

NonKilling Arts Rrsearch Committee(NKARC) Letter: Feb 2016

Dear NK Arts RC members and friends,

Storytelling is an essential part of the arts whether we are writing prose, poetry, painting, creating music, building peace museums and memorials etc. Story telling can go across generations in projecting possibilities of future - good, bad and ugly. In the Nonkilling Arts, we look at the new and old creations for their potential to build a Nonkilling Future. Buckminster Fuller once said: "we are called to be architects of the future, not its victims... The challenge is to make the world work for 100% of humanity in the shortest possible time, with spontaneous cooperation and without ecological damage or disadvantage to anyone."

The most outstanding image of the past month culturally was US President Obama, head of the most powerful nation, tears rolling down his cheeks empathising with the victims of gun culture, especially innocent first graders of Newtown massacre who fell prey to America's gun culture. An authentic plea from a world leader about non-killing in America! Another surprise came reading the obits of the pop music icon David Bowie, power of his music to bring down Berlin wall. More on these two, and other Nonkillings Arts contributions below.

1. Music and Nonkilling

Those of us who grew up in the sixties associate social/ anti-war protest singing with names such as Pete Seger, Buffie Saint Marie, Joan Baez, Woody Guthrie etc. often missing the impact of contemporary pop icons like Bono, Edge and Bowie etc. As a tribute to David Bowie, German Foreign Ministry has credited his HEROES song that helped to bring down Berlin Wall, empowering Berliners with the lyrics exhorting two lovers on either side of the wall to dare authorities and unite. For more, click on: <https://news.vice.com/article/he-was-the-best-there-is-tributes-pour-in-from-across-the-world-for-the-legendary-david-bowie> . Culture can be an extremely powerful force. Text of the Heroes follows:

HEROES

I will be king
 And you, you will be queen
 Though nothing, will drive them away
 We can beat them, just for one day
 We can be heroes, just for one day

And you, you can be mean
 And I, I'll drink all the time
 'Cause we're lovers, and that is a fact
 Yes we're lovers, and that is that

Though nothing, will keep us together
 We could steal time, just for one day

We can be heroes, forever and ever
What'd you say?

I, I wish you could swim
Like the dolphins, like dolphins can swim
Though nothing, nothing will keep us together
We can beat them, forever and ever
Oh we can be heroes, just for one day

I, I will be king
And you, you will be queen
Though nothing will drive them away
We can be heroes, just for one day
We can be us, just for one day

I, I can remember (I remember)
Standing, by the wall (by the wall)
And the guns, shot above our heads (over our heads)
And we kissed, as though nothing could fall (nothing could fall)
And the shame, was on the other side
Oh we can beat them, forever and ever
Then we could be heroes, just for one day

We can be heroes
We can be heroes
We can be heroes
Just for one day
We can be heroes

We're nothing, and nothing will help us
Maybe we're lying, then you better not stay
But we could be safer, just for one day
Oh-oh-oh-ohh, oh-oh-oh-ohh, just for one day

Songwriters

DAVID BOWIE, BRIAN PETER GEORGE ENO, ALESSANDRO LINDBLAD, TOVE LO

The Bowie song reminded one of the first Nonkilling lyrics we used in the earliest NKARC letters - a song by colleague Anis Hamadeh that he wrote for his musical, **The Flood**. Thought you would find its empowering message of Nonkilling Love and Peace sung beautifully as the blues of interest:

NONKILLING

Song from The Flood by Anis Hamadeh

www.anis-online.de

Track 29

Here's a new word, have you heard "nonkilling"?
Sound and alert, it's the word "nonkilling."

Dr. Johnson, get out your book and write it down for me.
Spread the word in Bangor, Maine, and Memphis, Tennessee.

Nonkilling here, nonkilling there, nonkilling politics, nonkilling care.
There is a number, count the killings, count them well,

For every killing has a tale that we can tell.
Index high, my oh my, index low, here you go.

Reduce the killings, that's the first priority.
Respect for leaders who can act responsibly.

Values here, values there, take the microscope and compare.
Here's a new word, have you heard "nonkilling"?
Sound and alert, it's the word "nonkilling."

###

2. Theatre and Nonkilling:

The recent issue of Canadian journal alt. theatre has interesting range of articles on how we represent 'the other' in our art forms - Afro-Canadians, Muslims, Jews, Indigenous People, LGBT community etc. How art can be a way of cultural healing and reconciliation raising fundamental questions: who belongs here? who are we? what stories are we telling? and what stories are we not telling? It will be unrealistic to have in this short letter all those articles. However, the thoughtful editorial entitled "Storytelling Across Generations" by Nikki Shafeeulah provides interesting overview and insights into the content of the issue.

