Communicate With Us!

Let’s Create Social Justice & Environmental Justice

NDE’s Council asks YOU to PLEASE let us know if you wish to remain on our mailing list, and if your contact info has changed, or if you wish to be in a different kind of contact with us. Phone, write, or type to us (we prefer e-mail) however you wish. Our email is info@NevadaDesertExperience.org

Please donate what you can, via mail or on-line with the green donate button on our website.

Our postal mailing address is at the top of this page.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 18th 2016 March in the MLK Day Parade w/ NDE!
April 1st Help Shut Down Creech with Code Pink & Vets For Peace.

MORE INFO PLUS UPDATES ON THESE AND OTHER EVENTS IS FOUND AT www.NevadaDesertExperience.org

Yucca Mountain Newe Sogobia

By Johanie L. Bobb
Chief and Spiritual Person, Western Shoshone Nation

During the Desert Justice event a few weeks ago, I led a group to the base of Yucca Mountain to pray for the land. A few years ago we had hopes that Obama would stop the Yucca Mountain Repository.

But in August 2013, the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, ruled that President Obama and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission were “flouting the law” when they stopped working on site suitability of Yucca Mountain. “The president may not decline to follow a statutory mandate or prohibition simply because of policy objections.” Thus, Yucca Mountain, on Western Shoshone territory, came back onto the drawing board for construction of the Yucca Mountain High Level Nuclear Waste Repository.

The Ruby Valley Treaty of 1863, a treaty of Peace and Friendship, clearly described the boundaries of the Western Shoshone Nation, ceded no land, and only gave an assurance of no depredations against non-Indians passing through the Treaty land – most of which is in what is now called Nevada. We have asked for negotiation for many, many years, but we are ignored. The US has failed to recognize and uphold our Constitutional, religious, and human rights.

In 2006 the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) decision 1(68) gave the US recommendations for future relations with the Western Shoshone Nation to avoid further lack of due process and human, civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights violations. It urged the US to stop activities and planning on Western Shoshone lands, including land transfers to extractive industries and energy developers, by Brian Terrell

Desert Justice #2

In late September people converged in Las Vegas for “Justice For Our Desert,” an event marking the International Day of Peace with reflection, music, prayer and nonviolent action.

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly and affirmed by unanimous vote in 2001, which established September 21 as an annual day of non-violence and cease-fire: “The United Nations invites all nations and people to honor a cessation of hostilities during the Day, and to otherwise commemorate the Day through education and public awareness on issues related to peace.”

While each of the member states of the United Nations agreed to “commemorate the Day,” and some nations have actually followed through in various ways, International Peace Day has been ignored by the most profoundly and aggressively militarized member state, the one that needs peace with justice the most, the USA. For the second year Campaign Nonviolence saved “the Day” from obscurity in the US. Although the government pledged to observe it, Campaign Nonviolence, a project of NDE’s sister movement Pace e Bene, encouraged hundreds of commemorations in the week around Peace Day in communities across the country for the past two years.

NDE’s commemoration of the Day began on Friday the 19th with an introduction and nonviolence training session at the Francis and Clare compound in North Las Vegas. From

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Yucca Mountain/Newe Sugobia

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without meaningful consultation. CERD urged the US to remove restrictions on hunting, fishing, and gathering, and cultural and spiritual practices.

Decision 1(68) was distributed widely, to the President, to Congress, and to federal, state, and local agencies, but was ignored. The US made no effort to contact the Western Shoshone National Council to discuss these issues. Therefore in August 2014, I traveled again to Geneva where the Western Shoshone National Council submitted an update to CERD which included US restoration of plans for Yucca Mountain. We received a strong re-affirmation of the previous decision. Still we have received no response from the US.

Yucca Mountain is sacred to Western Shoshone and Paiute peoples. Earthquake faults are in the area, and only a few years ago, earthquakes occurred in the area, causing damage to offices there. What if the casks leak? The groundwater would be damaged. Already radiation is moving in the groundwater from under the adjacent Test Site. Meanwhile, while there is no safe disposal method for nuclear waste in the US, the DOE continues to propose new reactors which will create waste while there is no safe disposal option.

Yucca Mountain is on Western Shoshone Treaty land. According to Western Shoshone beliefs, we were put on this land, Newe Sugobia, as caretakers of the animals, plants, water, and people here. Most Native people have similar beliefs and a different relationship with land than non-indigenous people. If there is an accident, if radiation leaks into groundwater through earthquake faults, or vents into the air, we would have to choose whether to stay as the last caretakers, or to be relocated. We would lose our entire homeland, and with it, our culture, native food and medicine, traditions, and lifeways. Please help us stop the Yucca Mountain Project.

For more information, contact Chief Johnnie Bobb, at PO Box 252, Austin, NV 89310

ODE TO MY DNA

By Chelsea Collinge, (c) 2003

Present in every living thing
You direct my growth from cell to breath
Too small for radar
your words encode my body
my tangible presence
You connect me with all life
beneath a chimp zealous to California poppy
yet make me unique
wheat-colored hair
swollen joints
Oh spiral file line
you connect my parents
to their maybe-grandchildren
Lie snug in my egg cell
in the pink pillow of my womb
All this wonder wound tight
in your bouncy spring

And DNA,
I fear for you
bringer of order yet so mutable
and like radiation, invisible
Another Chernobyl
bunker busting nukes
or even the cell phone in my pocket
could scramble your wisdom
make my babies born with open skulls
or heart defects like the kids of Belarus
Seaborg invented it here
on Berkeley campus
plutonium manufactured to kill enemies,
it can extinct whole species
with its gamma-attack on the genetic
code of life
You created us, DNA
Don’t let us destroy you

Encode new proteins
for a brain that thinks ahead
a heart that respects life
Help us evolve