

## **Nonkilling Arts Research Committee (NKARC) Letter: May -June, 2017**

Dear NKARC members and friends,

Since last NKARC letter, we had an international memorial gathering at MuRyangSa Buddhist Temple on March 11-12 in Honolulu to celebrate life of our beloved colleague late Professor Glenn D. Paige, and marking as per Buddhist tradition the 49th Day of his passing. The ceremony was attended by over 150 persons including family, NKARC members and friends: Mrs. Glenda Paige, Anoop Swarup, Chaiwat Sath-Anand, Tom Fee, Rich Panter, Lou Ann Ha'aheo Guanson, George Simson, Olivier Urbain, Jim Dator, Les Sponsel, Maya Sotero, Pam Omidyar and many more. It was beautiful to share our memories of how Glenn inspired us in our peace endeavours in so many different ways. Please see attached three images from the ceremony, especially a photo of grey stone plaque commemorating Glenn; the plaque contains his ashes.

This letter as usual has commentaries, contributions and news about Nonkilling related fiction, poetry, music, theatre, cinema, visual arts etc.

### **THEATRE AND NONKILLING**

Two plays mentioned below fall into political docu drama genre: "The Great Society" by American playwright Robert Shenkman and "Truth and Treason" by Canadian playwright Rahul Varma. Preoccupation of the two playwrights is with the state of nation and its institutions that continue to hollow out its ideals of democracy through interplay of power, wealth, and militarism at home and abroad.

1. The Great Society by Robert Shenkkan is an epic play about America under the leadership of its 36th US President Lyndon B. Johnson, covering tumultuous period from 1964 to 1969. Shenkann's narrative is filled to the brim with real historical figures and is set during a not-too-distant exceedingly difficult period of American history that saw the expansion of the Vietnam War including assassinations of US President John Kennedy and that of his brother Robert Kennedy and the civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr .

A well crafted narrative about the politics of nation building, the play has 60 characters played by 25 actors in the Asolo Rep Theatre production that I saw in Sarasota, Florida. Director Nicole A. Watson remarks in her notes that America is a grand experiment which makes it complicated in ways that are both beautiful and heartbreaking: "we can either work towards meeting those ideals or we can double down saying one thing and doing something else. The tension is between having a singular character vs. multitudes of experiences that Americans have." The play has relevance to today's America.

2. Congrats to NKARC colleague and playwright Rahul Varma on the publication of his play, "Truth and Treason" in book form, it was published this month by Toronto's Mawenzi Publishing House. The play was premiered in Montreal in 2009. Varma's quest in this play is about unveiling the lies told by those holding power during the Iraq War perpetuating violence and the killing of an innocent child by an American soldier on the eve of a peace conference in Baghdad.

## NONKILLING FICTION

Ernest Hemmingway's writings as a novelist, an essayist, and a short fiction author fitted well with his macho image and life of an adventurer, most of his writings were drawn from such experience. His two famous novels: *A Farewell to Arms* (1929) and *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (1939) were set in the First World War and the Spanish Civil War respectively in which he participated as a soldier and a reporter.

I recently came across an interesting new edition of *A Farewell to Arms* (2012) (New York: Scribner) with the author's notes as an appendix to the book. The novel set during the Italian campaign of World War I is a first-person account of American Frederic Henry, serving as a Lieutenant in the ambulance corps of the Italian Army. It juxtaposes the experience of war with the narrator's young wife's childbirth with tragic consequences.

The novel points to the need of human courage in love and life with Fredrick Henry reminiscing: "But with Catherine there was almost no difference in the night except that it was an even better time. If people bring so much courage to this world the world has to kill them to break them, so of course it kills them. The world breaks every one and afterward many are strong at the broken places. But those that will not break it kill. It kills the very good and the very gentle and the brave impartially. If you are none of these you can be sure it will kill you too but there will be no special hurry." (chapter 34, page 216). This astute observation about "killing" becomes a central thesis of his novel for which Hemmingway had to struggle in finding a satisfactory conclusion. As he points out: the struggle of an artist in search of "making up his absolute truth", demands dedicated scrutiny so that the final narrative based on the author's experience has to be truer than mere factual.

