



Desert Voices

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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" flashmobs including one at the line of the Nevada Test Site (NTS, or NNSS, the Nevada National Security Site, its current name) be-



Yogis for Peace Flashmob on Fremont St.

fore 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 **cont. on p. 2, SPW2013**



Louis, Richelle and John, on the Las Vegas Strip. Photo: Mary Lou Anderson



Peace People celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday on the Magic Carpet.

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. ☘



Delightful children of Tameka Henry sharing some Martin Luther King enthusiasm with the passers-by at the April 4 vigil.



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>.



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 <nevadadesertexperience.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. ☘



Photo: Mary Lou Anderson



Photo: Mary Lou Anderson



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

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.



Megan and Transform Now Plowshares Trial Starts May 7

Sign the petition. Come to Knoxville.

Judge Amul R. Thapar will hear the Transform Now Plowshares case the same date that was scheduled under Judge Phillips with important, final hearings on April 23.

As our friends at the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action put it, "Since last year [the Transform Now] disarmament action has kept the government and its contractors hopping as they have sought to downplay the significance of this witness and kept the focus off the dangerous criminality of the nuclear arsenal itself and the role of the Oak Ridge Y12 plant in that continuing threat to creation. For their truthfulness on July 28th and subsequently, Greg Bortje-Obed, Megan Rice and Michael Walli are facing three felony charges, including a charge under the Sabotage Act, and risking 35 years in prison."

For those of you who will not be able to come to Knoxville, please consider public witness in solidarity with the trial in your locality. Sign and share the TNP petition to Attorney General Eric Holder, and consider sending them financial support. The legal effort itself entails bringing several expert witnesses and other legal resource people to Knoxville. The additional support needed to stand with Greg, Megan and Michael and their peace witness during their trial will also be significant. See <transformnowplowshares.wordpress.com>

You can contribute via the website <wepay.com/donations/transform-now-plowshares>, or mail your contributions to Catholic Worker, PO Box 29179, Washington DC 20017, and designate it for "Transform Now Plowshares." ☘

☘ 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 _____

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City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

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

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>. ☘



Jim flashing a peace sign, along with Fr. Jerry as they block the entrance to Kitsap-Bangor Naval Base with the Pacific Life Community. Photo: Mike Wisniewski

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. ☘

Our hearts go out to everyone close to the bombings in Boston. We also pray for victims of other such violence that same day: 55 killed in Iraq bombings; 30 killed in Somalia; 10 killed in Afghanistan; 30 killed in Syria.

It is natural to grieve for our families more. But it is also worthy, perhaps even holy, NOT to grieve less for people we don't know.

All life is sacred. What is remembered lives.



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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 ☘*

**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.**

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. ☘

Announcing
☘ 2014 Sacred Peace Walk ☘
April 12 to 18
**Transforming Fears into Compassion
and Apathy into Action!**

NDE EVENTS
FOR MORE DETAILS OF EVENTS, TIMES, LOCATIONS AND DIRECTIONS, CHECK IN WITH THE OFFICE AND LOOK FOR UPDATES VIA E-MAIL OR FACEBOOK...AND LOOK FOR EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS ON THE NDE HOME PAGE AND EVENTS PAGE. <NEVADADESERTEXPERIENCE.ORG>
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