

NonKilling Arts Research Committee (NKARC) Letter: September-October 2016

Dear NKARC members and friends,

Hope you had a good summer and are feeling re-energized. Since last NKARC Letter, you have sent my way thoughtful material on poetry, music, painting, journalism, theatre, and animation. I share that in the hope that you will find it of interest. I am in particular thankful to colleagues Olivier Urbain, Glenn D. Paige and Rashida Khanam for their insightful thoughts on the theme of "Music and Nonkilling".

1. Poetry and Nonkilling

a. The Nonkilling Song

Discovered recently a song in French, *La voix de sage* by Noah Yannick. Since retiring from playing tennis, Yannick, a Senegalese-French, has developed a career as a popular singer, performing throughout Europe. He began his music career in 1991 with the album *Black or What*, featuring the popular track "[Saga Africa](#)," which he made the stadium sing with his players after the famous Davis Cup final win. Singles "Donne-moi une vie" and "[Aux arbres citoyens](#)" are his other popular numbers.

His song "Les voix des sages" lyric has a refrain "No more fighting, No more killing". The words NO MORE KILLING resonate in the Nonkilling movement. When the Killing stops, peace sprouts.

See below Yannick's original lyrics (in French)

La voix des sages by Noah Yannick

Quand je ne crois plus a mes rkves
Ou que je vis ceux des autres
Quand moins souvent mon poing se lève
Que je ne suis plus des vçtres
Et quand j'oublie ce que je crois
Ils me redonnent la foi

Alors j'entends, j'entends
J'entends la voix des sages
Et je chante
Je chante avec eux

No more fighting
No more killing
{x2}

Quand l'amour n'est plus
Qu'un devoir

Ou quand mon regard se dītourne
Quand je pŕĩfĩre ne pas savoir
Ou que mon vme devient sourde
Et quand j'oublie ce que je dois
Ils me remontrent la voie

Alors j'entends, j'entends
J'entends la voie des sages
Et je chante
Je chante avec eux

No more fighting
No more killing
{x2}

{Chŕũurs}

Quand je ne crois plus a mes rkves
Ou que je vis ceux des autres
Quand moins souvent mon poing se lĩve
Que je ne suis plus des vŕũtres

Alors j'entends, j'entends
J'entends la voie des sages
Et je chante
Je chante avec eux

To listenr Yannick singing this song on youtube, click on:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pS3rkCJ-_Lo&noredirect=1

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b. The building and dismantling of the wall has been used as a metaphor by artists in various times. Colleague Mark Frutkin an award winning poet and novelist reads below his thought-provoking poem, **THE WALL** in this youtube link. Click on:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxZjTFUUVtA>

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c. Ina Curic sent her poem: .

**“New musings on killing and non-killing
And what to choose, or if, between the two”**
by Ina Curic

One got upset with his mirror reflection

And decided to do away with two.

The only thing there is to kill though
Is the illusion there is anything
outside of you.

So, I confess, again,
I killed my old fragmented self
In cold blood, one might say,
Though I let it slip out through
warm water actually

In a rebirthing scene
I set up for myself.
With absolutely no regret for
letting it disappear
Back into the nothingness

There is difference between dying and killing. One is deliberate, other is inevitable. Nuclear disarmament activist and scientist Late Dr. Ursula Franklin once said: "peace and public health are collective: they involve all of us. Whether friend or foe, we are dependant upon each other. Survival is collective."

For Ina's full poem, see attachment.

d. Another take on '**Walls**' came in the rhymed reflections from colleague Francisco Gomes de Matos, a peace linguist, Recife, Brazil

When we dismantle socioeconomic walls
Dignity rises and humiliation falls
When intercultural walls we dismantle
We teach one another to be gentle
When spiritual walls we take apart
We act soulfully, deep in the heart
When walls of violence we disassemble
Peace and coexistence we assemble

--

ABrAço
Francisco

Challenging poets, Hugh Mann sent following reflection to share:

PEACE POETRY

Religions are based on scripture, which is mostly poetry. So it only makes sense that religious conflict must be resolved through poetry, and not through politics, negotiation, or war. I propose that all religious conflicts be redefined poetically, so that they can be

resolved without bloodshed, winners, or losers. So let's sharpen our words, not our swords; send missives, not missiles; and apply our minds to metaphor, simile, rhyme, meter, and prosody, but not pomposity, animosity, ferocity, atrocity, or monstrosity.
Hugh Mann (<mailto:hugh.mann@organicmd.org>)

Thank you Noah, Mark, Ina, Francisco and Hugh.