## NONKILLING POETRY

### (1) *The Idea of Living*

by Joyce Sutphen

It has its attractions,  
chiefly visual: all those

shapes and lines, hunks  
of color and light (the way

the gold light falls across  
the lawn in early summer,

the iridescent blue floating  
on the lake at sunset),

and being alive seems  
to be a necessity if you want

to sit in the sun or rub your  
toes in the sand at the beach.

You need to be breathing  
in order to eat paella and

drink sangria, and making love  
is quite impossible without

a body, unless you are one  
of those, given - like gold -  
to spin in airy thinness forever.

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("The Idea of Living" by Joyce Sutphen from Modern Love & Other Myths. ©  
Red Dragonfly Press, 2015)

## **(2) EARTH DAY 2017**

by David Krieger

Be advised: this poem may be interrupted  
by a nuclear war.

Home is a blue-green planet,  
a pale blue dot in a vast universe,  
a water planet hurtling through space  
with its precious cargo, life.

If it comes, it is likely to be a short  
but cataclysmic nuclear war.

Home has been a place not too hot  
and not too cold, a place just right  
for life to flourish.

Lately, though, we've caused our home  
to heat up and the seas to rise.

In a nuclear war, it is said  
that the living will envy the dead.

On this day of celebration  
of our only planet, we are in danger  
of being slowly boiled or quickly fried  
or otherwise being made inoperable.

We have still not learned to share  
with each other, or to love each other  
and our home. We must try harder.

Be advised: Earth, even life itself,  
will survive without us.

It is for ourselves that we must change  
our ways.

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(3) Evelyn Voigt on her inspiration for the poem below writes: “Can you imagine pointing a gun at a child? Let alone forcing a child at gun point to lead killers to raid his home? Sad, but true for captured child soldiers in Northern Uganda. A working trip to the region in 2004 tore from me these words, as I tried to put myself in the child's bare feet.”

### **Lament of the Child Soldier**

by Evelyn Voigt

In the barrel of my gun is the heart of a mother  
and in my heart, like a distant shadow  
my yearning for childhood Am I child? I do not know.

I think I left that journey many years ago.

Or is it only days since I was torn, in screaming darkness,  
from my mother's arms,

from sun-drenched corn and cattle song;

to the seductive power of the gun?

What am I now, as in the dark I

lead the killers to my village?

Am I child? Man? Beast?

I no longer know.

What to think, to feel? I no longer know.

In the barrel of my gun is the heart of a mother

and in my heart, like a distant shadow

my yearning for love.

Which is stronger: the shadow in my heart?

Or the fear of my captors?

My trigger finger hovers .

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#### **(4) AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS : A RHYMED REFLECTION**

By Francisco Gomes de Matos

All types of nuclear weapons let's abhor  
The mention of any types of nuclear war let's deplore

Any threat of nuclear attack let's not ignore  
To arsenals of nuclear weapons let's never open the door

New ways of educating Humankind for a sustainable global Peace let's  
explore  
Let's integrate Peace+Nonviolence+Nonkilling as Humankind's  
ever-dignifying core

May the banning of all types of nuclear weapons always place LIFE ON EARTH  
to the fore  
May this humble rhymed reflection be added to the inspiring statements  
made before

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#### **NONKILLING AND VISUAL ART**

The Imperial War Museum in London, UK is hosting an exhibition titled: "People Power: Fighting for Peace" from March 23 through August 28, 2017. On display are over 300 objects like placards, banners, badges, paintings, music and literature that show the creativity behind anti-war protest movements and in the process, reflecting the cultural mood of each era. Visitors are invited to take a journey from the First World War to the present day, exploring how peace movements have influenced perceptions of war and conflict. - From conscientious objectors to peace camps and modern day marches.

