discourse and remind people of the ongoing fallout of the nuclear arms race since 1945 as we memorialize the victims in Nagasaki and Hiroshima. National Atomic Testing Museum, 755 E. Flamingo Road.

PEACE PARTNER HAPPENINGS

☞ July 22 to Aug. 6: **Pacific Northwest Interfaith Peace Walk: For a Nuclear Free Future-In Respect for All Life.** Portland to Seattle. Contact Br. Senji Kanaeda 206-780-6739 <senji@nipponzan.net>.

☞ Aug. 3 to Aug. 6: **Vision Without Fission: Un-Occupy the Nuclear Weapons Complex.** Everywhere, especially Santa Fe & Los Alamos, New Mexico <NukeFreeNow.org>.

☞ Aug. 12 to Sept. 12: **Caravan for Peace with Justice & Dignity** <mexico@globalexchange.org>. Special congrats to Hakim, Afghan Peace Volunteers mentor and friend of NDE's for receiving his US visa to join this march and also receive an award from FOR. Please visit <<http://vcnv.org/thank-you-for-your-help-hakim-recvied-his-visa>>.