

Dear friends,

Happy New Year!

Thank you for your thoughtful nonkilling arts related works you kindly sent my way. Let me share these with NKARC members and supporters:

### **(A) Nonkilling Books**

NKARC colleague Bernard Aquina Doctor's book, "Challenges and Achievements of First Black President" was released last month in NYC. A reader about the book wrote: "Remarkable creativity--research, graphics, everything! Solidly educational, profoundly respectful but undogmatic and inviting readers to study more."

It is an attractive book with beautiful front and back cover jacket. A well-researched work about contemporary US history and a historical President and presidency. It is clear that to be a politician is much more challenging than to be a community worker or an activist. Having written on Malcolm X Bernard has good sense of personal Afro-American humanist perspective. His openness is well-reflected in last few pages under the title, "2012 and Beyond" and "Futurlog" by NKARC poet colleague Francisco de Matos. Already looking forward to Bernard's work in progress - a science fiction novel about Nonkilling.

Another related book on Nonkilling leadership came through NKARC philosopher-activist colleague Paul Schwartzenruber's review essay, entitled "Gandhi and Islam; A New Dialogue?" in the current issue of Ahimsa Nonviolence. In his review of the new book, "The Gandhian Moment" by Ramin Jahanbegloo published by Harvard University Press (2013), Paul notes: "The life and work of Mahatma Gandhi is so iconic, and so centrally located at the Gordian knot of modernity, that there are many points of access. In part because of this, critical biographies and new interpretations continue to emerge outside India well into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Gandhi - the creator of nonviolent political resistance, the activist spiritual teacher, the ethical political leader, the embodiment of simple living, the founder of communities of service, the defender of the least and the last in society -- continues to be a crucial dialogue partner for us as we navigate the choppy waters of political, ethical, communal and spiritual life in the post modern world." The book is about Gandhi's life long dialogue with Islam and Muslims. Ramin Jahanbegloo, and Iranian-Canadian political theorist sees in Gandhian thought and strategic political action the possibility "of nonviolence in Islamic public sphere". An original re-interpretation of Gandhi's work and philosophy.

### **(B) Nonkilling Essays**

Thoughtful commentaries by NKARC colleagues received, See below:

(1) For those with interest in peace museums, the current issue of Journal of Peace Psychology (Vol. 19, No. 4, Nov. 2013) covers a rich discussion and resources on the subject. Susan Optow in her introduction states that when museums with focus on conflict and peace, throw light on past struggles, and inequalities they can enable visitors to grasp the societal forces that gave rise to injustice, harm and exclusion - lessons with relevance to social relations today. Its guest editor David Deans writes: "At the heart of the matter, then, is storytelling. What stories have been told in

museums and how well they do they suit present needs and future aspirations? What stories have been left out, hidden from view, too painful or controversial or divisive to be brought out into the open? The focus of the Issue is on 3 main Canadian museums of: Human rights, War and the Civilization which have generated considerable public controversy.

Wonderful to see such dedicated attention to the topic by both history and psychology scholars.

(2) During holiday season colleague Koozma J. Tarasoff posted an article entitled '4 For Coffee: a meeting of 4 gods-within us' on his blog. Click on: [www.spirit-wrestlers.com](http://www.spirit-wrestlers.com) . The chat involved meeting with Mony Dojeiji and her artist husband Alberto Agraso, Koozma and myself. Mony and Alberto are the authors of award-winning book, "Walking for Peace" which describes their 13 month, 5000 kilometer walk across 13 countries from Rome to Jerusalem in search of their passion for making Jerusalem, a city of peace..The book is appropriately dedicated: "To those who fearlessly follow their hearts, and

To those who do the work of peace - both inner and outer - despite the odds against them. - You are not alone."

(3) An insightful article in The Huffington Post, entitled, \*Nonkiller Apps Are The Future: Here's Why\* by John Pavley. It shows how a slight shift in perspective can help to transform killer to nonkilling apps. John who is the Chief Technology Officer of the Huffington Post writes:

"I have this sense that most killer apps are developed and implemented without regard to their impact on human quality of life or life expectancy. When we engineers sit down at the whiteboard and start dreaming and coding, we generally don't think about killing or nonkilling. We think about solving a very specific set of problems, and we don't try to "boil the ocean." That means unintended long-term problems and side effects are usually left unaddressed."

For more, click on:

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/john-pavley/nonkiller-apps\\_b\\_4453660.html?1387228030;](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/john-pavley/nonkiller-apps_b_4453660.html?1387228030)

There was another interesting Nonkilling article published in TheHuffingtonPost,entitled: "When the Messenger is the Killer" by Joam Evans Pim. I may have already mentioned it in connection with CGNK new volume, Nonkilling Media. For Joam's thoughtful article, click on: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joam-evans-pim/when-the-messenger-is-the\\_b\\_4376519.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joam-evans-pim/when-the-messenger-is-the_b_4376519.html)

### **(C) Nonkilling Poetry**

See attached as a preview of an excellent paper received for the Nonkilling Arts volume from David Krieger, entitled: "Peace, Memory and the Power of Poetry". David writes:"If we choose to create a world at peace, how we remember events of the past matters. Societies often attempt to envelop important past events in shrouds of secrecy or in mythic forms. Nations and despotic leaders are adept at painting themselves as heroic. There are those, for example, who deny that the

Holocaust occurred. There are those who justify slavery and other grotesque abuses of human rights. To learn the important lessons of the past so that we may avoid repeating them in the present, we must open the doors of denial and expose the truth. We must not allow horrific events of the past to be justified with specious arguments."The above is in many ways similar to the questions raised in JPP's volume on Peace Museums. David Krieger uses his five powerful poems to explore his above thesis. Additionally, there is a poem by David, entitled, Vandenberg Cold, telling us a tale of protesting at Vandenberg Airbase in USA. See attachment. David Krieger's two pieces well reflect the spirit of NK Arts RC.

To conclude with an inspiring nonkilling rhymed reflection by nonkilling poet colleague Francisco de Mator, entitled: "Globally needed: A Nonkilling musical conscience"

"If in a song we hear the life-destructing verb to kill

Does it mean that its composers make life stand still?

If in a song we hear about weapons exciting lethality

Does it mean that its composers in life see no finality?

If in a song we hear about the use of drugs being glorified

Does it mean that its composers see human existence

as undignified?

How can we help Humankind a Nonkilling musical conscience to cultivate?

By doing our share: for a Global Citizenship for Live-improvement

let`s educate. "

Thank you Francisco, John, David K, David D, Koozma, Bernard, and Glenn.

As always amazed by creative work being done by all of you. Keep up the steady flow.

Gratefully,

Bill

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"Nonkilling is THE measure of human progress"