

Nonkilling Arts Research Committee December 2014 Letter

Dear friends,

Thank you for your kind nonkilling arts contributions. Reading these and peace colleague Murray Thomson's 'Good News Service' reminded me that the Nonkilling Arts need not be about lament and negativity it should be inspiring and transformative. Among all the news of race, religion and gender conflicts/killings, in his editorial of GOOD NEWS SERVICE #35 friend Murray writes:

"The question is sometimes asked, is there enough good news to write about this month? Really important events, that is. Well, yes, there is, plenty of it, and this month is no exception. It is good news that Malala Yousafzay from Pakistan and Kailash Satyarthi from India, now share the Nobel Peace Prize for 2014... It is good news that the United Nations, and all the countries that support it, are seriously determined to increase its ability to bring peacekeeping forces into war zones... It is good news that China and the US have achieved a breakthrough on climate change. It is certainly good news that the tiny Republic of the Marshall Islands dares to challenge in court the massive might of the nuclear weapon states. And it is always good news to hear of the hundreds of local initiatives by citizens who care about this planet and the animals, birds and bees which co-habit with us..."

(For a discussion of Nonkilling Media, click on <http://www.nonkilling.org/node/18#Media>)

A. Nonkilling videos:

Video 1. NKARC colleague Stuart Cryer recently released a short video (5.23 minutes long), he describes it as a "five minute labour of love". The City of Ottawa, Canada dedicated the square in front of Ottawa's historic city hall on July 17, 2014 to honour Nelson Mandela. The Nelson Mandela Square contains Ottawa's Human Rights monument. Check out Stuart's video: Nelson Mandela Square – Ottawa, click on : <https://vimeo.com/110853720>

Video 2. In the news there is generally a call for those who commit crimes against humanity. In fact many past and ongoing wars have been justified in the name of getting rid of such tyrants or the need for putting them on trials.

As November was the month where many western countries commemorated their soldiers and war veterans, I received this moving and powerful video testimony of a young American Iraq war veteran Thomas Young as "Let's not forget" message. A documentary film entitled "Body of War" by Phil Donahue about the life of this outspoken American war critic has been shown at many international film festivals. For his testimony to Bush and Cheney, click on:

<http://www.commondreams.org/news/2014/11/11/iraq-war-veteran-outspoken-war-critic-tomas-young-dead-34>

B. Nonkilling Poetry:

1. Peace Train of Children's Poetry

Our nonkilling poets have their own ways of observing and commenting on what's happening expressing their joy and hurt, in search of nonkilling peace and society. My heartfelt thanks to IFLAC for publishing and sending my way a delightful thought-provoking book of poems by young children, entitled: THE CHILDREN'S PEACE TRAIN POETRY. As publishers of the book IFLAC's Ada Aharoni and Solveig Hansen point out: "The moving poems - With peace hopes that the children of the world will light the torch of world peace for us, through their beautiful poems."

You can access PEACE TRAIN OF CHILDREN'S PEACE POETRY by clicking on:
<http://iflacpeacetrain.wordpress.com/2014/11/12/a-child-for-peace-e-book/>

Given below is the link to the "page-flipping" e-book for online reading:
http://issuu.com/tranonline/docs/iflac_peacetrain?e=14248930/10064349

2. Two poems by Syeda Rumana Mehdi

Forgiveness: The Key to A Peaceful Society

Today, man has lost his way,
His past has burnt up in flames in anguish, the present is rotten and the future continues
to decay,

He has blown all the candles of guidance and now wanders aimlessly in the dark,
The illuminated flame of faith in his heart is now a mere spark,

Be it Pakistan, Afghanistan or Syria,
Everywhere he looks, there is only gloom, terror or hysteria,

Why are we trapped in the tornado of grief?
Why can't our sea of troubles find a shore of relief?

The answer is simple We lack tolerance for each other,
Our greed and selfishness has increased so much that we are ready to kill our own
sisters and brothers,

The first candle of guidance is tolerance,
It calls out for patience and coherence,

Alas, we are not patient anymore,
As a result, the death rate continues to rise,

The second candle of light is forgiving others,
This means having mercy on one's parents, friends, sisters and brothers,

Together, forgiveness and tolerance will indicate the correct path,
If we do not practice them, how will the voluminous clouds of sorrow depart?

Forgiveness is indeed the key to a peaceful society,
It is the unblemished symbol of magnanimity and piety,

Oh discriminating world! Open the Quran, the Bible and the ancient texts,
It is clearly stated that only with patience and forgiveness, social injustice will come to a
rest,

Otherwise, the Earth will remain a battlefield,
Where instead of food crops, weapons will remain the yield.

So let's join hands and seek repentance from God,
And learn to resolve issues through forgiveness rather than the use of sword.

The Grieving Mothers

A Pakistani mother cries her heart out,
Echoing in her ears is her son's last shout,

Oh mother! I did not want to become a suicide bomber,
But in this unjust and cruel world, I cannot live any longer,

Sitting on an old carpet, a Libyan mother weeps,
She remembers when her son had called her for the last time, he had sounded weak,

Oh mother! The injuries of war are taking my life,
After me, who shall take care of my children and wife,

The screams of anguish of a Japanese mother can be heard from a distance,
She has lost her only son, who was the sole reason of her existence,

Oh mother! I'm dying of leukaemia, a disease caused by the nuclear bomb,
One day, flowers of peace shall blossom on my tomb,

Tears fall from a Palestinian mother's eyes as she stands over her son's grave,
Why did she let him join the army; how could she have been so naïve?

Oh mother! I'm scared of gunshot,
I hope they send my body back to you before it begins to rot,

How can we remain deaf to these desperate wails,
How can we allow this strong ship of violence to sail,

War snatches away all opportunities of exhilaration,
Is the atomic bomb and nuclear war our final destination?

