Sacred Peace Walk 2013

Creativity and dance carry NDE to the world

This year’s Sacred Peace Walk (SPW) brought together over forty people from across the country for our annual pilgrimage and prayerful set of peace actions in the desert. Special offerings boosted the event’s noteworthiness in the eyes of the media and the enthusiasm of the group buoyed people along so that several people walked much further than they thought possible.

Mary Lou Anderson led the group in several “Yogis for Peace” flash mobs including one at the line of the Nevada Test Site (NTS, or NNSS, the Nevada National Security Site, its current name) before the trespassers walked into the arms of Nye County sheriffs. Dancing to Michael Franti & Spearhead’s “Bomb the World” and using moves akin to poses in “sun salutations,” passers-by and even guards at the NTS were moved by the spirit of the dance and the music (“You can bomb the world to pieces, but you can’t bomb it into peace.”)

Members of the walk also took time to decorate 10 inch fabric squares to be part of the Drones Quilt, a project started by the Fellowship of Reconciliation in the United Kingdom and picked up by US activists. Participants include the name of an actual NDE’s “Peace People” Win 2nd Prize for Best Community Float in MLK B-Day Parade

April 4 candle light vigil also brings communities together

For the fourth year in a row, NDE brought Martin Luther King, Jr.’s message of nonviolence to Las Vegas celebrations of the late civil rights leader’s birthday in January. Mike Childers’ “Magic Carpet” art car was a delightful addition this year. And the group was very inter-generational with JR, Robbie and the Medlin grrrls bringing friends and exuberance to the parade.

NDE Coordinator Jim Haber also spoke at a candle-light commemoration of the assassinated preacher on April 4, 45 years after he was killed by a sniper’s bullet. In previous years this remembrance, organized by NDE friend, Our Own Voices’ Rodney Smith, was held in January.
April is Drone Awareness Action Month, and CODEPINK kicked it off in late March with a week of creative vigils at Creech which led right into the Sacred Peace Walk. Anti-Drone actions are spreading as the Know Drones Network grows amidst increased concern about domestic drone use. NDE’s principled opposition to drones is very important as more people challenge the government as it works to integrate drones of all sizes into the domestic air space. <knowdrones.com>

The Sacred Peace Walk page <nevadasertexperience.org/programs/2013/peacewalk2013.htm> has links to media stories of the walk, a radio interview, links to video of the flash mob and the arrests at Creech and the NTS.

Peace Walk Photos (sunwise from top, left): The Grim Reaper without his drone. A colorful procession to the entrance to the Nevada Test Site. Johnnie, Jeremiah and Colton drum passionately at Creech as Bill (and Leibling) holds a clear and simple sign. Bonnie and Eunice danced as white-masked angels to the beat of the drums. George is Bradley Manning. (Aren’t we all?) Jerry is handcuffed as Toby still lays dead in the road into Creech Air Force Base. ☮

Die-in outside Northrop Grumman buildings in San Diego on April 5.

Photo: Mary Lou Anderson

cont. from p.1, SPW2013

Drone strike victim in what they make. Contact NDE if you want to contribute or go directly to the project’s blog for examples and instructions <dronesquilt.wordpress.com>.

Photo: Mary Lou Anderson

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Join & Support
Nevada Desert Experience
We seriously need your financial help at this time. Our work load is growing, and our resources need to as well. Thank you!

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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.

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Donating $____ monthly or ____ quarterly. THANK YOU!
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Sacred Peace Walk August Desert Witness Nukes
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Steve Kelly Goes from SPW to Lockheed-Martin in Sunnyvale to Cross Line on Good Friday
Awaiting return to Wash. State for ignoring Disarm Now probation order

Since Steve Kelly, SJ completed his 15 month prison term for his part in the Disarm Now Plowshares, he has been on the move constantly. Not hiding, not underground, but here and there and all over the country. Finally he crossed a line, to force them to deal with him or not. Even more, Steve wants to keep raising the problem of nuclear weapons, and the Trident D-5 missiles made at the Sunnyvale plant he was arrested at on Good Friday along with five others.

Because Steve will again be on the move soon, if you want to write him, send letters care of the Nuclear Resister, P.O. Box 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733. 520-323-8697 <nukeresister@igc.org>. Updates and more are at <nukeresister.org>.

Pacific Life Community Slows Traffic into Trident Sub & Missile Base
2014 PLC to meet in Las Vegas
<pacificlifecommunity.wordpress.com>
Don’t Gamble on Nuke Waste!

Made in New York, U233 May be coming from Oak Ridge to the Test Site

Some alarming articles in the Las Vegas Review-Journal need to set off more bells than they are. The Dept. of Energy wants to truck extremely dangerous nuclear waste to the NNSS’ Area 5 disposal site all the way from Oak Ridge, Tennessee starting in the next few months.

The waste was made in a New York reactor in the 1960s and has been turned into a solid, which makes it less volatile. But the building it has been in was condemned, and rather than try to store it more safely there, the plan is to bury it with other, less radioactive waste in Nevada. A 2012 presentation to the Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board termed the shipments “not hazardous” even though a “waste profile still needs to be developed, submitted and approved.” They call it low-level waste (LLW) only because it doesn’t fit in other waste classifications; it is very toxic, dangerous, and highly radioactive, hence all the precautions. But is the care sufficient? Did anyone ask the Western Shoshone what they think about this plan?

Dina Titus asked, “We’re trying to develop other kinds of economic projects out there. If we are putting more nuclear waste out there that’s still low-level but higher than what’s out there now, will that have a negative impact on the possibility of using it for other economic development?”

With your help, NDE will do what we can to keep this beautiful land from being further desecrated. ☮

To Walk with Mother

it is the salt of Her tears you taste to walk with Mother
it is the salt of Her tears you taste in the sunrise
it is the rise of Her breath you witness in the curve of the mountains
it is the cadence of Her song you hear through the drums as you dance with the fire
it is the stillness of Her scent which begs you to remember what we have done
it is Her life you touch with every bomb tested
it is all these things and more which remind us we must keep walking we must keep coming back
and never forget never give up hope for our Mother deserves a place where She can become still again
it is Her plea to us we hear as we walk the mottled highway a charge through a whisper
for we are called to be shepherds of Her peace and Her love we must never forget, never give up hope our Mother will be safe again one day.

Dedicated to Mother Earth and in honor of the 2013 Sacred Peace Walk. By Rev. Felicia Helen Parazaider ☮

Eyes On Domestic Drone Use

Local agencies got drones? City Council endorsements sought.

The state of Nevada is making the rounds, seeking local endorsements for their application to be a FAA test area for codifying drone use inside the United States. In the meantime, local entities like the police can already buy and use drones. The state fears that any local push for extra privacy and safety assurance will undermine their bid.

What about your community? Has your city or sheriffs department sought drone funding? Ask for a public hearing! This is a cross-over issue. See <aclu.org/blog/tag/domestic-drones>. ☮

Desert Voices is produced by Jim Haber, Nevada Desert Experience coordinator. Uncredited text and photos are also by Jim. Feedback, ideas and submissions are heartily appreciated.