

NevadaDesertExperience.org  
1420 W Bartlett Ave  
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## Sacred Peace Walk Postponed

The World Health Organization's declaration that a global outbreak of COVID-19 had grown to pandemic proportions triggered NDE to postpone our Spring event to Autumn, while maintaining our faith-filled activism informed by compassion, a thirst for justice and appropriate risk-taking for the sake of a healthy environment for all.

Our Council, Advisors, and staff determined before Saint Patrick's Day this course of wise action (postponing our Spring walk to Autumn) with the awareness that our very physical desert events should continue to be safe for as many as possible of our multi-generational participants. Some of our core volunteers and participants are folks at highest risk of suffering from this current pandemic.

NDE's focus of protecting sacred desert life via compassionate, justice-focused nonviolent direct prayer-actions in southern Nevada/Newe Sogobi require a modicum of risk. For 38 years NDE participants know well our events usually include the risk of arrest and potential toxicity downwind of nuclear testing. We remain committed to walk the ways of peace, conducting prayer-actions on Paiute and Shoshone lands.

We hope you will join us for 2020's *Sacred Peace Walk (SPW)*, beginning Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup>, the second day of *codeGREEN*. You are welcome for part or all of these 6 days! Our *codeGREEN* is a special 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bomb, still on the weekend; the *SPW ends Thursday October 8<sup>th</sup>*.

If you cannot join us, we ask for your donations to help support folks who are able to take such risks for abolition of nuclear weapons and drone warfare. Bonus: In the week preceding this year's combined event of *codeGREEN* and *SPW*, other Desert activists welcome you to join their vigil at Creech AFB.

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### JOIN NDE'S WORK TEAM Positions Available!

We are in the midst of re-figuring NDE for organizational sustainability reasons.

In this lengthy process we may be hiring a new staff person, as well as seeking new VOLUNTEERS to be on our Council and Committees. Contact us if you want to get involved!

Don't worry—our Mission remains the same: *Using a campaign of prayer, education, dialogue, and nonviolent direct action, our Mission is to stop modern weapons development, including the end of automated warfare and nuclear weaponeering in Southern Nevada. We support personal renewal through desert spirituality and we mobilize people of faith as our primary methods to prevent the return of full-scale nuclear testing.*

As Peter Maurin said a century ago, "The truth needs to be restated every generation." Thus, our timeless purpose and values are getting a makeover, a fresh face for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



# Desert Voices

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## Finding Hope Amid Existential Threats

By Marcus Page-Collonge

Welcome to the Anthropocene! Or as some say, "The Ecozoic Era". Either way, scientists globally in the past 75 years have come to realize that we are in the 6<sup>th</sup> mass extinction, and that there's more carbon in the atmosphere, and that human activities contribute to the raised temperature of several degrees in the past 100 years or so. The planet has gone through massive changes since it was created billions of years ago. Some of the changes are categorized in geologic eras (including five mass extinction periods). The nuclear age, so far, is synonymous with the Anthropocene/Ecozoic Era. The creators of the *Anthropocene* documentary follow the science indicating that the most ubiquitous demarcation of this Anthropocene/Ecozoic Era is the radioactive evidence of nuclear bomb tests. It's both science and symbol—the ultimate violence of nuclearism threatening to end life on Earth has already damaged ecosystems, representing a foolish lethal tendency of industrialism where arrogance and ignorance leads to myriad mega-violence.

As far as human responsibility goes, we need mass movements of folks agreeing on good tactics for minimizing and/or reversing damage. Millions have joined mass movements against nuclearism, even as the motivation for activism against existential threats gets categorized differently (e.g. environmental justice, anti-racism, spiritual activism, anti-capitalist mutual aid, etc.)

An interesting article in the *Atlantic* (March, 2020) exposed the connection of two kinds of carbon footprints. The article reminded us of terribly intertwined issues: (1) nuclear weapons-caused annihilation and (2) mass extinction due to climate chaos. The first threat (nuclear) had one kind of footprint—a global spike in the "carbon 14 isotope," and the second threat is the current massive carbon dioxide footprint surrounding the age of nuclearism (which started to spike prior to nuclear weapons).

I'll explain just a little (read the *Atlantic* article for more info). Berkeley scientists in 1940 discovered they can calculate the age of fossils and the planet by tracking the amount of carbon 14 in many samples, because it was decaying by half every 5,000 years or so. Called radiocarbon dating, the analysis shows that we have released enormous amounts of new carbon 14 via nuclear bomb detonations (primarily tests from 1952 to 1962). That stuff got into everything globally—the animals, plants, oceans, fungus, etc. Before the nuclear age, our earth's carbon 14 was sourced elsewhere in the

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## Our Shoshone Friends On Pilgrimage Again

The Newe Sogobi Mava'a Mia "Walk on Sacred Land" Ceremony will be held this year from April 29<sup>th</sup> through May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Each year the Western Shoshone Nation family embarks upon this Walk on Sacred Land Ceremony. The Shoshone Nation is inviting all of our Sacred Peace Walk Family and Friends to Join Us, for all or any part of the Walk on Sacred Land Ceremony.

