



Gratitude, News and an Appeal

Dear Friends of Nevada Desert Experience,

The work and spirit of NDE over the past 40 years has never been more needed than the present moment, and we are grateful for the material and spiritual support of our friends to meet the challenges of this precarious and dangerous time of catastrophic climate chaos and escalating threat of nuclear war.

With the lifting of most of the COVID-19 restrictions of the last couple of years, NDE is rebuilding its momentum- in April, the Sacred Peace Walk was resumed with a smaller but robust contingent and in October, we held “Justice for Our Desert” in Las Vegas, the nuclear test site and points in between. In January, we plan on having a float in the coming Martin Luther King Day in Las Vegas, with the second anniversary of entry into force of Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as its theme.

We are working closely with other organizations and communities in Nevada, around the US and internationally, working to promote justice and end war. Also, in March of this year, I was hired as “outreach coordinator” for NDE and Vera Anderson as “volunteer coordinator.” Vera and I have both been active with NDE in various capacities for a long time and are excited to be working together with NDE’s council and other good friends.

These past months working with NDE, I think of how Dorothy Day often spoke of the “duty of delight” and also of the poet Wendell Berry admonition, “it is the time's discipline to think of the death of all living, and yet live.” While we must acknowledge and engage in the bloody and dangerous reality of the world as it is, we are equally obliged to find beauty, hope and grace in that struggle.

Our songs and prayers and laughter are as crucial to survival as our sober analysis and our acts of civil resistance. Our thanks to those who help us in this crucial and delightful work, with prayers, participation in our events, donations of cash, time and labor.

Please help us in this coming year. You can donate online using the button or the QR codes below or mailing us a check.

Blessings of the season!

Brian Terrell, for the NDE community

Justice For Our Desert



Over the weekend of October 14-16, Nevada Desert Experience celebrated a revival of “Justice For Our Desert.” The event began on Friday evening with a concert featuring Eileen & the In-Betweens, a social justice indie folk group based in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and local artists, including NDE’s own Vera For Love. The work of area artists was on display and in between sets, local and national activist spoke about the threats of climate change and militarism to the Nevada Desert and the planet.

The event’s venue was The Gather Place on Fremont Street, downtown Las Vegas. Good food, music and conversation were shared with old comrades and new friends. Saturday morning friends met at the NDE headquarters on Bartlett Street on the North side of Las Vegas for breakfast before setting out for two days in the desert.

Our first stop was The Corn Creek Desert Wildlife Refuge, taking some time to learn about and appreciate the endangered desert environment. After lunch some hiking around this beautiful oasis, we moved up Rte. 95 to the gates of Creech Air Force Base in Indian Springs. Creech AFB is the center of drone warfare and assassination for the U.S. military and the CIA. NDE began protesting there in 2009. The evidence is clear that war from a distance by remote control is an instrument of terror that exacts a horrific toll on civilians abroad and moral injury on troops at home.

After an hour-long vigil at Creech, we went further down the road to the Mercury exit and pitched our tents at Peace Camp, across the highway from the Nevada National Security Site (N2S2 or NNSS), known as the Nevada Test Site (NTS). The NNSS, established on land stolen from the Western Shoshone nation, was the primary testing location of American nuclear devices from 1951 to 1992; 928 announced nuclear tests occurred there, making it the most bombed place on earth.

Today it continues as the site of “subcritical” nuclear tests and other research for new nuclear bombs and for the “life extension” of old ones. NDE has witnessed for justice at the test site for more than 40 years. The Catholic Worker community in Las Vegas brought us a delicious supper, and we had more music around the campfire before turning in.

On Sunday morning before sunrise, Johnnie Bobb, of the Western Shoshone Nation, led us in a

sunrise circle of prayer and gratitude. Activists coming to a weeklong “Shut Down Creech” protest starting that day expanded our numbers. After breakfast, we processed through the tunnels under the highway from Peace Camp to the gate of the NNSS. After a time of reflection and prayer and some powerful words spoken to local police and guards employed by the US National Nuclear Security Administration, NDE council member Karen Pettit, NDE outreach Coordinator Brian Terrell and John Amidon crossed into the NNSS in an act of nonviolent resistance.

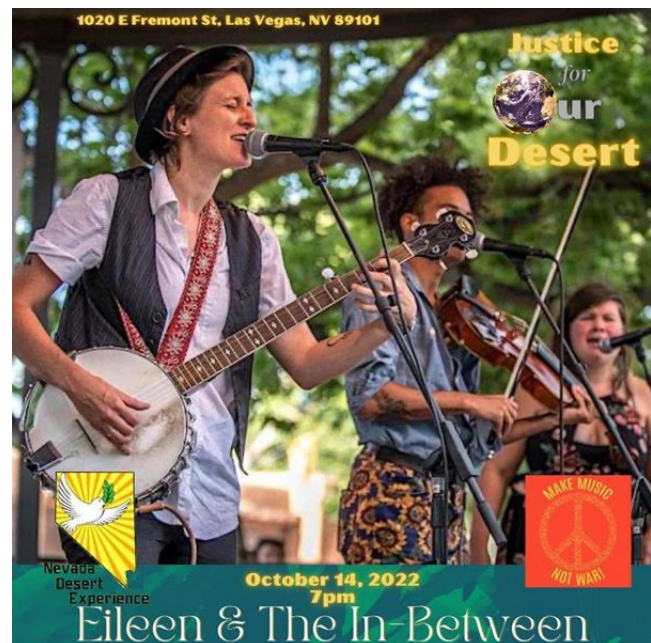
Even though the three held permits to be on their land from the Western Shoshone National Council, they were arrested and briefly held before being released by the Nye County Sheriff's Dept. Karen was given a warning, but John and Brian, repeat “offenders,” were charged with criminal trespass and have been summoned to appear in court in Beatty, Nevada, on January 23. John and Brian hope to argue their innocence with a vigorous and complete defense.

Leaving the test site, before returning to Las Vegas we had respite and refreshment in Cactus Springs at the Temple of Goddess Spirituality.

Justice For Our Desert coincided with the 60th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis, October 1962. Especially in light of climate disasters the war in Ukraine, the expansion of drone warfare and the new generation of US nuclear weapons, the global threat is even more dire than it was 60 years ago.

In these dark times, Nevada Desert Experience continues to resist prayerfully, joyfully and with hope and love.

Justice For Our Desert, kicking off with a cultural event in Downtown Las Vegas



Add a title



Vera for Love, singing for peace!

Karen and Brian, pulling in passers by on Fremont Street for the best show in Vegas!



Saturday the band, Eileen and the Inbetweens, came with us to Creech Air Force Base

Sunrise at Peace Camp, prayers with Johnny Bobb of the Western Shoshone Nation



In the tunnels under Hwy 95, between Peace Camp and the Test Site

Civil Resistance against nuclear weapons!
Brian, John and Karen in police custody





at the end of the weekend, Peace at the Goddess Temple



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