2. Music and Nonkilling

Last month an interesting e-conversation took place on the subject of music and nonkilling. It started with a letter received from Prof. Rashida Khanam who noted recent killings by extremists/fanatics in her homeland Bangladesh; she wrote to Glenn Paige:

"After the horrific killing of innocent people by the militants I was asking myself, why and how such inhuman acts keep occurring?"

For getting answers on how, I am trying to find out the connection of Music and Nonkilling in developing Nonkilling Spirit. For a political Islamic jihadist, Music and Art are considered 'haraam' so it raised the question in me: Does 'No Music and Art' ruin brain and heart, deprived of aesthetic beauty, in these jihadists, leading to Killings of other human beings? What impact Classical Music- Nonkilling Music can have on brain core system? In this quest, your book, The Nonkilling Global Political Science is providing necessary resources to me!"

Paige forwarded Khanam's email to his friend, peace researcher Dr. Olivier Urbain, a NKARC colleague who is the author of Music and Conflict Transformation (2008, 2015). **Excerpts from the emails exchanged between the two, edited in the attachment Nonkilling Music 2**, examine interesting themes of research, values and intent in creative arts, especially music.

Thank you Rashida, Glenn and Olivier.

A couple of music and peace related resources:

- 1) World Orchestra for Peace: <http://www.worldorchestraforpeace.com/>
- 2)"The Soul of Music- Music's Role in Gandhi and King's Movements", a class activity on nonviolent education, available at:
http://www.cpp.edu/~ahimsacenter/k12/documents/KwanM_2.pdf

3. Animation and Nonkilling

"What about terrorism?": A Brand New Metta ANIMATION. A creative contribution to Nonkilling Arts from Metta Center of Nonviolence.

Stephanie Van Hook, on behalf of the Metta Animation Team sent the following:
What can we do about terrorism? Terrorism is a serious concern for people and communities all around the world. But, do we have to accept it as "the new normal"? No. We can end it. This short animation is a tool for starting conversations about nonviolent solutions to terrorism.

For the animation video, click on: <http://mettacenter.org/blog/terrorism-nonviolence-new-story-animation/>

Thank you, Stephanie.

4. Elections, Visual Art and Nonkilling

Visual Art and Nonkilling: **IF THIS ART COULD VOTE**. Hawaii visual artist Deborah Nehmad sent the following Huffington Post link on 2016 US Election. Aptly titled, "[If This Art Could Vote.](#)" is a timely art initiative, a collection of political art where artists reflect on pivotal 2016 US Presidential election through their works. For the compendium click on: <http://ifthisartcouldvote.huffingtonpost.com/> . It includes Deborah's example of Nonkilling art, WASTED on gun culture in USA that was mentioned in this letter earlier this year.

>> <http://ifthisartcouldvote.huffingtonpost.com/>
<<http://ifthisartcouldvote.huffingtonpost.com/>>

Thank you, Deb

5. Films and Nonkilling

The following feature films for Nonkilling advocates/practitioners were recommended:

1. Hotel Rwanda(2004),
2. Peaceful Warrior (2006) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gegNMYvY_yg&list=PLRThofCBGyid6LHszXlcNAcaZ97yraLNO (based on the book by the same name...)
3. The Men Who Stare At Goats (2009) - Official Trailer<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LS-jutv-rh0>>
4. Camp X Ray (2014)
5. Good Kill (2015).

If you get to see any of these films and find them of interest, please do send your reviews to share.

Thank you Francisco and Mony.

