

Nonkilling Arts Research Committee (NKARC) Letter - March 2016

Dear NKARC members and friends,

This month's letter covers links to Nonkilling Arts contributions received on sculpture, cartoon, poetry, reportage, films, photo exhibit and a book review.

1. Poetry and Nonkilling:

Two challenging pieces came for this heading:

(a) From last month's The Writer's Almanac, an allegorical poem

George, Who Played with a Dangerous Toy

by Hilaire Belloc

And suffered a Catastrophe of considerable Dimensions

When George's Grandmamma was told
 That George had been as good as gold,
 She promised in the afternoon
 To buy him an Immense BALLOON.
 And so she did; but when it came,
 It got into the candle flame,
 And being of a dangerous sort
 Exploded with a loud report!
 The lights went out! The windows broke!
 The room was filled with reeking smoke.
 And in the darkness shrieks and yells
 Were mingled with electric bells,
 And falling masonry and groans,
 And crunching, as of broken bones,
 And dreadful shrieks, when, worst of all,
 The house itself began to fall!
 It tottered, shuddering to and fro,
 Then crashed into the street below-
 Which happened to be Savile Row.
 When Help arrived, among the Dead
 Were Cousin Mary, Little Fred,
 The Footmen (both of them), the Groom,
 The man that cleaned the Billiard-Room,
 The Chaplain, and the Still-Room Maid.
 And I am dreadfully afraid
 That Monsieur Champignon, the Chef,
 Will now be permanently deaf-
 And both his aides are much the same;
 While George, who was in part to blame,
 Received, you will regret to hear,
 A nasty lump behind the ear.

Moral:

The moral is that little boys
Should not be given dangerous toys.

(b) **Nonkilling Anthem** - a large number of contributors to NKARC letter are poets. We thought the colleagues (and others) might like to be challenged by trying their muse on an Anthem on Nonkilling. Anthems are mostly written inspiring a nation or a movement on virtues of its mission, in the past civil rights marches have had such songs as "we shall overcome" which came to be regarded the movement's anthem. Colleague Olivier Urbain in his book "Music for Conflict Transformation"(2008) has a couple of chapters on the topic. (<http://www2.hawaii.edu/~kent/Unpeaceful%20Music.pdf>)

I googled 'Comparison of National Anthems,' and found the Guardian article that lists 14 best anthems of the world (though one may disagree with some of the rankings considering their strong martial tone). All were however inspirational, motivational and had a certain musicality. Based on these anthems, thought what might be likely content of a Nonkilling Anthem, below are suggested list of attributes:

- * open and lofty as sky and expansive as cosmos
- * broad-minded with focus on what unites us
- * reminds us of our common humanity: world a family - a mansion with many rooms
- * where love, respect, compassion, and stewardship of environment pervades
- " prevent and protect from violence and killings
- *No more wars and No more killings - Brings together people in peace and harmony through peaceful transformations
- * Celebrates world cultures and religions
- * Celebrates message of Nonkilling, Life, and Love
- * Celebrates Plant, Earth, Nature and Sun - the Universe

There can be two types of anthems: one global and other national, each growing out of evolving conditions. e.g. anthems for Nonkilling Canada, Spain, Brazil, USA and the UN. For a peoples' anthem (and for when national states and UN are no longer relevant as main forms of political organization - or opposed to them) -maybe a generic Nonkilling Global People's Anthem with conventional listing of concerns as appropriate. Note that most Anthems grew out of struggle against something -for freedom, independence, and to celebrate identity and cohesiveness. Would nonkilling anthems celebrate liberation from killing and related sufferings to people and planet caused by killing? Would they be revolutionary or affirmation?

Hope these thoughts will inspire our NKARC poets, teachers, students to indulge in this creative endeavour. I welcome your response with a Nonkilling Anthem(s).

