Sacred Peace Walk and NDE Take Flight!

The participants of this year’s Sacred Peace Walk (SPW) were particularly cohesive and relaxed together. These walks are truly a blessing of spirit and politics, colored with the ever-changing, ever awe-inspiring desert light. A sampling of their beautiful reflections is scattered about the photos of the SPW and other important actions and events that Nevada Desert Experience attended or organized over the past four months. See page 4 for important event announcements. Other news items are inside too. NDE continues to need your financial support. We especially are looking for a few, new Friends of the Desert who can make contributions at least three times a year. Help our actions grow and our swamp coolers running. The rest of the country may be as hot as Las Vegas right now, but we still have the desert light that magically transforms the colors of rock throughout the day!

Reflections on the Wind
by Eleanor Amidon

The wind was relentless.

It did not let up for our convenience or comfort, ignoring human conventions of lunch time, supper time, ritual time,

Sweeping all clean,
Blowing away our insensitivities, racing by our ears, reminding us of its power.
Blowing against us as we walked, we knew we were walking against the current.
We are walking against a current of human ignorance.
We are walking to awaken awareness of how we are impacting our mother, the earth.
We are walking to free ourselves from unhealthy desires, and listening for a better way.
We must learn from the wind.

Be relentless.
Do not let up.

Embrace the earth, and all life upon it.
Cleanse and clarify your thoughts, then express them.
Open your heart to your sisters and brothers.
Share your feelings and your knowledge.
Surround all, with heart.

I’m really thankful I got to be there, to meet people who have the same concerns, to learn more about the Nevada Test Site, about NDE and about the Shoshone Nation.

-Cecilia Chavez

The Sacred Peace Walk reminds us that prayer is an active process to engage in, not a passive wish to indulge in.

If you’re not careful, you’ll get sunburns, blisters, and life changing experiences.

-Cody Meyocks

Photo, Above: Cecelia flashing a peace sign and carrying 1,000 paper cranes, a gift of peace from Japan. The wind helped make Mark’s flag’s message of “PEACE” full and unrumpled. (Photo: Haber)

Photo, Right: Harry “Goodwolf” Kindness leading a stretch of the final day of walking with his Eagle Staff. (Photo: Markey)

The Sacred Peace Walk is an amazing integration of an individual’s mind and body that also gathers and leads people towards social justice.

-Robbie Majors
I've never been to a place like this, where people are working together like this for good—what a peaceful place to stay and work together with friends. I couldn't say thank you enough times. The peace walk was everything I thought it could be and more. I've never felt quite that kind of companionship of friends working toward a cause. The meaningfulness of our walk sustained me for many miles of walking. The desert is so beautiful, and I felt one with it. My perceptions are changed, and I feel richer now. I go through life accumulating experiences, and this was a valuable one that changed me. When I look inside myself, I see something new. Keep up the good work and never lose faith in your mission.

-Laura-Marie Taylor

Healing Wounds with Willows of Hope

by Mary Lou Anderson

The Shoshone Mothers Day Walk/Run is anchored in the intention of praying for the healing of Mother Earth. By offering walking prayers and the planting of many willows in a symbolic gesture of strength and re-birth for the tainted soil from years gone by of nuclear weapons testing and radioactive fallout.

In Goldfield, everyone walked through town carrying sacred staffs and symbols of peace and an end to all nuclear weapons. As we approached the southern edge of Goldfield, Donzie and Deanna again began their walk of healing. As we took a break in the hot, desert sun, we reflected upon the damage of the earth caused by man, and the intentions of the Shoshone never to forget, by planting Willows of hope and healing.

After an interfaith prayer service and blessing we started walking to the Strip, the bright lights and ostentatious hotels and casinos for which Vegas is famous. The reality far exceeds its reputation. I was stunned by the elaborate gardens, waterfalls, and lush landscape of the glitzy city, all using precious water in the desert. We walked with signs, banners, poles flying 1000 origami paper cranes folded by people in Japan for this peace group. I found a palm in a trash can and waved it, my tribute to Palm Sunday. We drummed and sang and called out peace blessings to all around us, most of whom ignored us completely. The people on the strip did not even make eye contact.

-Rev. Carolyn Metzler

Getting arrested was beautiful. My favorite part of the entire walk was when John Amidon sang “Oh, Great Spirit” to me while the cop was writing my ticket and I was about to be released. I also loved the cheers of friends as I crossed the line. It was a great culmination.

-Laura Marie Taylor

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-Laura-Marie Taylor
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Find and Friend NDE on Facebook!

NDE does not share our list; nor do we send lots of
e-mail, but it is very helpful for the distribution of time-sensitive
news.

Nevada Desert Experience is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
Donations are tax deductible. Ask us for a receipt if you need one.

