Sacred Peace Walk, MARCH 23-29, 2024

In this season of wars, a worldwide refugee crisis and the climate thrown into chaos, when the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists moves up its doomsday clock to 90 seconds before midnight, the Nevada Desert Experience invites you to join us in an event of hope and resistance in the desert.

Over Holy Week, March 23-29 this year, as for most of the past 40 years, NDE will host The Sacred Peace Walk, an interfaith journey of approximately 60 miles from Las Vegas to the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS, formerly the Nevada Test Site) through the Mojave in Nevada, on the beautiful traditional lands of the indigenous Western Shoshone and Paiute peoples.

The NNSS, established on land stolen from the Western Shoshone nation, was the primary testing ground of American nuclear devices from 1951 to 1992; 928 announced nuclear explosions occurred there, making it the most bombed place on earth. Since then, it has continued to be the site of “subcritical” nuclear tests and other research for new nuclear bombs and for the “life-extension” of old ones.

"TICKLING THE DRAGON'S TAIL" at the Nevada Test Site and Killer Drones at Creech AFB

Even as we walk to the NNSS in March, it is expected that parts for the new “Scorpius” linear induction accelerator will arrive there before we do. This machine, the length of a football field and 1,000 feet below the ground when completed in four years, would conduct experiments with high-energy bursts of X-rays and plutonium.

Government scientists call these experiments “tickling the dragon’s tail” and insist that they are necessary to ensure that the aging stockpile of nuclear weapons will be “good to go” if the decision is made to use them and exterminate most life on the planet.

Creech Air Force Base, about halfway from Las Vegas to the test site, is the center of drone warfare and assassination for the US military and the CIA. NDE began protesting there in 2009 and since then war
from a distance by remote control has grown to be a staple of US policy, and instrument of terror that exacts a horrific toll on civilians abroad and moral injury on troops at home.

The walk will end at the NNSS with a "Nuclear Stations of the Cross" procession from the historic Peace Camp to the gates. With permission of the Western Shoshone National Council, some will enter the test site, risking arrest. After more than 30 years of not prosecuting activists arrested at the NNSS, local authorities have recently begun charging those who cross their line with trespassing.

March is a beautiful time to camp in the desert along the way and there may be limited indoor accommodations. Walkers are asked to bring their own camping gear, but some equipment is available to borrow. Support vehicles will follow along the route to provide water, snacks, first aid supplies and porta-potties. All meals will be provided. You are free to walk the portion of each day’s route that is comfortable for you. Volunteers are needed each day to support the walk by providing/serving meals, driving support vehicles, donating snacks and supplies, and other tasks.

Please Register!

The suggested registration fee for the SPW is $125 general, and $75 for veterans, seniors and students for $20 per day. For more information, to register or make a donation go to the SPW web page or call Brian at 773-853-1886.

NDE in New York, Supporting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Representing NDE, Vera and Brian participated in events around the second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) from November 27 to December 1, at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

On Thursday, November 30, Brian was among 18 activists arrested for “disorderly conduct” after blocking the doors at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. An eight foot long sticker was affixed to windows which read, “U.S. sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.”

As the only country to explode a nuclear weapon for use in war, the United States is key to getting nuclear nations on board. However, they won’t even send an observer to the historic gathering though the U.S. Mission to the United Nations is just across the street. This would allow the other eight nuclear powers to consider doing the same, then all could ratify the Treaty together and implement a warhead disarmament regimen, backing humankind away from 78 years of teetering at the edge of the nuclear abyss.

Kelly Lundeen of Nukewatch stated, “Nuclear Weapons have been banned. The world has spoken. I’m here as a U.S. citizen to stand in solidarity.” Martha Hennessy of the New York Catholic Worker, said, “I
can't be silent or passive in the face of the nuclear saber rattling, Gazan genocide, and U.S. expansion of our nuclear arsenal, all in violation of our treaty law.”

'The 100 U.S. nuclear weapons now deployed in Europe (under 'nuclear sharing' policy) are destabilizing and they risk escalation or accidents. Withdrawing them would bring the Sharing countries into compliance with the Nonproliferation Treaty,” said John LaForge of Wisc. who was with the group.

Brian with Martha Hennessy of the New York Catholic Worker, November 28. After a rally at the "Isaiah Wall" across the avenue from the United Nations including testimony from survivors of the atomic bombings of Japan and members of indigenous communities impacted by nuclear weapons tests, more than 100 people marched to the diplomatic missions to the UN of each of the nuclear armed states, ending with the Russian mission.