6. Theatre and Nonkilling: Indigenous experience

The colleagues at alt.theatre journal were involved in a unique "Train of Thought" theatre project during May-June 2015, a national travelling community arts project involving hundreds of artists, comprising an evolving group of travellers moving from

west to east coast of Canada visiting each other's communities "exploring the ways in which art could be used to build connections between indigenous and non-indigenous communities". The alt. theatre journal's editor Nikki Shafeullah was on the train and devoted two alt issues on the topic, pointing out that ultimately as children of mother earth we are all indigenous - related to and dependant upon each other and responsible for its stewardship.

Enclosed herewith as attachment is a short piece by artist Eliza Star Child Knockwood from alt. theatre journal where Eliza describes her experience with the project showing differences of depth and outlook between a native and settler's way of observing/experiencing water. See pdf attachment for her full article: "CONNECT US ALL: WATER AND CEREMONY ON EPEKWITK".

Thank you Nikki and alt.

7. Peace Festival

In Ottawa, we just finished our 12-day peace festival which was book-ended by two UN Days of International Peace (Sept. 21) and Nonviolence (Oct.02). Theme of this year's festival was, Peace and Emerging Consciousness. What became apparent was that one cannot be achieved without the other and arts play a significant role of bridge building in raising its awareness and transformative potential. This was our Tenth festival , a grass roots civil society effort involving 18 community groups organizing 25 events seeking connections between inner and outer peace. For the full festival program, click on : www.ottawapeacefestival.blogspot.com

8. Journalism and Nonkilling

a) A recent issue of the National Catholic Reporter headlines its front page: "**New NCR series delves into questions of peace**". It raises the question of what does it mean to be a Catholic peacemaker in USA: "Pope Francis has described the global condition as "a third world war in pieces," spurred by inequity, unjust use of and squandering of resources, profiteering from the arms trade and other spoils of contemporary war and a disregard, globally, for the common good. Peace, he says, is not merely an absence of conflict, nor can we settle for a transient peace for a contented minority."

We need all world religions to echo loudly about illegality of war instead of using priests and padres to bless bombs and missiles and their carriers. There is no just war. For full NCR essay, click on:

https://www.ncronline.org/news/justice/new-ncr-series-delves-questions-peace?utm_source=Marketing_Peace+%2410+off+subscription+offer&utm_campaign=%2410+off+appeal_Sept16&utm_medium=email

b) **October 2 Nonviolence Day - Gandhi's Birthday by Antonio Carlos Silva Rosa** , click on:

<https://www.transcend.org/tms/2016/10/october-2-nonviolence-day-gandhis-birthday/>

c) **The Simple Act of Pushing a Button by David Krieger**, click on:
<https://www.transcend.org/tms/2016/10/the-simple-act-of-pushing-a-button/>

In this season of election politics, a reflection below on world capitals:

BEWARE OF WORLD CAPITALS

World capitals are wicked. Each one is a Potemkin village hiding Faustian bargains. Each one subverts citizens and troops to captives and dupes, dollars and cents to dolor and nonsense, and democracy and capitalism to fiefdoms of fraud and kingdoms of kleptocracy and capitulation. Bloated with presumption and loaded with corruption, world capitals cry out for exposure, disclosure, and closure. -- Hugh Mann

Thank you NCR, Antonio, David, and Hugh

LAST WORD

Nonkilling, as you are not there!

by Rashida Khanam

From the very dawn of human history efforts continued in political, religious and moral questions for attaining a peaceful world, the spiritual end in life, but Alas!, yet not;
Nonkilling, as you are not there!

The advancement of human civilization hasn't yet been successful in its end fulfilling human desire for having a good life, living together in felicity of temperance;
Nonkilling, as you are not there!

The renaissance, great revival of arts and letters, hasn't yet kindled heart removing ubiquity of ignorance seeing the beauty of truth;
Nonkilling, as you are not there!

Democracy after centuries hasn't yet rooted itself into its being exemplifying it for the people providing solace;
Nonkilling, as you are not there!

Religions, yet not soothe humans' soul with spiritual devotion falling in love with His creations;
Nonkilling, as you are not there!

Politics hasn't yet attained its trait ensuring security and peace; recognizing it more than power doing good to people;
Nonkilling, as you are not there!

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My profound gratitude to those who contributed or recommended material for this letter.

Looking forward to your 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 Culture crosses all the lines." - Glenn D. Paige

== Nonkilling is THE measure of Human progress==