The mothers beg us, "Disarm! Disarm! Disarm!"
To prevent the world from plunging into more chaos and alarm!

Syeda Rumana Mehdi

3. Time to stand up against killing, killing, killing: David Krieger's new poem VIOLENCE asks for citizen involvement and leadership

VIOLENCE
By David Krieger

Violence, you are killing our children,
in our streets, our schools, our homes.

Violence, you are killing our children,
in Mexico and Nigeria, in Iraq and Syria.

Violence, you are killing our children,
in our cities, our towns, everywhere.

Violence, you are killing our children,
with guns and knives, bombs and drones.

Violence, you are killing our children,
with starvation, disease and pollution.

Violence, you are killing our children,
east and west, north and south.

Violence, you are killing the future,
threatening children not yet even on the planet.

Violence, is there no reasoning with you?
Enough is enough.

Violence, you are a monster that must be stopped.
Who will stand up? Who will speak out?
David Krieger, November 2014

4. THE MOBILIZATION OF NONKILLING: A NEEDED GLOBAL EFFORT

An admonition by our Nonkilling Poet Laureate Francisco Gomes de Matos on killings
which have been happening in places of worship all across the globe last month
When terrorists kill people who are praying,
It is also Humankind that those killers are slaying

When terrorists kill people who are spiritually meditating,
It is also Humankind that those killers are exterminating

When terrorists kill people who are praying anywhere and everywhere ,
in a church, a temple, a mosque, or a synagogue
It is also to the history of human killing that those killers are adding
another abominable epilogue

As long as terrorists kill people who are praying in houses of worship,
Let's do our share in East and West for a Nonkilling Peace and
show one another our Nonkilling faces

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The last nonkilling poem in this section by Jean d'Amour is at end of this Letter for its inspirational title: A New World is Being Born

C. Nonkilling Museums:

The Human Rights Museum in Winnipeg, Canada opened in September. In an interesting article on this museum, under the heading, "**Curating hope for a future free of fear at the Museum of Human Rights**" journalist Roy MacGregor in his review article in the Globe and Mail writes:

"Of course, there are dark moments, often very dark. And several of them Canadian. Despite this country's reputation for tolerance, there is the story of its refusal to allow the liner St. Louis to land in 1939, forcing the ship to return to Europe with 907 Jewish refugees, 254 of whom would die in concentration camps. And just to show one coast could be as unwelcoming as the other, there is the story of the Komagata Maru, which arrived on the West Coast in 1914 carrying 376 passengers, mostly Sikh, and only 24 were allowed to land, the rest being turned away.

And yet, the higher one climbs along the alabaster ramps, the more light appears and the more hopeful the stories..." For more on this:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/curating-hope-for-a-future-free-of-fear-at-the-museum-of-human-rights/article21837182/>

A New World is Being Born

by Jean d'Amour DUSENGUMUREMI

I'm dreaming while I'm walking around
I'm dreaming while the sun beats down
I'm dreaming while my eyes are fully open
I'm dreaming about a new world

A new world of tomorrow...
For today starts a new page of the world's history
Today starts a new world
and breaks cycles of violence
Now a new world is being born

A world that dignifies each human being
A new world is being born...
Do not abort it
Do not kill it
Let it grow up
until it dies of old age
but it shall not even die
if you let it grow up
for it shall bear fruits
and of these fruits shall be born a new world
and a new world that is being born shall never die
if you let it grow up

Now we can sing and dance,
For today starts a new generation

A generation that sings peace and justice
A new generation whose rule is charity
And hatred an exception
For today starts a new world

Today starts a new generation
A generation whose heroes are not those
Who have killed many of their enemies
but those who have made friends of their enemies
in opting Unity in Diversity for vision
hence the differences are no longer sources of conflicts
but sources of wealth and evolution
for today starts a new world

Today starts a new world
a new world where the confession doesn't cause shame
but brings peace in hearts
because forgiveness is walking around
waiting for a meeting with the confession
so that the victim and the perpetrator may kiss each other
for today starts a new world

Today starts a new world
a new world starts
where the victims forgive
before the perpetrators come
to ask them pardon...
both today starts a new world
where the perpetrators confess
before they are found guilty
for today starts a new world

Today starts a new world
A new world without any war
because the superpower is no longer the nation
that uses nuclear weapons
but practices the principle of non-violence
to resolve conflicts among nations
Now we can dance and sing
for a new world starts
where the human beings can hope to die of old age
and not of weapons and machetes
for today starts a new world...

Father Jean d'Amour DUSENGUMUREMI, Hales Corners, WI, On August 7, 2014. He lovingly dedicates these lyric words for peace to Emmanuel NDAHIMANA.
My deep gratitude to all our contributors and others who brought these works to my

attention, in particular Murray Thomson, Stuart Cryer, Jesse-Blue-Forrest, Ada Aharoni, Solveig Hansen, Rumana Mehdi, David Krieger, Francisco Gomes de Matos, Late Thomas Young, Roy Macgregor, and Jean d'Amour DUSENGUMUREMI.

Congratulations also to our IFLAC colleague Dr. Ada Aharoni for having received this year's TEMOIGNAGE PRIZE in France for her book "THEA WOLF: THE WOMAN IN WHITE OF THE HOSPITAL IN ALEXANDRIA". I like Thea Wolf's amazing spirit as described in the preface by French Literary critic Robert Sole: "Sur une table d'opération, il n'y avait ni juifs, ni musulmans, ni chrétiens, il n'y avait plus d'étrangers ou d'Egyptiens, mais simplement des hommes, des femmes ou des enfants, tous semblables et semblablement attachés à la vie."

With Nonkilling Regards,
Bill

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"Nonkilling is THE measure of human progress"