2. Photo exhibit and Nonkilling

The MSCU Centre for Peace Advancement at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario has a socially relevant photo exhibit, **As the women sew: Community quilts**

of Mampuján, Colombia running until April 23. For the Colombian coastal community of Mampuján, displaced by a paramilitary group in 2000 from their land, quilting has become a way of recovering their past in order to weave a better future. Moving from individual healing to collective recovery and advocating for their rights have become important steps for Mampuján in changing cycles of violence and creating a better future for their community. As the women sew, the tapestries of the community continue to be woven. For more on the exhibit, click on: <https://themennonite.org/daily-news/quilting-project-heals-trauma-and-tells-stories/>

3. Cartoons and Nonkilling

The cartoon strip on 'Liberty and Security' from December 2015 issue of the Germany's Green Party newspaper 'Graswurtzel Revolution' is timely. The cartoon was included with a story on three month emergency in France as response to the November IS attack in Paris. For this biting cartoon, click on: <http://ifunny.co/#fun/VP0XBjxm2>

4. Sculpture and Nonkilling

Even though the headline describes it as a most striking climate change sculpture, this conceptual art piece can easily be about our politicians' apathy to gun culture, violence, poverty, refugees etc. For the sculpture and a review, click on:

<<https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2014/5/7/1297486/-The-Most-Striking-Climate-Change-Sculpture-You-ll-Ever-See>>

5. Season of Nonviolence

A project about the legacy of Gandhi and Dr. King since 1998, purpose of the Season of Nonviolence project is for 64 days to mark the memorial death anniversaries of Gandhi on January 30 and that of King on April 4. It is meant to help young and old take a journey through the culture of nonviolent peace, one day at a time. This year I took the challenge offered by peace colleague Colleen Ring of Mahatma Gandhi Foundation in Edmonton, going through this daily nonkilling reflection. 64 different ways of nonviolent expression and practice. For more, click on: <http://www.gandhifoundation.ca/>

6. Nonkilling Book Review from IFLAC letter: **Generating Forgiveness and Constructing Peace through Truthful Dialogue: Abrahamic Perspectives**

is based on Hilarie Roseman's doctoral thesis, in which she describes the essence of reconciliation and forgiveness. Talking about conflict transformation through faith dialectics, the author, an Australian, focuses on three scenes of protracted conflict: South Africa, Ireland, and the Middle East, discussing their similarities and differences. For full review, click on:

<https://iflac.wordpress.com/2015/10/08/peace-through-dialogue/>

7. Documentary films and Nonkilling

Two important films to be mentioned this month:

(i) **"In Pursuit of Peace" documentary (82 minutes) Director: Garry Beitel.** An excellent film about alternative approaches to war and conflict seen from ground. It follows four Canadians specialising in mediation and reconciliation work in Iraq, Southern Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo. A thought-provoking doc funded by National Film Board and Radio Canada can be used widely to educate politicians and

decision-makers (and general public) on how such alternative humanitarian intervention to wars can bring meaningful transformation in a conflict. For a short trailer, click on: <https://vimeo.com/150351138> <https://vimeo.com/150351138>

Montreal based Barry Lazar is the producer of this doc. His coordinates are: barry@reframe-films.com and www.reframe-films.com

(ii) **Michael Moore's new documentary, *Where To Invade Next***

In **Bob Koehler's weekly column, entitled, 'Beached Whales'**, half way into the article, Koehler makes an interesting connection between the theme of 2016 US Presidential race and Moore's film. Koehler writes:

"It is in this context that I bring up Michael Moore's new documentary, *Where To Invade Next*, not because it's without flaws but because, my God, it rips back the surface of American politics and frees a fair number of imprisoned concepts — like, oh, forgiveness, childhood creativity, the honest embrace of one's own history — and sets them loose in the present moment".

For Koehler's article, click on: <http://commonwonders.com/peace/2269/>

For Moore's doc film, click on its Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Where_to_Invade_Next

As I was about to finish this letter, Bob Koehler's new column arrived which points to the **Peace on Earth Film Festival in Chicago**, which takes place March 3-6 in the Claudia Cassidy Theater at Chicago Cultural Center. **India's Daughter** is one of the 25 films to be shown at this admission-free annual festival. For more, click on: <http://commonwonders.com/peace/finding-peace-at-the-heart-of-grief/>

Robert Koehler is an award-winning, Chicago-based journalist and nationally syndicated writer. He can be reached at koehlercw@gmail.com or visit his website at commonwonders.com <http://commonwonders.com>

8. LAST WORD

On peaceful interaction: A poetic reflection

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

Peaceful interaction
calls for communicative dignity
Peaceful interaction
requires relational quality

Peaceful interaction
calls for cooperation
Peaceful interaction

requires mutual consideration

Peaceful interaction
calls for a shared constructive goal
Peaceful interaction
does good to one`s heart and soul

Peaceful interaction
calls for a commitment to serenity
Peaceful interaction
requires a deeper dialogue for humanity

Peaceful interaction
Nonviolent communication subsumes
Peaceful interaction
Nonkilling communication assumes

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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

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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==