

## NonKilling Arts Research Committee (NKARC) Letter: June 2016

Dear NKARC members and friends,

"You can blow up a man with gunpowder in half a second, while it may take twenty years to blow him up with a book. But the gunpowder destroys itself along with its victim, while a book can be exploding for centuries."

Christopher Morley (1890-1957)

Morley's quote opens the books section of the new re-designed Center for Global Nonkilling website:

<http://nonkilling.org/center/publications-media/books-cgk-publications/>

### 1. Nonkilling Journalism

(a) The passing away of Jesuit peace activist Daniel Berrigan - a tribute by John Dear Jesuit priest Daniel Berrigan (and his brother Phillip) are one of the prominent American religious figures of the last century, alongside with Martin Luther King, Jr., Thomas Merton, and Dorothy Day. They inspired millions of people to speak out against war, nuclear weaponization, and work for peace, and helped turn the Catholic church back to its Gospel roots of peace and nonviolence. They are known for their anti-nuclear project ploughshares demonstration, since 1980s over 100 ploughshares demos have occurred in USA, England, Ireland, Germany and Australia.

Dear writes: "After the indictments and mistrial in Harrisburg, the Berrigans turned their attention to the U.S. nuclear weapons industry and embarked on resistance as a way of life. On September 9, 1980, with Philip and six friends, Berrigan walked in to the General Electric headquarters in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania and hammered on unarmed nuclear weapon nosecones. They were arrested, tried, convicted and faced up to ten years in prison for the felony charge of destruction of government property. Their "Plowshares" action opened a new chapter in the history of nonviolent resistance and the anti-nuclear movement. Berrigan drew inspiration from the biblical prophet Isaiah who wrote that one day, "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again"(Isaiah 2:4).

At another place, Dear quotes Dan Berrigan from the film "In the King of Prussia": "The only message I have to the world is: We are not allowed to kill innocent people. We are not allowed to be complicit in murder. We are not allowed to be silent while preparations for mass murder proceed in our name, with our money, secretly...It's terrible for me to live in a time where I have nothing to say to human beings except, "Stop killing." There are other beautiful things that I would love to be saying to people. There are other

projects I could be very helpful at. And I can't do them. I cannot. Because everything is endangered. Everything is up for grabs. Ours is a kind of primitive situation, even though we would call ourselves sophisticated. Our plight is very primitive from a Christian point of view. We are back where we started. Thou shalt not kill; we are not allowed to kill. Everything today comes down to that — everything.

For full tribute, click on: <https://www.transcend.org/tms/2016/05/the-life-and-death-of-daniel-berrigan/>

(b) In \*QUIET WAR, SLEEPING NATION\* op-ed, Robert Koehler examines the current election race in USA and lack of commentary on American foreign policy and war on terror. However deep in his article is the probing question from Noam Chomsky. Bob writes:

“Returning to the opening question ‘Who rules the world?’ we might also want to pose another question: ‘What principles and values rule the world?’ That question should be foremost in the minds of the citizens of the rich and powerful states, who enjoy an unusual legacy of freedom, privilege, and opportunity thanks to the struggles of those who came before them, and who now face fateful choices as to how to respond to challenges of great human import.”

The point I'm struggling to make is that democracy isn't easy. Peace isn't easy. Those who wage peace have to do so independent of global political and economic structures, and independent of much of the mainstream media.

What principles and values rule the world?

This question is so easily belittled by those who are troubled by it, so easily dismissed from coverage and discussion of the presidential race. But something remarkable has indeed been happening this time around."

The question: What principles and values rule the world? is a fundamental one to be confronted worldwide and cannot be swept under the rug by the proponents of power machination and realpolitik. For Bob's full article, click on: <http://commonwonders.com/world/quiet-war-sleeping-nation/>

Robert Koehler is an award-winning, Chicago-based journalist and nationally syndicated writer. Contact him at [koehlercw@gmail.com](mailto:koehlercw@gmail.com) <[koehlercw@gmail.com](mailto:koehlercw@gmail.com)> or visit his website at [commonwonders.com](http://commonwonders.com) <<http://commonwonders.com>>.\*

(c) On Mother's Day, Murray Polner's essay "Still at War on Mother's Day" appeared in Shalom May 2016 issue of the Jewish Peace Letter. Polner writes:

"Sadly, on Mother's Day — yesteryear, today, and in the years ahead — peace and justice seems further away than ever. How many more war widows and grieving families do we need? Do we need yet another war memorial to the dead in Washington? More bodies to fill our military cemeteries? More crippled and murdered soldiers and civilians so our weapons manufactures' stock prices can rise? Do we really need to continue disseminating the myth — and lie — that an idealistic America always fights for freedom and democracy? Thousands of American men and women have been killed in our recent and endless wars. They all had mothers."

For full article, click on:

<http://jewishpeacefellowship.org/documents/ShalomMay2016.pdf>

I gather Murray reviewed the pre-publication manuscript of Glenn Paige's Nonkilling Global Political Science.

## 2. Nonkilling Poetry:

Friend Francisco Gomes de Matos reminds us about the essence of Peace Poetry - its purpose and meaning:

### **When poetry deeply matters,**

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

POETRY deeply matters when it is focused on PEACE

POETRY deeply matters when poets sing :all kinds of violence should cease !

POETRY deeply matters when poets use their art  
to dignify the human mind and the human heart

POETRY deeply matters when poets all types of killing denounce

POETRY deeply matters when poets a Nonkilling World they announce

POETRY deeply matters when poets PEACE+NONVIOLENCE+NONKILLING  
creatively

interconnect and integrate

POETRY deeply matters when poets compose poems that a "love-one-another  
global citizenship" wisely celebrate

Using friend Francisco's criteria, I selected some poems you kindly pointed to me. These are from Ada Aharoni and Helen Bar-Lev of IFLAC, David Krieger of NAPF and Bani Kaur's poetry posted on Global Poetry, a site hosted by Sumeet Grover, it has now a Nonkilling Poetry page. Hope the longing for love in these poems resonate with you,

the poems creatively interconnect and integrate the Nonkilling spirit amidst wars and killings glorified by their perpetrators, your feelings of love, hope and aspirations which dignify human mind and the human heart.

