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Building Bridges for Love

Dear Peace-loving People,

We think of you from this desert, as the weather turns cool. Our garden here at Nevada Desert Experience breathed a sigh of relief when fall arrived, and the fall blooms here in Las Vegas were beautiful. Some cactus that blooms in late spring finds the energy to bloom again in fall, as it relaxes. Feels like a new beginning.

Peace work is something to live for. Ming and I visited the Nevada National Security Site for Mother's Day this year and prayed at the line. We sang and talked to the guards there, one of whom we know from years of test site interactions. This particular Lieutenant was present when **Ming and I got married at the line in 2014**. Many of our friends say "Don't talk to cops," but we talk to cops, guards, and people who work for the military, to extend love and build bridges. We have to try.

For Trinity Day in July, we did a ritual here in the NDE courtyard, asking Mother Earth for forgiveness for the harm done to her water, air, plants, animals, soil, and people. In 1945 when the **first nuclear bomb test** was carried out, the world changed forever. Prayerful resistance is a NDE tradition, and it's an honor to do this work that many others have done before us.

Then when it was time for Shut Down Creech at the end of September, Ming and I vigiled at the Air Force Base one morning, with many other activists from groups like CodePINK and Veterans for Peace. I enjoyed dancing with a friend--I liked to do a dance ministry, dancing joy to that place of pain, where drone pilots kill people remotely, extrajudicially, as part of a normal day's work.

I've sung at Creech Air Force Base, cried, held signs, held hands, watched people I love get arrested, been part of a performance art funeral procession. Dancing was new, and I'm sure my friend and I confused some people. But I'm willing to try many ways to speak my truth. I want to model interacting with the world in way that's grounded in embodied honesty.

Some people believe they have no choice but to participate in the war machine and other harmful systems of violence. With Ming and many NDE friends, I'm privileged to vision another way. I'm blessed to have



the support to carry out something more creative than war.

Thank you for keeping Nevada Desert Experience in your hearts as we continue to make peace in this desert. Pandemic changes some of what we do, but our connection to Mother Earth doesn't change. We're rooted in willingness to speak the truth.

Thank you for the ways you stand for surprise cactus blooms, love, second chances, and respecting all people, even people who do harm. We all do harm, sometimes.

Please consider donating to Nevada Desert Experience to support our anti-nuclear peace work and create a more just world.

Love to your new year and the light that you shine,

Laura-Marie River Victor Peace Nopales
NDE Council Member and Co-Office Manager



Nevada Desert Expressions 2

The second issue of Nevada Desert Expressions is available to view on our website. Please read for thoughts about Palestine, nuclear abolition, and fatherhood, as well as beautiful art.

<http://nevadadesertexperience.org/lit/desertvoices/Nevada%20Desert%20Expressions%20Vol%2034%20No%202.pdf>

Announcement of Employment Opportunity

Nevada Desert Experience is hiring a Volunteer Coordinator. Please view the job description at this link and share with anyone who might be interested.

If you would like to help inspire people of faith, justice, and peace to focus positive energy against nuclear violence at the NNSS and against drone violence at

WE'RE HIRING!

PAID P/T VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR



Nevada Desert Experience

seeks an enthusiastic activist
to organize annual **events**, recruit **volunteers**,
create **social media** campaigns,
and assist with **fundraising**.

Join an interfaith nonprofit working
to end nuclear weapons and drone warfare!

Salary \$1,200/month

Based in Las Vegas, NV area

See full job description at www.nevadadesertexperience.org
Send inquiries to Ming Lai at rkmlai@nevadadesertexperience.org

<http://nevadadesertexperience.org/coordinator/>

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