



DESERT VOICES

THE SEMIANNUAL PUBLICATION OF NEVADADESERTEXPERIENCE.ORG
ISSN: 1539-9869 Autumn '20 VOLUME #33 ISSUE #2

NDE's New Staffer, an Event Co-Coordinator

Brittney Ballesteros is a Las Vegas native who is passionate about art, activism, the earth, and human beings. She is excited to learn more about Nevada Desert Experience, nuclear resistance activism and making more connections with like-minded people.

She envisions a world where all human beings are free from the pervasive grasp of capitalism, white supremacy and nuclear terrorism. She believes in the power of the people to



work together towards a more just and free society. Brittney hopes that her passion will radiate [spiritually] through her work with Nevada Desert Experience. In her free time, Brittney works with teenagers and kids on the autism spectrum, makes art, coordinates radical mental health support groups and spends time working on her travel trailer home with her cat, Big Mama.

When uploading social media, use #NevadaDesertExpressions or email your creative work honoring non-violence to Creative@NevadaDesertExperience.org

Safer Events During Pandemic With NDE's New Health Protocols

By Pegasus Blaise Collonge

During our latest Peace Walk event, held in commemoration of 75 years of unabated nuclearism in the U.S. government, one of our participants asked us, "What are the hazards of radiation out here, so close to the nuclear test site?" We have always had to practice safety at our events, such as not eating off of desert ground that could be contaminated. This year, we had additional safety considerations due to COVID-19; our Peace Walk was pushed forward from April to October.

The **2020 Sacred Peace Walk: codeGREEN** (SPWcG) was an opportunity to practice NDE's spiritual charism of creative conflict with representatives of various unholy governments while facilitating personal renewal for the long haul against nukes and drones. Our National Council decided we could indeed carry on the interfaith resistance to governmental violence ala nuclear war-mongering and drone attacks by implementing two dramatic changes to our events: new health protocols (more stringent than the CDC guidelines), and a virtual component so that folks could go online to participate remotely.

We always endeavor to behave responsibly against radioactive threats while resisting temptations of violence. In the beginning (1981) we adopted a Covenant of Nonviolence which is still used at our events. In the middle we began providing a Backgrounder document on science and radiation, to help fill the gap left by secular watch-dogging groups in our bioregion. As of this crazy year (2020), we put forth our covenant of New Health Protocols, in order to protect everyone from airborne viral biohazards, and other communicable diseases.

The SPWcG was inspiring evidence that we'll continue to care for creation, that nonviolent transformations in human societies will continue, despite pandemics!



Karen Pettit & Laura-Marie enjoy pirate fun!

New Board Member = New Council Member

Karen Pettit recently jumped on board our NDE ship, to help steer us in the ways of nonviolent interfaith activism as we encounter a sea change of 2020/2021. Our nonprofit's Board of Pirates is usually called a Council, and includes folks from Nevada as well as other places on Turtle Island.

Karen has been a teacher, a painter, and currently hosts a monthly book club and a women's group called Red Tent. She loves dancing and singing with friends, and participates in social justice events in Las Vegas. She is a member of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Las Vegas and teaches Sunday School. Karen is married to Ellery and mother to Patrick, Duncan, and Henry. They live together with her parents, Kris and George. Karen works as a CCSD teacher's aide. She tries to follow the teachings of Martin Luther King Jr. Her birthday was within 24 hours of his, so the holiday sometimes falls on her day, so she feels he is her saint. She loves the NDE float at the MLK parade and has accepted a three-year term with NDE's Council.

A Military Bill of Rights & Wrongs

Reduced military spending can substantially ease the social stress from coronavirus (including economic problems). Nuclear weaponry and fallout are bigger issues than the pandemic.

Everybody's got a right to know:

1. The US military budget is 10 times larger than the Russian military budget.
2. NATO's military budget is larger than the US military budget.
3. US military spending is 57 percent of the discretionary budget.
4. The US has 37 percent of the world's military spending.
5. Active duty military represent less than 1% of the US population.
6. The world has the equivalent of over 200,000 Hiroshima sized bombs.
7. The US has 66 nuclear submarines and 50% of humanity's aircraft carriers.
8. Some submarines have more firepower than all of World War Two.
9. Nuclear war using less than 1 percent of world's arsenal would cause a global food crisis and nuclear winter conditions for 10-15 years.
10. You have an inalienable right to insist that politicians pursue gigantic reductions in military spending.

Sources: 1-2 The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute 2019 fact sheet; 3-4 National Priorities Project; 5 US Department of Defense; 6 Quora; 7 US Navy and Wikipedia; 8 US Senate staff; 9 Newsweek, March 18 2020.

Check out our ongoing video channel, to catch up on the **Sacred Peace Walk: codeGREEN** of 2020, and the upcoming events of 2021!

(Please Subscribe Too!)

[Youtube.com/channel/UCPUMjg1WgF4rrHQ7X8kaWig](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPUMjg1WgF4rrHQ7X8kaWig)

#NevadaDesertExpressions Compiled For Beauty's Sake

By Karen Pettit

This year we are asking people to share creative works inspired by Sacred Peace Walk: codeGREEN, and send them to creative@NevadaDesertExperience.org so we can put them into a project of beauty for electronic and paper-based distribution.

Many of us are unable to connect with people the way we used to because of COVID-19. One solution to that problem is creating and sharing art more. Drawing a picture for your friends is a way to share your feelings and give them a piece of you. Also, drawing helps us deal with difficult feelings. If you have anything you want to share, and would like to express yourself through art, poetry, song or prayer-actions in your home or community, we welcome you to submit your expression to our project, curated by Brittney, our new Events Co-Coordinator.

You might be shy about your creation, but no matter how you feel about it, chances are someone will appreciate it, if you choose to share it.



Haiku

By Brother Mark Schroeder, OFM

WHERE DID WE GO WRONG
CORRUPTION IN WASHINGTON
HOPE IN NONVIOLENCE

A-bomb a Nation?



Abombination!

Artwork by Gar Smith, Environmentalists Against War

SAVE THE DATES!

The Future of Activism During Pandemics

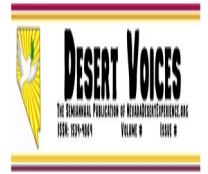
Dates (and some other tree fruits) grow well in the Mojave Desert. We don't know what climate chaos will do to the life-giving capacity of the Nevada Desert, and we can't speak for how secular activist groups will behave during increasing biohazards, but if our annual interfaith events continue, then the expected *dates*, in 2021 are set to be...

MLK Day Parade: Monday, 18 January

Sacred Peace Walk: 27 March to 2 April

Check our website and social media for updates.

Nevada Desert Experience.org
1420 W Bartlett Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89106



THIS SPACE FOR
POSTAL MAILING
PURPOSES

One More Reminder:

To collaborate on a special commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the nuclear bomb, please send your art, poetry, prayer and more to Creative@NevadaDesertExperience.org.



We Need SUBSCRIBERS to this, so other folks can find us more easily... Please Checkout:
www.youtube.com/channel/UCPUMjg1WgF4rrHQ7X8kaWig