



Nevada Desert Experience

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Justice for Our Desert, October 6,7,8



Join NDE and other activists, artists, poets, musicians and mystics for 3 days in Las Vegas and the desert in October, opening Friday evening the 6th with a concert and open mic in the city. Saturday morning yoga and meditation at Spring Mountain Ranch Park, and afternoon prayer vigil at Creech Air Force Base, camping that night at the Temple of Goddess Spirituality. On Sunday morning a communal art project in the tunnels under Hwy 95 between historic Peace Camp and the Nevada National Security Site in Mercury, followed by peace vigil at the NNSS gate.

NDE councilor Karen Pettit tours the tunnels and gives some history of art and activism at the NNSS, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YAlp5xHT908>

More information will be provided closer to the date. Please let us know if you are coming from out of town and need accommodations.

CODEPINK's "Summer of Peace"



DNE is supporting CODEPINK's focus on movement building this summer. After the war in Ukraine started people were asking where the peace movement was. You are here! We are here! But when the only visible message is one for war and weapons, standing up for peace can feel isolating. So the Summer of Peace is about showing how popular peace really is. It's about being loud, brave, and audacious in any way you can big or small! The Summer of Peace is already underway. CODEPINKers across the country have already been organizing, calling, protesting, and more, and we're just getting started. If you're in, we already have one thing you can do today. To make this as effective as possible, we need to have as many people as possible! Kick off the summer of peace by forwarding this message to five of your friends. You can start your summer as a movement builder. Follow this link to learn more and take the Pledge to Peace! <https://www.codepink.org/summerofpeace>

Sacred Peace Walk 2023 Podcasts

(Alan Winson of Bar Crawl Radio, a podcaster from New York, joined NDE's Sacred Peace Walk in April and produced an eight part program)

Towards the end of World War II – my country detonated atomic bombs over Japanese cities, immediately killing thousands of civilians and thousand more soon after and maiming thousands for the rest of their lives.



I was born in 1949 -- My generation was taught that this military action was required to end the war – And I bought it -- Since 1945, our world has filled with more powerful atom bombs – -- in the hope that the threat of mutual destruction will dissuade their usage. So far – besides Nagasaki and Hiroshima – we have been lucky – but for how long?

I am Alan Winson – this year for Passover – I walked with peace activists of the Nevada Desert Experience, from Las Vegas to Creech Air Force Base – the center of U.S drone warfare – and then to the Nevada Nuclear Test Site –where -- until the early 1990s, my country detonated over 1000 atom bombs.

The craters that were left have been used to train astronauts navigating the lifeless terrain of the Moon. I wanted to learn why-- for the past 40 years -- people of various beliefs and ethnicities gathered in Las Vegas, to walk the 60 miles to the entrance of the Nevada Nuclear Test Site where armed military stopped them at a broad white line in the road -- why each year they went to plead for an end to nuclear armament – when the need is so dire and change so impossible.

<https://shows.acast.com/bar-crawl-radio/episodes/desert-walk-1-las-vegass-atomic-museum>

<https://shows.acast.com/bar-crawl-radio/episodes/desert-walk-2-day-1-at-the-nde>

<https://shows.acast.com/bar-crawl-radio/episodes/desert-walk-3-walk-on-the-strip-talk-with-darcy-ike>

<https://shows.acast.com/bar-crawl-radio/episodes/desert-walk-4-it-snows-in-the-desert>

<https://shows.acast.com/bar-crawl-radio/episodes/desert-walk-5-why-do-we-walk>

<https://shows.acast.com/bar-crawl-radio/episodes/desert-walk-6-creech-reach-around-the-globe>

<https://shows.acast.com/bar-crawl-radio/episodes/desert-walk-7-walk-to-the-white-line>

<https://shows.acast.com/bar-crawl-radio/episodes/desert-walk-8-the-white-line>

Two Test Site Protestors Sentenced; Eight More Facing Charges

July 10, 2023

Brian Terrell

"While more serious consequences will require more serious considerations before activists 'cross the line' at the test site, they will only, in the end, make for more serious resistance there."

This morning John Amidon and I 'appeared' in Beatty Justice (sic) Court in Nevada via telephone and according to the agreement we reached with the Nye County District Attorney, pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor charge of trespass from a protest in October, 2022. Judge Gus Sullivan subsequently sentenced us each to a \$500 fine, \$200 of this payable upfront, the remaining \$300 suspended on the condition that we do not enter the property of the Nevada National Security Site, NNSS, the nuclear test site, for one year.

