525 Attend Millennium 2000 Event!

by Anita Ulmanovitz

"Where were you at the turn of the mil-

The Newsletter of Nevada Desert Experience • Volume 13, Number 1 • February 2000

leum?" Surely, such a question, one that celebrates the unity and differences that characterize human experience, will continue to be asked for decades to come. And certainly, the 500 nuclear abolitionis-

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nts who gathered at the Nevada Test Site on New Year's Eve will have especially pre-emptive responses to this question. At least 313 of these brave souls were ar-

rested shortly after midnight as their candlelight procession crossed the line, in a what has been called the first use of or-

ganized civil resistance for the year 2000. The midnight prayer-action marked a cli-

max of a four-day event held primarily at Bishop Gorman High School in Las Ve-

gas, NV. This gathering, Millennium 2000: Walking the Ways of Peace, was the latest major event sponsored by Ne-

vada Desert Experience (NDE).

The New Year's Eve event followed an intense day of seminars and work-

shops, which included talks given by Rabbi Mel Hecht, Reverend Joyce Holysday, Bishop Tom Gambleton, Dr. Rosalie Bertime, and Fr. Dan Berriag, SJ. The weekend also included the following pre-

senters and performers: abolitioni-

st author Jonathan Schell; dancer Carla De Sola, Shoshone spiritual leader Corbin Harney, musician Jesse Manibuian, com-

poser Janice Freemant, Bishop Daniel Walsh, noted Muslim activist Ibrahim Abdil-Ma'lid (Cayten Rammy), Franciscan Sister Rosemary Lynch, and John Dear, SJ. Participants came from as far away as Japan, Canada, and Belgium to visit the Site, where about 1000 nuclear

tests have occurred, the last nine of which have been subsurface nuclear "experi-

ments". Among the individuals who walked a half-mile from Peace Camp to the entrance of the Test Site were repre-

sentatives of various faith traditions and political organizations, including presiden-

tial candidates Brad Llytle (Peacefest Party), Eric Thompson (Reform Party), and David McReynolds (Socialist Party). The candlelight march was led by Johnnie Eobb, a Western Shoshone Marshall, carrying the flag of his people. Bishop Gambleton, Corbin Harney, and Fr.loth Vyle (co-founder of NDE), were also at the front of the march.

Older veterans of the peace movement linked arms with young, nonviolent anar-

chists as the group wove its way toward
Joyce Hollyday: Millennium 2000 Reflections

by Joyce Hollyday

...We all need to become multilingual for our survival; to hear the cries for justice and the petitions and praises to God in whatever language and posture they are offered. Only then will the violence cease. I stand here with deep gratitude today, because you have helped me to learn...

I am grateful for two decades of being among these ranks. And I say that being mindful and so grateful for those who paved the way for decades before I arrived on the scene. I have moved [to the Sojourners community] in 1977. Within a few months, we began to see something new happening in our neighborhood: piles of furniture and clothing on the curbs possessions that belonged to people who had been evicted from the homes they had lived in, sometimes for decades. Our inner-city neighborhood was undergoing a process called "gentrification." Wealthy, usually white, professional couples were moving in and displacing people, sometimes several families at once, in the tenement across the street from us, six families, all women with children, were told they had to leave. Their home had been bought by real estate speculators, who were going to sell it for a 100 percent profit. Five families left immediately.

One day a knock came on our door. It was Katherine, who wanted to fight for her home. She wanted our help. Several members of Sojourners moved in with them, sleeping bags and toothbrushes. They were arrested very early the next morning for trespassing...In the eyes of the world, it is a crime to move into a building in the middle of the night and try to help a poor woman keep her home. The night of December 20, 1977, was a turning point, briefly shut down traffic in both directions as they marched across an intersection and the media missed out on it," she said. Page. NDE's Las Vegas Manager.