Twenty-years plus in process, the Newe Sogobi Mava'a Mia Walk on Sacred Land Ceremony encompasses a 12-Day Walk & Run beginning at Chief Johnnie Bobb's residence in Yomba, NV (Reese River Valley) on April 29<sup>th</sup>, with 3 days of Preparation & Sweat Lodges. On May 2<sup>nd</sup> the Walkers/Runners will depart for Tonopah, NV to begin the journey and on May 4<sup>th</sup> the Walk/Run will be in Tonopah, proceeding through Beatty and Yucca Mtn – hopefully arriving at the Mercury Peace Camp May 9<sup>th</sup>. A Sunrise Ceremony is planned for Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> followed by walk to the entrance of the Nuclear Test Site for Sacred Ceremony and Prayer.

Johnnie Bobb says, "The Newe Sogobi Mava'a Mia" or "Walk on Sacred Land" Ceremony was started in 1999 by Newe (Shoshone) tribal members. We were very concerned about the U.S. government's ongoing nuclear testing and waste disposal at the NNSS and wanted to heal the land and the people in a traditional way. We started a Walk/Run to Pray for the land, for all those suffering from the effects of nuclear contamination, and for those who continue to pollute the land. We also raise awareness about the broken 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley, which did not cede land rights to the U.S. government, and other issues. "The Ceremony is not a protest and is non-violent. It is open to

all—Newe, as well as other Natives and non-Natives. We invite you to join us. Lets put our thoughts and prayers together as people." For more information see [WalkOnSacredLand.wixsite.com/walk](http://WalkOnSacredLand.wixsite.com/walk)

## NUCLEAR WINTER AND THE DEFENSE BUDGET

By Mark Bird

If either the U.S. or Russia used less than 10 percent of their nuclear weapons against the other nation, and the attacked nation did not retaliate, both nations would be destroyed. In the attacked nation, over 25M people would have an instant or quick death; in the non-attacked nation, over 25M would experience a slow and agonizing death.

According to the 2020 World Almanac, page 738, the U.S. and Russia have over 6,000 nuclear weapons. If one volcano can change global climate for years, what would 500 radioactive volcanoes do to global sunlight and farms? NASA reported smoke circled the globe after the recent Australian fires.

In the attacked nation, thousands of tons of radioactive ash and dust from hundreds of cities would be in the atmosphere. Dozens of forest fires and destroyed nuclear power plants would send more radioactivity into the atmosphere.

In the non-attacked nation, humans would experience fallout over months or years. Rivers, reservoirs, and farms would acquire radioactive material. Thousands of species would have fetal abnormalities. The food chain would be disrupted. Billions of bees, other insects, and animals would die. Rotting corpses would not be buried. Epidemics would spread. The ozone shield would be severely damaged or disappear. Certain societal collapse would occur in both nations and elsewhere.

After the Chernobyl power plant disaster in 1986, levels of radioactivity were estimated for over a dozen European nations. Radioactivity circled the northern hemisphere. According to Wikipedia, clean-up is "scheduled for completion in 2065." If one percent of nukes were used, clean-up would take centuries.

Deniers of nuclear winter theory deny photosynthesis, the global hydrologic cycle, and that wind patterns are influenced by the daily rotation of the Earth at about 1,000 MPH. If the U.S. military budget were reduced by 50 percent, it would then be five times larger than the Russian military budget.

Nuclear winter theory has the potential to rescue the Earth by diverting trillions of dollars from military expenditures to education, health care, climate change, etc.



NDE once again was a revolutionary presence on the Las Vegas MLK Day parade, January 21<sup>st</sup> 2020.

### FROM THE JAPANESE ACTIVISTS:

Together with peace movements in the USA and Europe, etc, we at Gensuikyo (the Japanese Movement against A and H bombs) will organize the "*World Conference—Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Resist and Reverse Climate Change, for Social and Economic Justice*" ... As the UN Secretary-General Guterres noted in High-Level Week in 2019, "The perils posed by nuclear weapons are not merely hypothetical or in some far-off future; they are present and real." ... The year 2020 marks the 75th year since the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The earnest desire of the Hibakusha [nuclear bombing survivors] is to get nuclear weapons abolished in their lifetime. Tens of the Hibakusha and more than 1000 Japanese people will go to NY and submit more than 10 million signatures in support of the Hibakusha Appeal for the elimination of nuclear weapons. We call on you to collect the petitions in your countries and bring them to NY for joint submission. Let's echo our voices for abolition of nuclear weapons to pressurize nuclear weapon states and nuclear umbrella states.... We call for your support and actions to make a success of these NY actions. We welcome your support messages, ideas and action plans, etc. Please send them to us (Gensuikyo) Japan Council against A & H Bombs 2-4-4 Yushima, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-8464 Japan <http://antiatom.org/english>

Email: [antiatom@topaz.plala.or.jp](mailto:antiatom@topaz.plala.or.jp)  
[As Desert Voices goes to print in mid-March, we know the original date of the NPT Review Conference in New York was pushed further into the future, due to the current coronavirus pandemic. Contact Gensuikyo to find out when the new date is scheduled.]

