



Desert Voices

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*NDE was a winner again in the Las Vegas parade
for MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY*

Communicating Love In This Desert

*by Marcus Page-Collonge,
a Catholic Worker and NDE supporter since 1997*

Some of the human ancestors referred to this land as “the People’s Earth Mother,” or “*Newe Sogobia*.” At sometime during the Industrial Age the settlers and colonizers called it “snow-covered,” or “*Nevada*.” Boundaries were drawn by the US Government in those days that match the outer edge of our logo for NDE. In the late 20th Century North Americans moved from on from the Industrial and into the Nuclear Age. Readers of *Desert Voices* know that NevadaDesertExperience.org is an interfaith group started by non-Indigenous peoples who endeavor to be respectful of the descendants of the original peoples (Shoshones and Paiutes) in this bioregion.

In addition to the map-symbol of Nevada with an over-sized peace dove superimposed on it, we use English as our primary language at NDE. Although NDE is an interfaith group (whereby participants maintain their separate spiritual and religious traditions while joining together in mixed company) this singular language common to most peoples in these parts has been useful in communicating our messages for 37 years. Despite the limitations of our choices of English and the symbolic imagery, we care about all creatures who know nothing of our language(s) and symbology. We recognize that we have to use some kind of faulty communication as we try our hardest to communicate, that is, we know all human inventions are faulty; no language or symbol is perfect. Every spoken and written language and every iconographic and cartographic practice will fail to reach some humans, because every new human person has a unique perspective.

Much deeper than the connections we attempt with our logo and language is a shared value in NDE—the passion to “heal and repair the world,” or, “*Tikkun Olam*.” We are all blessed by this interfaith movement for justice and peace in this bioregion (near the nuclear security site and Creech AFB). Each person and their cultural, religious tradition coming together in the NDE way is here together endeavoring to share their various sources from myriad traditions we have found useful in other bioregions from whence we came. Tax-payers come in repentance for funding the war machine, angry people come walk off their anger, joyful people forget to drink enough water in the high desert, all are attempting to find a way to justice and peace. The carcinogenic colonialism committed by the nukes and drones is often the spur that gets us into a Nevada Desert Experience, but love of this desert territory draws us to greater respect for all life.



WRAPPING OUR MINDS AROUND THE PROBLEM

Nuclear armed countries are spending over 100 billion dollars a year on nuclear weapons and related costs.... maintaining and modernizing the US nuclear arsenal and the infrastructures that support it will exceed one trillion dollars over the next 30 years. Put another way, every hour the US spends almost two million dollars on nuclear weapons and by 2030 the it will be spending nearly four million dollars an hour on nuclear weapons and missiles.... US Policy and budget documents all manifest the intent to keep thousands of nuclear weapons in active service for the foreseeable future, together with the capacity to bring stored weapons into service and to design and manufacture new weapons should they be desired. There is no way to safely dispose of or sequester from living things in the environment the highly radioactive spent fuel that remains deadly for more than 100,000 years—the same number of years that the human species as we know it is believed to have existed. ”

JACKIE CABASSO, 20 September 2014

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In 2019 on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, NDE's parade float entry was a facsimile of a national border wall that needed to be torn down so that all people might be free!

NDE won an award for this year's parade; **THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS** for crafting this wonderful entry, and marching with NDE, and **THANK YOU Tami Yaron** for the excellent photography of these activities!

UPCOMING NATIONAL EVENTS (SOME IN NEVADA!)

April 13-19, 2019: NDE's Sacred Peace Walk from Vegas to the NNSS

July 15-16, 2019: 74th Anniversary of Trinity Nuclear Bomb in New Mexico

October 13 & 14, 2019 Justice For Our Desert @ Creech & the NNSS

January 20, 2020: NDE's Float in MLK Jr Day Parade, Las Vegas, NV

April 3-10, 2020: NDE's Sacred Peace Walk from Vegas to the NNSS

August 2020: Pax Christi's Encuentro: 75th Anniversary of Hiroshima/Nagasaki

Fall 2020: CODE GREEN--A Vision Beyond The Nuclear Agenda

(see below)

Honor The Integrity of Creation Despite 75 Years of Nuclearism

The international movement to abolish nuclear weapons has a rich history, and we can celebrate the goodness of nonviolent people power in preventing global destruction of habitat (via nuclearism and drone warfare). Yet there's a tremendous task ahead resisting the works of war. Our interfaith movement started in 1981 by working for a unique Lenten event in 1982 so that we could honor the courageous nonviolent spirit of Saint Francis of Assisi on his 800th birth anniversary. His modern followers have tried in myriad ways to uphold the integrity of creation, which has been horribly violated by the nuclear weapons cycle, particularly in Nevada since 1951. The logical culmination of militarism since the turn of the century is automation, or robotics, currently with killer drones at the forefront of the sinister movement for mass destruction. Whether nuclear weapons or other weaponized technologies, multiple bioregions and watersheds are desecrated by such misguided human activities.

Save the date: Saint Francis' Day is October 4th It's also the annual **Keep Space for Peace Week**, so from **October 2-5, 2020 c.e.** NDE will host a weekend event: "**CODE GREEN**" featuring workshops, music, speakers, dance, direct action & many prayers for justice and peace in this terrorized territory. **Join us for the weekend!**

Corbin Harney (a past faith leader here) predicted the NNSS would shut down if only 40,000 people would gather at the NNSS together for justice's sake. Another past faith leader who prayed with us at the infamous site of mega-violence said, "good things start small and get smaller."

We invite all of you to come work, pray, sing, learn and demonstrate 17 months from now—advancing the cause of nuclear abolition and the end to drone warfare.

Join the movement; take action locally, come together, breathe together, and email us or call us!

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