Many described the event as a spiritually exhilarating experience. On January 1st the Rev. Joyce Hollyday commented on the divine power in the desert as contrasted with the urban spectacles, noting that revelers' experiences of multi-million dollar celebrations in Las Vegas were probably "nothing compared to what we had out there at the Test Site." There were more simple pleasures coming that evening. After sundown on New Year's Day about 150 of the Millennium 2000 participants formed an inspirational vigil and the media missed out on the last day of the event. This is the offer to equip regional groups with information and action alerts regarding nuclear weapons testing. Pile invited the people to accept the small duty to stop the planet from us. It's not just subcritical tests and pounds of plutonium...in the ground when they conduct that test, but also the waste from the development of that plutonium is going to end up out here...These weapons of mass destruction...are ultimately killing us, not just the humans, but every living thing." Michele Xenos of Shundahai assured the crowd that the people's presence and prayers in the desert bring profound happiness to the desert plants, animals, and other creatures. The NDE Board and staff hope that Millennium 2000 will reinvigorate the faith-based anti-nuclear movement in North America. One of NDE's specific plans to continue enfleshing this contribution was introduced on the last day of the event. This is the offer to equip regional groups with information and action alerts regarding nuclear weapons testing. Pile invited the people to accept the small duty of becoming a "NAG" (NDE Affiliate Group). You can read about NAGs elsewhere in this issue of Desert Voices, or on the Nevada Desert Experience website: www.NevadaDesertExperience.org.

ANJA ULANOWICZ lived and worked at the Tacoma Catholic Worker from 1998-1999. She is currently pursuing graduate work in English at the University of Pittsburgh.
"protective" glasses applauded the power and beauty of the colorful fireballs and mushroom clouds that rocketed into the sky in the 1950s.

It was March 1991, the 10th year of organized Lenten protests at the test site. Desert Storm had just been unleashed against the people of Iraq, prepared for here in the Nevada desert. On March 8, the day after my tour, a large throng of peaceful people crossed the white line and... Things don't always go the way we plan them. But I always think of my D.C. neighbors when they don't... We never know what might come of our small efforts. I think of Fr. Roy Bourgeois, scrambling up a tree and blaring taped sermons by Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador at soldiers at the School of the Americas. Last [November] 12,000 people gathered to protest at the School of the Americas.

I have seen the power of the human spirit to overcome the greatest of evils...this is the power that comes when people are willing to trek the loneliest road in the world to be tested and transformed in the desert. (ARTWORK: YOUR DWELLING PLACE BY MEINRAD CRAIGHHEAD)

And I think of friends in South Africa. I made my first visit there in the spring of 1988, back when that country was still very much in the stranglehold of the system of racial hatred known as apartheid. I went to South Africa at the invitation of church leaders there, at a time when the church was under siege from the South African government. Church leaders were receiving death threats and several had been arrested during a march a few weeks before. I urge us not to underestimate the power of that which convicts us. Not to underestimate the power of the good news whatever religious tradition it comes from for you to change the world.

As I traveled throughout South Africa that first time, I asked virtually everyone I met if they thought apartheid would end in their lifetime. Everyone said: "no"... The only exception to this typical response came from a 10-year-old boy in the township of Mamelodi, outside Pretoria. I asked him if he thought that his children would get to grow up without apartheid. He got a determined look on his face, raised his fist, and said, I will see to it. And see to it he did along with hundreds of thousands of other South Africans. Apartheid has been declared illegal, and Nelson Mandela was elected the first black president of South Africa. I returned in 1997 to observe the astounding work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for six weeks. The country that at one time was arguably the most divided and violent on the globe is now shining a beacon of hope as it works toward healing and reconciliation. Nothing is impossible with God as long as there are willing vessels to carry out God's work.

This is not easy work and sometimes hope is hard to find. Lent of 1991 was a time in my own life that seemed hopeless. On Ash Wednesday, the allied forces in the Persian Gulf bombed the Amariya shelter in Baghdad, killing hundreds of Iraqi women and children. That same night, a malfunctioning civil defense siren wailed eerily over Washington, sending the city into a panic about a terrorist attack. I stayed awake late into the night, realizing that such terror was real and a regular part of life for the children of Baghdad. I was kept awake by other sirens as well—sirens of police cars or ambulances, sounds of a drug raid or another shooting in the neighborhood.

My neighborhood was indeed a war zone. In the span of a few months, three teenagers were killed on its streets—one stabbed, two shot. One had been in the Sojourners day care center as a child, and all three had participated in our after-school program. The world was not at all the way I wanted it to be. Too many children were dying in Washington as well as Baghdad. I decided to keep a fast during Lent, as (see Holiday, on page after poster)
Nevada Desert Experience presents LENTE

Palm Sunday College Student Weekend in the Desert

Co-sponsored by the Wesley Foundation at UC Berkeley and the Catholic Campus Ministry at UNLV • April 14-16, 2000

Join retreat leaders Cindy Pile and Schuyler Rhodes for a retreat in Las Vegas and in the desert near the Nevada (Nuclear Weapons) Test Site, as we explore our faith in the context of the continuing nuclear age.

We claim the love of God in Jesus Christ while our taxes pay for the continuing construction of six nuclear warheads each day. We follow the Prince of Peace while our Universities are major sites for nuclear weapons research and development.