Nikki writes: "There are many ways in which artists arrive at cross-generational storytelling; but their reasons for doing so are concomitant: intervening in processes of memory-making and history creation; breaking silence around trauma; archiving the past; deepening and expanding contemporary artistic practices; and strengthening connections with cultural communities. What I find most exciting is seeing the incredible potential for practices of storytelling across generations to imagine, and influence, the future." For full editorial, see the attached alt. theatre editorial.

###

3. Nonkilling Poetry

NKARC colleague Professor Rashida Khanem sent the following poignant poem of Nonkilling transformation of Grief, Sorrow and Pain into Love and Joyous Courage.

Nonkilling Grief Sorrows and Pain

Grief Sorrows and Pain are Nonkilling enriching the soul for embracing the vocabulary of life-strive for serving humanity.

Grief Sorrows and Pain attempt heart go deeper and deeper unfolding the beauty of truth-reverence in life.

Grief Sorrows and Pain turns Nonkilling letting soul endowing wisdom through and through merging everything in one Form- the Nonkilling Spirit, imbuing the soul with love and joyous courage alike dazzling ripples of the Ocean moving forward embracing the Supreme Excellence of Life- the Nonkilling
-- Rashida Khanem

[Dr.Khanem is the Bangla translator of the book, Nonkilling Global Political Science]

4. Film Documentaries and Nonkilling

(i) An inspirational documentary entitled, **Britain's Muslim Soldiers** (39 minutes) was recently broadcast on BBC.

Click on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0cDsdMvplQ>

The film follows the story of the restoration of a forgotten and dilapidated burial ground in the UK of 27 Muslim soldiers who gave their lives fighting for Britain in the World War 1. 1.4 million soldiers from British India fought in that war. Wikipedia shows figures of casualties of British Indian soldiers to be 62,000 killed and another 67,000 wounded. In total at least 74,187 Indian soldiers died during the war. In New Delhi, there is a memorial to the soldiers of that and other wars in the huge India Gate with name of each dead soldier chiselled on the beige stones. India Gate as a war memorial has always raised the question in me, why not on such memorials have a pledge to those killed of no more wars.

(ii) Nonkilling is not just about anti-war, it's about prevention of violence. Rate of suicides are the highest, followed by homicides, traffic accidents, wars come after that. Scourge of suicides continue worldwide. Colleague Mony Dojeji who keeps a tab on peace walkers forwarded this short youtube video entitled, Trail Therapy -Love Life". Click on:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_1QxWtRSHc (6 mins)

Summary: Steve Fugate walks to heal himself, and anyone else who hears his message of love. In 1999, his only son committed suicide while Fugate was in the middle of hiking the Appalachian Trail. And several years later, he lost his daughter in an accidental overdose of drugs that were meant to treat her multiple sclerosis. Fugate's "trail therapy" has taken him across the United States seven times and over 34,000 miles. He walks to raise awareness about depression and suicide - "to mend the broken hearts while they are still beating." You can only have world peace, if you have peace inside you, he says.

5. Nonkilling Posters and Rhymed Reflections

My linguist NKARC colleague Professor Francisco Gomes de Matos has been on a roll last month. He has a wonderful knack for zeitgeist, presenting insightful and inspirational rhymed reflections on current happenings. Three pieces from him below:

'The Day President Obama Cried', 'Diplomatic Relations - A Nonkilling Perspective' and 'Human Rights, Human Rights'

Additionally, his poetic reflections have been a great educational tool ABA Recife, Brazil producing them in the form of posters in English and Portuguese. His unique collection of 32 posters includes 10 posters focused on Nonkilling. Their titles: Being educated for Nonkilling; Business for Nonkilling: Educating all children for Nonkilling; For Nonkilling Education: A Plea to Humankind; Nonkilling:A Checklist for family use ; Humankind in Nonkillingland ; Praying nonkillingly ; TESOLers as appliers of Nonkilling; The day weapons refused to kill;Preserving the past: A Nonkilling cultural plea. These posters can be downloaded for free at www.estudenaaba.com . Click on Media, then on posters and on English.

A best way to pay tribute to Prof. Gomes de Matos work and to the cause of Nonkilling can be through any of you holding an exhibition of those posters in your schools, colleges or community centers. For more information, see the contact on above website or Francisco cardoso gomes de matos <fcardosogomesdematos@gmail.com>.