(ii) **"Peace Mothers We Know"**

by Ada Aharoni

"We can best help you to prevent war not by repeating your words and following your methods, but by finding new words and creating new methods."

Virginia Woolf, Three Guineas

Mothers you know, a long time ago  
 have been wisely decreed  
 by diverse human creeds and needs -  
 goddesses of peace-in-the-home,  
 lavishly giving life, love and healing  
 through their wombs and life-blood.  
 And they have been quite successful  
 those peace-in-the-home mothers,  
 closely guarding us with their watchful eyes,  
 their tender words and motherly wisdom,  
 surely safer than in a new World War  
 or in a horrendous Nuclear War

So, what about making mothers  
 the guardians of peace on earth?  
 Surely we wouldn't be so much worse?  
 And they are so available those mothers -  
 you can even find them  
 in enemy land.  
 Look at the terrible mess they have  
 made of our blue planet, mother,  
 you are the only one who can save us now,  
 the only one who really knows  
 how to protect your fearful children  
 weeping over their violent ailing world,  
 the only one who can heal it now, mother,  
 cradling it in your warm, loving arms.

Ada Aharoni

(ii) Two Poems: **"The Enemy"** and **"Lord of All"** by Helen Bar-Lev

Click on:

<https://iflac.wordpress.com/2015/10/29/helen-bar-lev/>

(iii) **"A tree for the victims"** of two Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a poem by David Krieger

Click on:

<http://www.globalpoetry.org/blog/2015/08/20/a-tree-for-the-victims/>

(iv) **"A girl child's plea"**, a poem by Bani Kaur

Click on:

<http://www.globalpoetry.org/blog/2015/06/21/a-girl-childs-plea/>

### 3. Films, Docs and Nonkilling:

(a) UNDER THE GUN examines the events and people who have kept the gun debate fierce and the progress slow, even as gun deaths and mass shootings continue to increase. Through the lens of families impacted by the mass shootings in Newtown, Aurora, Isla Vista and Tucson, as well as those who experience daily gun violence in Chicago, the documentary looks at why politicians are finding it difficult to act and what is being done at the state and local levels.

Click on below for short trailer and interesting site with factual data of gun related killings in the USA.

<http://underthegunmovie.com/> <<http://underthegunmovie.com/>>

(b) An award winning short film from Cairo international film festival. Just 4 and a half mins but really worth looking at...the caption... When you give something unconditionally.. It comes back. It is 4.5 minutes and really worth looking at...

[https://www.facebook.com/CreativeMe.ChildArt/posts/765705503529514?comment\\_tracking=%7B%22tn%22%3A%22O%22%7D](https://www.facebook.com/CreativeMe.ChildArt/posts/765705503529514?comment_tracking=%7B%22tn%22%3A%22O%22%7D)

### 4. TV interview on Building a Culture of Peace

NKARC colleague Koozma J. Tarasoff and I were interviewed recently in an hour long three part program about Building a Culture of Peace by Ottawa Experts producer Mony Dojeiji. The program is now on YouTube: Click on:

Part 1 <https://youtu.be/Eej8J2v2Mmo>

Part 2 <https://youtu.be/6ZAg0jXbpFI>

Part 3 <https://youtu.be/OBzmAJuqZjs>

**5. Selfies and Nonkilling:** Colleague Rich Panter sent the following twist on selfies:

> [http://www.esquire.com/entertainment/movies/news/a45000/make-selfies-not-guns/?mag=esq&list=nl\\_enl\\_news&src=nl&date=051816](http://www.esquire.com/entertainment/movies/news/a45000/make-selfies-not-guns/?mag=esq&list=nl_enl_news&src=nl&date=051816)

<[http://www.esquire.com/entertainment/movies/news/a45000/make-selfies-not-guns/?mag=esq&list=nl\\_enl\\_news&src=nl&date=051816](http://www.esquire.com/entertainment/movies/news/a45000/make-selfies-not-guns/?mag=esq&list=nl_enl_news&src=nl&date=051816)>

**6. Last word: Two Nonkilling Reflections from Brazil and Bangladesh**

***A concrete dimension of PEACE: NONKILLING***

by

*Francisco Gomes de Matos*

To PEACE, there is a concrete dimension,  
but among peacemakers, of it there is still little mention.

As NONKILLING, that vital dimension is known  
globally, it should be effectively sown.

When to PEACE, NONKILLING is related,  
a more comprehensive concept is articulated.

An integrated PEACE + NONVIOLENCE + NONKILLING let`s apply,  
and with the principle of LOVING ONE ANOTHER we`ll comply.

#

***We Shall Overcome Killings***

by Rashida Khanam

We shall overcome killings with Nonkilling spirits  
instilling hearts with ethics of goodness at the dawn of life;  
We shall overcome killings with Nonkilling virtues  
enriching mind's rational faculty subverting selfish ego;  
We shall overcome killings with Nonkilling patience and sublime hope  
embedded with the Arts of knowledge for Love;  
We shall overcome killings with philosophic science  
molding, infusing and transforming soul practicing goodness with infinite love  
for human relationship with Nonkilling Symphony of  
""Spirits, Songs, Skills for Politics" serving humanity  
attaining the Divine Vision - a Killing -free Peaceful World.

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

Looking forward to further inspirations and comments as always.

Nonkilling Regards,

Bill

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*"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==