How are Christians who seek an authentic life of faith called to respond?

As we sit on the edge of Holy Week, watching Jesus enter the city to the sounds of cheers and waving branches, what are we to think? How are we to respond? Where does our God call us to focus, to live and to pray?

Together, we will plumb the depths of the connection between spirituality and action.

Join us.

Where? Catholic Campus Ministry at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas

When? April 14-16

How Much? $50

What should I bring? Sleeping bag, pillow, towel and toiletries, teddy bear, bible, musical instruments, note pad and pens.

How do we get there? A Van will leave from the Wesley Foundation Parking Lot on April 14th at 9:00 am. Trip is free. We will return Monday afternoon (approximately 3pm). If you’re coming from elsewhere, please call us at (510) 549-1244 or (510) 849-1540.

And what are we going to do once we get there? We hope that the group will work together to set some of our agenda. But here is a rough outline of our schedule:

FRIDAY AFTERNOON: Arrive at Interfaith Student Center at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

FRIDAY EVENING: Gathering, Dinner, Worship and Bible Study

SATURDAY: Workshops, Prayer and Reflection Groups

SUNDAY: Bless the Holy Week Walkers, Drive to the Nuclear Test Site to worship God and reclaim the land for peace, hope and healing. SUNDAY AFTERNOON: Departures

Send to: Nevada Desert Experience, P. O. Box 46645, Las Vegas, NV 89114-6645

Name: ____________________________ 

School: ____________________________ 

Campus Address: ____________________________ 

Phone: ____________________________ 

E-mail: ____________________________ 

Campus Ministry: ____________________________ 

Campus Pastor: ____________________________

Who to contact in case of emergency: ____________________________ 

Address: ____________________________ 

Phones: ____________________________ 

I’d like to help plan worship. I’d be interested in assisting in leading prayer groups.

I’m interested in the possibility of Civil Resistance/risking arrest at the Test Site.

Enclosed is $50 for my registration plus $________ voluntary donation to help with scholarships. (Make checks payable to Wesley Foundation)

I’m interested in applying for a scholarship. I will contact you at (510) 549-1244

Nevada Desert Experience, P. O. Box 46645, Las Vegas, NV 89114-6645, Ph

Ash Wednesday Services • Palm Sunday Services

Embark on a Lenten Practice

Ash Wednesday Services (Mar. 8):

9:00 a.m.: St. Bonaventure Church

5562 Clayton, Concord, CA

12:10 p.m.: St. Mary’s Cathedral, 1111 Gough (at Geary) San Francisco, CA

3:30 p.m.: Wesley Foundation, United Methodist Ministry at Cal, 2398 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA

7:30 p.m.: St. Ignatius (USF) 650 Parker (at Fulton), San Francisco, CA
PILGRIMAGES, Walking the Ways of Peace

Prayer/Action at Livermore Labs
Tom Gumbleton

Prayer for Peace in Our World
Lawrence Livermore (March 9):
The next morning gather for prayer and action at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory: 7:00 a.m.: meet at the corner of East and Vasco Roads in Livermore, CA (take the Vasco Exit off I-580, go south to the corner of Vasco and East). For more info contact Cindy Pile at Nevada Desert Experience, Northern California office: (510) 849-1540


Holy Week Peace Walk to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

From Las Vegas to the Nevada (Nuclear) Test Site
Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday (April 16 - 23, 2000)

Spend a week with Nevada Desert Experience praying, walking, eating, vigiling, camping, laughing, chanting and just liv- ing in the powerful desert. The annual 65 mile trek stretches from Las Vegas to the Nevada Test Site. Since 1951 the U.S. has contaminated the desert with radiation by exploding about 1,000 nuclear weapon tests. Each year the U. S. Department of Energy explodes more multi-mil- lion dollar subcritical nuclear bombs at the Site. Come walk in prayer for the healing of this beautiful desert.

Palm Sunday, April 16: Walk through The annual 65 mile trek stretches from Las Vegas to the Nevada Test Site. Since 1951 the U.S. has contaminated the desert with radiation by exploding about 1,000 nuclear weapon tests. Each year the U. S. Department of Energy explodes more multi-mil- lion dollar subcritical nuclear bombs at the Site. Come walk in prayer for the healing of this beautiful desert.