The day President Obama cried

by Francisco Gomes de Matos, peace-nonkilling linguist, Recife,Brazil

Yesterday on television President Obama addressed his nation on new measures to be taken concerning gun-control legislation

In his message when mention of many tragic shootings was made
A tribute to the innocent victims of those killings was also being paid

Then President Obama`s emotional temperature was high
and it made that American leader cry

His message, spoken with commendable determination
was watched by millions in admiration

For his was a powerful, inspiring Nonkilling voice
that made all peaceful-life-supporting global citizens rejoice

That was indeed a history-making day :
Its memory is dignifyingly here to stay
####

Diplomatic Relations : A Nonkilling perspective

by Francisco Gomes de Matos

When between two countries diplomatic relations are broken
what peace-building-reuniting language could be spoken ?

The language of conciliation and mutual understanding
which would help each nation in dignity to keep standing

In such diplomatic dignilogue, a nonviolent/nonkilling approach would be
priorized
and the sustainable goal of global peace by the two countries would be
recognized

Let's pray for countries breaking diplomatic relations to reconcile and
thus jointly to grow

When that happens, an inspiring example will be given to the international
community, a lesson in nonkilling diplomacy that posterity will know

###

HUMAN RIGHTS, HUMAN RIGHTS : A poem-plea to Humankind,
by Francisco Gomes de Matos

Human Rights, Human Rights
You have been violated how many thousands of days and nights ?

Human Rights, Human Rights
For your assurance, have there been how many thousand fights ?

Human Rights, Human Rights
To how many communities in conflict have you brought conciliatory lights ?

Human Rights, Human Rights
To countries at war, have you brought diplomatically inspiring insights ?

Human Rights, Human Rights
About your dignifying role in local/global political history who writes ?

Human Rights, Human Rights
Well beyond your powerful voice in the Universal Declaration
when will you help bring about a Civilization(al) transformation ?

###

6. Nonkilling Journalism:

An insightful op-ed by NKARC colleague Robert Koehler on US Presidential election
campaign from Nonkilling perspective.

Bob cites from a speech by Dr. King his "audacity to be a visionary". He writes: "When I
want to believe that America is a democracy - indeed, to feel so
deeply this is so that my soul trembles - I turn to Martin Luther King, who
gave his life for it.

He cried out for something so much more than a process: a game of winners and losers. He reached for humanity's deepest yearning, for the connectedness of all people, for the transcendence of hatred and the demonization of "the other." He spoke - half a century ago - the words that those in power couldn't bear to hear, because his truths cut too deep and disrupted too much business as usual."

For full article, PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS AND THE AMERICAN SOUL
click on:

<<http://commonwonders.com/peace/presidential-politics-and-the-american-soul/>
><http://commonwonders.com/peace/presidential-politics-and-the-american-soul/>

Robert Koehler is an award-winning, Chicago-based journalist and nationally syndicated writer.

7: Call for Submissions from IFLAC for a Literary anthology on anti-terrorism:

"The last date for sending materials to the IFLAC 2016 Anthology is: 30 April 2016. However, please try to send your materials before.

What we specially need for this innovative IFLAC Anthology, are ANTI - TERROR creations: articles, stories, poems, haiku and art, as the wave of terror is unfortunately spreading all over the world!

We have to prove the truth of our LOGO: THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD, and fight horrendous TERROR with our computers, our smart phones and our words, until it is eliminated from our global village.

Peace - lovers all over the globe are the majority of the citizens of the world! Together, we will create powerful ANTI-TERROR creations and we will overcome!

Also, please send us one of your own most impressive pictures, together with your short Bio up to 50 words.

In peace,
Prof. Ada Aharoni
Editor in Chief, OFLAC (Internaitonal Forum for Culture and Peace)
IFLAC Anti -Terror Anthology 2016"

###

Profound gratitude to all who contributed or pointed to the material for this letter.

Looking forward to your contributions and comments as always.

Nonkilling Regards,

Bill

Bill (Balwant) Bhaneja
Coordinator
NonKilling Arts Research Committee(NKARC)
Center for Global Nonkilling(CGNK)
www.nonkilling.org

"Nonkilling art explores the spirit and practice of how to prevent, respond to, and to improve individual, social, and global well-being beyond killing." - Glenn D. Paige

== Nonkilling is THE measure of Human progress==