I want to be a NDE Friend of the Desert
Donating $____  monthly or __ quarterly. THANK YOU!
Enclosed is my contribution of:
$500  $125  $75  $50  $35  other _____

Want us to contact you about something specific?
Sacred Peace Walk  August Desert Witness  Nukes
Immersion or Internship  Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Name ________________________________________
Address _______________________________________
City, State, Zip __________________________________
Phone _________________________________________
E-mail __________________________________________

Check here if you don’t want physical mailings from NDE.

NDE Council Members
Thank you!

Welcome to new members of the Nevada Desert Experience National Council, our
board of directors: Iris Wolfe and Peggy Maze-Johnson. Thank you, Joe Kennedy and Allan
Aedmonson, outgoing members of the Council. Your care and input were appreciated.

Still Nevada Desert Experience
After All These Years

At the NDE National Council’s April meeting, Nevada Desert Experience was reaffirmed as the organization’s name. Without a
strong preference to change the name in the advisory runoff between Nevada Desert Experience (no change) and Nevada Desert Peace Witness the Council decided to avoid the cost and confusion associated with changing a 30 year old name.
The Ediger Memorial Interfaith Celebration of Active Nonviolence
A stimulating afternoon and evening of dynamic, thought-provoking presentations, workshops and music
Sunday, September 23, 2012
3:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Islamic Society of Southern Nevada
4730 East Desert Inn Road, Las Vegas
Complementary Refreshments and Dinner
Free Admission ($10 donation suggested)

Presenters include:
Vincent Harding, Veterans of Hope Project
Kathy Kelly, Voices for Creative Nonviolence
(just back from another trip to Afghanistan)
Mary Litell, Peace & Bene Nonviolence Service and
Capacitar International
Rae Abileah, CODEPINK Women for Peace and
Young, Jewish & Proud
Ahmed Younis, Silatech, Director of Strategic
Partnerships and Communication
The Choir of St. James the Apostle Catholic Church
[Free Child Care; RSVP to Jim Haber at Nevada Desert Experience. Other questions? Contact Jim.]

James Ediger, a theologian and peace activist, was pronounced “pro-life” by President Ronald Reagan.
In response, Ediger approached the Reagan family through a personal letter and saved a life.
He died of a pulmonary embolism, caused by nuclear fallout.
He called for “the right to live” in the face of certain death.
To honor Ediger’s memory and continue his work, NDE hosts this celebration of active nonviolence.

August Desert Witness August 5 - 9
August 5, 2:00 to 4:00 pm
Book Reading and Signing with Medea Benjamin
Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control
Emergency Arts, 520 Fremont Street (NW Corner of 6th and Fremont)
Come hear Medea Benjamin, co-Founder of the organization CODEPINK: Women for Peace, read from her new book, Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control. This is an excellent conversation starter and well-rounded introduction to the subject. Benjamin is great at connecting the dots, raising ethical questions and speaking passionately. The Beat Cafe will be open, and the event will be in the Common Gallery on the first floor.

August 6
Protest Against the Largest Drone Trade Show in the World
Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) Meets at Mandalay Bay Convention Center
8000 People from 40 Countries
If you want to help be a fly in the ointment of this new killing machine's smooth running, check in with NDE as plans develop further with other allies.

August 8, 6:00 pm
Breaking Bread in the Name of Peace
Sekhmet Temple, Cactus Springs
Dinner and discussion in synch with the 67th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Nagasaki
Spend the night in the guest house or your tent if you want to be near the Nevada Test Site for the Sunrise Ceremony in the morning.

August 9, 5:00 to 8:00 a.m.
Nagasaki Day Vigil of Resistance and Sunrise Ceremony
Nevada National Security Site (Mercury exit on US-95)
Join Johnnie Bobb, friars Louis Vitale, Jerry Zawada and friends for sunrise in memory of all victims of nuclearism. Take off ramp for Mercury; make U-turn before you cross the line to the NNSS; demonstrator parking are is off the road on the right almost all the way back to the freeway overpass. It takes about 65 minutes to drive to the NNSS from Las Vegas.

August 9, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Educational Picket at the National Atomic Testing Museum
Greet visitors to this museum that is devoted to remembering the Cold War in all its nuclear glory...and not much about the horror. We will informally supplement the discourse and remind people of the ongoing fallout of the nuclear arms race since 1945 as we memorialize the victims in Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

PEACE PARTNER HAPPENINGS
Aug. 12 to Sept. 12: Caravan for Peace with Justice & Dignity <mexico@globalexchange.org>. Special congrats to Hakim, Afghan Peace Volunteers mentor and friend of NDE’s for receiving his US visa to join this march and also receive an award from FOR. Please visit <http://vcnv.org/thank-you-for-your-help-hakim-received-his-visa>.