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just returned from three years in Laos. God. There, like other pilgrims to the
third week of Lent, I came back here. of peace.
comes when people are willing to trek the
spiny branches outstretched like arms to-
dedness, and streams in the desert; and a
called the Holy Way” (Isaiah 35: 6, 8).
tions. to be vessels of transformation, in a
one day or more in space. Los Alamos remains chiefly devoted
to answer your questions and offer the
fee for this retreat will be $15 per day.
fee for this retreat will be $15 per day. For information on registration you may contact
at the Washington Monument. The vigil, which is open to people of all
faiths; is being organized and sponsored by
of violence. For despite its campus-like atmo-
sphere, Los Alamos remains chiefly devoted
production. already substantially greater than Cold War levels in constant dollars, is grow-
ing again. In effect, these weapons are not
necessary support. You can resist
by regular snail mail to: Greg Mello, Los Alamos Study
Group, 212 East Marcy Street # 7, Santa Fe,
NM 87501. Call 505-982-7747 if you have any
questions. Or see the NDE website:
BILt/ WHITE PASSES ON
Frieb July 7, 2000, a week after his 73 birth-
day, Bill White passed over to the other side.
The world lost one of its kindest, gentlest, bravest souls to cancer that day. Bill White drove the support vehicle for NDE’s Holy Week Peace Walks for the past 4 years. His ashes will be scattered so he may reunite with his beloved mother earth. We will miss him.
by Marc Page

January and February 2000 have been active months for nuclear abolitionists in Nevada. On January 11th the Department of Energy (D.O.E.) held a final hearing for the public to speak about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Yucca Mountain (which is designated to be the only high-level nuclear waste dump for the United States). Right next to the Nevada Test Site. At the same time the waste dump for the United States), right next to the Nevada Test Site (NTS). In my short time in Southern Nevada, the dedicated and passionate volunteers with Shundahai Network have taught me well about the inextricably linked problems of nuclear bombs and nuclear waste.

At the end of January members of Shundahai Network organized resistance to the D.O.E.'s path of nuclear violence. Individuals with the Alliance of Atomic Veterans, NDE, and other organizations joined these prayers, media events, and direct actions at the North Las Vegas D.O.E. headquarters, Las Vegas Federal Building, and the Nevada Test Site (NTS). In my short time in Southern Nevada, the dedicated and passionate volunteers with Shundahai Network have taught me well about the inextricably linked problems of nuclear bombs and nuclear waste.

Although resistance to nuclear weapons testing in NDE's focus, the entire industrial-cultural nuclear battlefield is a circle around the neck of humanity, just as the business of weapons production and testing are linked to the social injustice of poverty, so are nuclear wastes from weapons and power plants linked by environmental injustice. The threat of violence to humans is implicit in the production of a single nuclear weapon is actual violence to cellular tissues and many complex organisms (including humans) right now in this generation, and the radioactive materials will continue to cause untold actual damage to life for generations to come.

On January 6th, while riding in a Shundahai van through Las Vegas pulling a trailer with a mock nuclear waste tank (to publicize the proposed high-level radioactive waste shipments the D.O.E. wants running through Las Vegas to Yucca Mountain), we had a megaphone to alert the public of their chance to speak out against the irresponsible violence of the D.O.E.

It was then, as we charmingly and obstinately moved through the poor and wealthy neighborhoods, that I realized we were unwittingly part of a long and honorable tradition. The wild, outrageous founder of the Old Testament did the same as the Shundahai folks are doing now. Many messages of the ancient prophets were essentially the same as our nuclear abolitionist message: "Change your ways of darkness and foolishness! Turn back to the cleanliness and good ways of Our Creator! Cease your immorality towards your neighbors, your relations, your environment! For if you don't you will suffer! You will have disease and pestilence and cancers strike you and your offspring! Your descendants will be slaughtered if you don't return to the healthy ways of our foremothers and fathers our ancestors who tended the land and respected the power of God's Wisdom and Love. Do the right thing or else!"

Corbin Harney has led many prayer services as part of NDE events in the past ten years. In 1994 Corbin initiated the Shundahai Network to further the continual cause of stopping nuclear testing, stopping nuclear waste dumping at the NTS, cleaning up the NTS and receivership stewardship of it to the Western Shoshone Nation, voicing Native perspectives on the nuclear chain, and multi-cultural networking.

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A MESSAGE FROM BOARD MEMBER AND 
Millennium 2000 Visionary

by Chris Montezano

"If the West continues to neglect the spiritual heritage of the East, it may hasten the tragedy that threatens man [sic] and his civilizations."