In my last letter, there was a mention of BBC documentary on painter Francisco Goya. One of our members reminded me of the ongoing exhibit of plates of the painter's etchings at Honolulu Museum of Art. (February 02, 2017-August 13, 2017) The series entitled The Disasters of War levels an indictment of the human suffering associated with warfare. For more click on:

[https://honolulumuseum.org/art/exhibitions/16009-francisco\\_goya\\_disasters\\_war/](https://honolulumuseum.org/art/exhibitions/16009-francisco_goya_disasters_war/)

#### **NONKILLING DOCUMENTARY FILMS:**

(a) NKARC colleague Doc film maker Vishnu Vasu informs about the completion of his new doc film, "Handful of Leaves". It is a film about Sarvodaya movement founded by Dr. Ariyaratne in Sri Lanka . Sarvodaya is a civil society organization developed around a set of coherent philosophical tenets drawn from Buddhism and Gandhian thought. It has been operational for

almost 50 years. Today Sarvodaya is Sri Lanka's largest and most broadly embedded people's organization, with a network covering 15,000 villages, 345 divisional units, 34 district offices, 10 specialist Development Education Institutes; over 100,000 youth mobilized for peace building under Shantisena; the country's largest micro-credit organization with a cumulative loan portfolio of over LKR one billion (Sarvodaya Economic Enterprise Development Services, or SEEDS); a major welfare service organization serving over 1000 orphaned and destitute children, underage mothers, and elders (Sarvodaya Suwa Setha); and 4,335 pre-schools serving over 98,000 children; among others.

For trailer of Vishnu's film, click on: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pU2Hz\\_phsdg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pU2Hz_phsdg)

(b) Mony Dojeiji forwarded the link to following short youtube video "The Pyramid and the Pool: Why Things are better than they seem" from Martha Beck, a sociologist with a spiritual bend. She describes it as "an excellent representation and insight into how to create change - The problem with revolutionary change is that it tends to recreate the system it overthrows. The world is ready for a different kind of change, and it's coming - ." Well worth the 8 minutes...click on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xz9IJMMWP4M>

### **NONKILLING CINEMA**

In the last letter, a number of new films about gender empowerment were mentioned. I missed an important film - HIDDEN FIGURES directed by Theodore Melfi. It's about three extraordinary women who became part of the scientific brains behind NASA's first manned space flight and subsequent missions to space. On top of that these three brilliant women were Afro-American breaking their own kind of glass ceiling in the 1950s and 60s in a highly racialized country with segregated work places and neighbourhoods. For trailer, click on:

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4846340/>

### **MUSIC AND NONKILLING**

NKARC colleague Rashida Khanam writes in her piece various possibilities of Nonkilling Music as an antidote to our troubled mind. She writes:

"Nonkilling Music affects Neurosciences effecting the Brain as an Art of life with its mystic spiritual power affecting memory in mystic way processing its inherent power of order.

Nonkilling Music is one of the few aesthetic functions that provide positive tonic to the whole Brain Science.

Nonkilling Music has a profound effect in the Brain's emotional core- the limbic system

Nonkilling Music benefits the brain by reducing stress level; helping the brain get benefited having a shift from violence to nonviolence.

Nonkilling Music is implied in hippocampus and evokes positive emotions that can pacify the brain system with the amazing power of nature in reducing the release of cortisol- the stress hormones.

Nonkilling Music can have positive effects on the psyche, mood, pain and quality of life as well

Nonkilling Music enrich life providing Nonkilling resources of pleasure, the enriched medicine to soul, body and mind.

Nonkilling Music is one of the few aesthetic functions that provide positive tonic to the whole Brain.

Nonkilling Music will have positive impact on the psyche through regulation, and improving qualities of life.

Nonkilling Music will reduce anxiety, having better blood pressure levels and improved moods.

Nonkilling Music being intrinsic to all cultures has surprising benefits not only for learning language, improving memory and focusing attention, only

but also for developing harmonious relationship among different faiths and cultures.

Nonkilling Music is multidimensional with its arousal qualities: relaxing, calming and stimulating emotion.