Another added stipulation was that we 'stay out of trouble,' not violate any laws, over the next year. Judge Sullivan's previous rulings indicated that had we appeared in court today as scheduled, we would not have been allowed to raise any rational defense to the charge. His ruling that he had 'no jurisdiction' to determine whether our action was a 'peaceable assembly' to address grievances with the National Nuclear Security Administration and Department of Energy as protected by the first amendment, is not unusual in such cases. Likewise, his ruling excluding evidence of the illegality of the work done at the NNSS, the small inconvenience our protest caused versus the danger to Nevada and the planet with nuclear waste and weapons production is routine.

Unique to Beatty Justice Court, though, is Judge Sullivan's ruling that while the court lacks the jurisdiction to determine who owns or legally occupies the land in question, it does have jurisdiction to try a trespass case on that same land! While land ownership is a key element in any trespass prosecution that must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt to secure a conviction, in our case this consideration was ruled irrelevant. The Western Shoshone nation's clear title to the land and our permission from Western Shoshone National Council to be on that land would not be allowed as evidence. Apparently, the court would only consider that there were 'no trespassing' signs at the line and that we ignored them. A conviction was assured and it seemed a waste of time and resources to travel so far, me from Iowa, John from New York, to say nothing.

While I have pleaded out and have paid fines, it was never before in the context of a negotiated agreement with the state. After more than 45 years of activism and about 200 arrests, most of these for trespass, cutting a deal with the war makers and the lawyers who protect them does not rest easily with me, especially based to as it is to some extent, on my part, on personal convenience as much as on the court's muzzling of our relevant testimony.

In negotiations, the DA assured me that I would be jailed for up to six months if I went to trial today and due to my record, I feel that I needed to expect to do substantial time. Over the years, I have spent about two years all told in jails and prisons and I know that jail witness can often be more powerful than what is allowed in court. But this is not my time. In the next few months, I have family and work obligations, both with Nevada Desert Experience and home on our farm in Iowa, that are particularly pressing. I am also committed to travel to Europe to protest at NATO nuclear sharing sites in the Netherlands and Germany in August. I could have considered just not showing up in Beatty Justice Court today and take the penalties later, but on top of my criminal records in several countries, an active bench warrant might be an inconvenience getting in and out of the country.

Out of many hundreds of trespass arrests at the test site over more than 30 years, John's and mine are only the second and third cases to be actually filed and not dismissed. Eight more activists were arrested and charged there on Good Friday, the end of the Sacred Peace Walk in April, and these are considering their options. While more serious consequences will require more serious considerations before activists 'cross the line' at the test site, they will only, in the end, make for more serious resistance there.

NDE Coordinators Joining Protests of U.S. "Nuclear Sharing" in Europe

August 4- 15, Vera Anderson and Brian Terrell, NDE coordinators, will be joining a delegation from the U.S. and European activists to protest U.S. nuclear weapons in the Netherlands and Germany.



Both the Volkel Air Base in the Netherlands and Büchel Air Base in Germany each maintain approximately 15-to-20 U.S. hydrogen bombs known as B61s* as part of NATO's so-called "nuclear sharing" program in which foreign fighter jets and their pilots routinely rehearse attacks on Russia using the U.S. H-bombs.

Alarming, in the midst of the ongoing war in Ukraine, operation "Air Defender 2023," NATO's largest-ever nuclear attack exercise, ran from June 14 to 23 in the skies over Germany. War plans involved in the practice included U.S. F-35s, F-15s and F-16s from the U.S., Turkey and Greece; Eurofighters from Spain and the U.K.; German Tornados; U.S. and Finnish F/A-18s; Hungarian Gripens; and U.S. A-10 ground-attack jets, according to CNN. The A-10 jets fire the controversially toxic and radioactive shells known as depleted uranium munitions.

Coordinated by the Amsterdam Catholic Worker community, Peace Camp Volkel runs from August 4 to 10 and is focused on "climate and a future without nuclear weapons." Participants from around Europe and the United States will conduct nonviolence trainings, and blockades, "go-in" actions, and other protests. On 10 August, the U.S. activists will travel from Volkel to Kail, Germany for four days of protest actions directed at the Büchel Air Force Base, which, like Volkel, is now undergoing major renovations in preparation for the delivery of replacement weapons, the new B61-12 thermonuclear gravity bombs, now in production in the United States.

Vera and Brian will be reporting along the way on NDE's Facebook page.

for more information, call JOHN LaFORGE, 715-472-4185;
715-491-3813, and FRITS TER KUILE, Amsterdam NR:
+31-6-3029-5461;

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1420 West Bartlett Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89106
(702) 646-4814
info@NevadaDesertExperience.org
NevadaDesertExperience.org