—Thomas Merton 1967

What has inspired me about the Nevada Desert Experience is that it regards the integration of different religious traditions as a key tool to the abolition of nuclear weapons. For me the [Millennium 2000] event showed what power lies in joining the Spirit to work among us. We have a long road ahead of us to eliminate war and nuclear weapons. If all of us continue to work together to bring to this problem the best in Native traditions along with the best of the traditions of the East and West, we will be successful in averting "The tragedy that threatens man and his civilizations." Pope Paul II recently ended his sermon on a gathering for Christian Unity with this word said in many different languages: "Unity! Unity!"—"Let us continue to work together!"

We wish to thank all of the speakers and presenters for their inspirational presentations. A special thanks to the NDE staff and all those who participated in the committees that made this event a success. Also we want to thank Shundahai Network volunteers for the beautiful preparation of the Peace Camp. And a thank-you to all who participated in this event, many of you who were new [to NDE]. Please come again and bring with you more new people!
ON THE ROAD WITH CINDY PILE (call 510 849-1540 for info)

Be sure to invite the locals to attend Cindy's presentations!

March 11-12: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Windsor, CA (preaching)
March 16-19: Reno
March 25-27: University of Arizona, Tucson
May 6: North American Conference of Associates and Religious Conference

Stop Testing Nuclear Weapons Everywhere Forever!

U.S. CONDUCTS NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING!
A Dozen Plutonium Bombs Are Being Exploded This Year at the Nevada Test Site.

Calendar of Faith-Based Nuclear Abolition Events

March 8, 2000: Ash Wednesday prayer at Nevada Test Site; 6:00 am to 8:00 am; (see poster) for more info call (702) 646-4814
March 8, 2000: Ash Wednesday preaching by Detroit Bishop Tom Gumbleton in San Francisco Bay Area (see poster inside this issue) for more info call NDE California at (510) 849-1540.
March 9, 2000: Lenten Action for Disarmament at Lawrence Livermore National Lab; (meet at East & Vasco) for more info call NDE California at (510) 849-1540 (see poster inside this issue)
March 9 - April 13, 2000: Lenten Desert Experience at the Nevada Test Site continues (various days of limited vigilling at the Nevada Test Site gates) call (702) 646-4814 for more info.
April 1, 2000: Lenten Desert Experience part 2: Quakers & Unitarians Vigil at the Nevada Test Site.
April 14 - 16, 2000: College Student Palm Sunday Weekend in Las Vegas and at the Nevada Test Site. Co-sponsored by NDE and the Wesley Foundation, for more info call (510) 549-1244 or (510) 849-1540 (see poster).
April 16 - 23, 2000: Holy Week Peace Walk; Las Vegas, NV to Mercury, NV & Peace Camping (see poster)
May 7 - 13, 2000: Native American Walk & Run For the Damaged Land; Warm Springs to Mercury; for more info call Johannie Bobb of the Western Shoshone Nation, Yomba Tribe (753) 964-2210
May 12 - 15, 2000: Mothers' Day Vigil at the Nevada Test Site; for more info call Shundahai Network (702) 646-4814
May 22 - 26, 2000: Silent Buddhist Retreat at the Los Alamos National Lab; (see 'Nuclear News & Notes' on page 6) for more info call Greg Mello or Sophia Phillips of Los Alamos Study Group (505) 982-7747 <gmello@lasg.org>
July 4, 2000: Vigil at the Washington Monument in D.C.; sponsored by NDE as part of the People's Campaign For Nonviolence; for more info call Cindy Pile at (510) 849-1540 (see 'Nuclear News & Notes' on page 6 of this issue)
August 9, 2000: LANL 2000 Protest; at Los Alamos National Labs, New Mexico, contact Peace Action NM (505) 982-4842
October 16, 2000: A Day Without the Pentagon; Regional activities including Prayers for Peace at the Nevada Test Site.
January 27, 2001: Remember Operation Ranger; 50th anniversary of nuclear bombing at the Nevada Test Site. For more info email Charlie Hilfenhaus of the Alliance of Atomic Vets, chilfenhaus@juno.com or call Marc Page of NDE, (702) 646-4814

Stop Testing Nuclear Weapons Everywhere Forever!

Nevada Desert Experience
FRANCISCAN FRATERS OF CALIFORNIA
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Action Alert: The Pentagon wants to spend $1.9 billion on National Missile Defense (NMD), as part of their "Strategic Nuclear Program". In March, tell your Congressman or Congresswoman 'No S for NMD' (To find your Congressman's number, call: (702) 224-3121). In April, tell Madeleine Albright: "No need for NMD", In May tell Bill Cohen: 'No to NMD', In June tell Bill Clinton & the National Security Council!