### CONTINUATION OF EXISTENTIAL THREAT ARTICLE:

cosmos, and was less plentiful on/in Earth. But the nuclear testing age infused the planet with a fresh spike in carbon 14.

So, to be clear, carbon 14 (sourced off-planet) hits the earth, and becomes part of everything, but the nuclear age brought nuclear explosions with massive amounts of home-grown carbon 14. It's elementally the same isotope, and there's more now, due mostly to nuclear fallout from 1945 to 1963. Other underground nuclear weapons tests from several nations which were detonated after 1963 would sometimes vent into the atmosphere, but the geological record shows that big spike from the 1950s, when most testing was done in the oceans and atmospherically.

This information might be horribly significant to scientists/observers a few millennia from now, ala, "What happened in the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century to give us more radiocarbon dating capacities?" But for us, in this day and age, facing multiple existential threats (pandemics, nuclearism, climate chaos, mass extinction of other species), who cares? If you are reading this article, the answer is obviously, "**We care, that's why we're reading Desert Voices.**" All of us at NDE pray and act on behalf of human life, often being called to resist multiple existential threats, including nuclearism's **spread of radioactive toxins** and the **possibility of extinction** due to climate chaos and industrialism.

We all learned in Kindergarten and elsewhere that violence begets violence. One kind of existential threat caused by humans can lead to other kinds. We are a spiritual species, with power to create and destroy other species and ecosystems, as well as the nonviolent power to repair the planet, remediate illness, prevent social crises, renounce violence, and cure social and ecological ailments. Dom Helder Camara declared 29 years ago at an NDE event, "This place represents ultimate violence, it must become the place of ultimate acts of nonviolence."

In 1952 my mother's physicist cousin witnessed a big carbon-14 distribution via oceanic nuclear testing. It moved him to type a poem explaining the insanity humanity was playing with. [See that poem: [lovarchy.org/nuclear](http://lovarchy.org/nuclear).] Like many other writings and songs, this Catholic scientist's epic poem intends to inspire the masses to courageously turn the tide away from ultimate destruction. I believe that the current pandemic of 2020 is leading to mass awareness of the inhumane systems of industrial growth capitalism, where the almighty dollar has been worshipped. In this shocking time, great stories, art, music, dance and liturgy are being crafted as art therapy which will continue to inspire

## Minimizing Our Postal Footprint

### Dear Readers of Desert Voices:

Our newsletter began in the 1980s, pre-digital age, and NDE needs to pivot to modern modes of communication.

Our National Council has thus decided to shrink back our paper-based distribution of our Desert Voices newsletter for postal mailing purposes. In other words, if you are one of the few who still want these paper copies to continue coming via snail-mail to you, then you are going to have to let us know, akin to saying, "I want the hard copy delivered via snail-mail!" We'll keep printing smaller batches of hard-copy newsletters, and we love using tree-free paper, so we're happy to keep printing enough to hand deliver at events. Based on past surveys, we figure that fewer than 300 people want this in their postal boxes.

**To get the bulk postal rate, we'll still keep about 300 names on our mailing list, but we will transfer the remaining 3,700 names to being electronic-communications only**, if you no longer receive a paper copy, then which mode of communication do you prefer? Please answer: Yes or No:

1> Do you want to receive emailed newsletters?  
(we send these out at least twice per year)

2> Do you want to follow us on social media?  
(we post heavily during our events, twice/year)

3> Do you want to receive SMS/texts from us?  
(once/month max, linking you to online versions)

You can tell us by phoning 702.646.4814, or emailing [peace@NevadaDesertExperience.org](mailto:peace@NevadaDesertExperience.org) your answer to those 3 questions. Otherwise **please** let us know if you are instead **seeking to continue receiving paper** copies of Desert Voices in your postal mail box!

future generations to follow their consciences. We ought to use our power to do what humans can do, co-creating with Love paths to prevent mega-violence. So many heroic hospital workers, engineers, volunteers and specialists are using their power to support life, trying to stop mass destruction. It's just a matter of time, but can we beat the Atomic Clock, can we resist Atomic Midnight?