Nonkilling music is useful to regulate mood and arousal in everyday life and to promote physical and psychological traits of

Nonkilling Music increases dopamine, a neurotransmitter released by the Brain which plays a number of roles as a functional neurochemical per se regulating motivation by playing a critical role in assertion and with cognitive ability toward a mission being the forerunner of alternative and closely related molecules behind all our most regretful behaviors and unrevealed cravings stimulating group activities.

Nonkilling Music helps leading mind to drive for positive spirits through nonkilling responsiveness to human needs for peace through creative potentials. In this creative process brain structure is intricately involved in memory,

Nonkilling Music's positive impact on the levels of oxytoein in neurochemical promotes social bonding embedded with Nonkilling spirits.

Nonkilling Music helps attaining ethical, humane with Nonkilling behavior and actions with Nonkilling spirits in life

Nonkilling Music with its ton of benefits to neurosciences and psyche brings

about a measurable change in soul and body transforming one's mind

to be nonkilling one embedded with Nonkilling Spirits to bring about a measurable change toward a killing-free world

.Nonkilling Music through " Dual Quadbrain Model of Behavioral Laterality" links with four parts " function in two modes of a single tetradic system" . . . and" the source of higher spiritual and social consciousness in the system of neocerebellar intuition"- the "Higher Source" is "truthful, creative, self-disciplined, altruistic, cooperative, emphatic, and nonviolent"

"In everyday social life, the "Source" intuitively facilitates the emergent benefits of synergy "towards nonviolent community" benefiting and contributing "to the absence of lethal threats to survival"

with Nonkilling Music, the spiritual power in transforming the souls into Nonkilling One, bit by bit, step by step brings about measurable changes toward a killing-free world, envisioned by

Professor Dr. Glenn D. Paige  
The Father of Nonkilling Global Political Science.

Rashida"

Rashida Khanam believes in presence of such nonkilling spirit in devotional and meditational music as well as in large part of classical music of both East and West. Rashida's reflection reminded me of late neurologist Oliver Sacks' book, Musicophilia - a book of thoughtful essays on music and the brain. Sacs was fascinated by the therapeutic power of music since seeing it in his patients both before and after being awakened by his L-dopa experiments as well as in his patients with conditions of amnesia, asphasia, depression and dementia being helped by the powers of music, and also how new forms of brain imaging and concepts helped in creating new 'Brain-Mind' constructs and categories.

## **NONKILLING JOURNALISM**

Two op-eds from our peace journalist colleague the Chicago Tribune op ed writer Bob Koehler:

### **(a) The Moment of the Fool by Bob Koehler**

Koehler writes: "Back to the contrast between Obama and Trump. Obama, as he coolly articulated the politics of hope, managed to disarm not U.S. foreign policy but the antiwar public. Trump is doing the opposite - and doing it so garishly, so clumsily, that public outrage coalesces around his every executive order. And a permanent movement is very much in formation right now, composed of people who see the government acting with utter oblivion to their will and interests. They feel unrepresented..." For Bob's full article, click on:

<http://commonwonders.com/the-moment-of-the-fool/>

### **(b) A Public Plan for Peace by Bob Koehler**

Talking about the Trump Administration in USA, Koehler writes:

“There is a quiet determination among those who serve the god of war — or so it seems — to engage in, and presumably win, a nuclear war. This, at any rate, is the conclusion one could draw from an essay that ran last month in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

<<http://thebulletin.org/how-us-nuclear-force-modernization-undermining-strategic-stability-burst-height-compensating-super10578>>,

by Hans M. Kristensen, Matthew McKinzie and Theodore A. Postol, who point out how the U.S. military has circumvented the global nuclear disarmament movement by increasing the accuracy — and thus the “kill power” — of the missiles it still holds onto, in the process intensifying the threat the United States poses to Russia (as the beloved Cold War returns) and minimizing the security of, oh Lord, mutually assured destruction...” For Bob’s full article, click on:

<http://commonwonders.com/a-public-plan-for-peace/>

## LAST WORD

I conclude with my tribute at the Memorial Gathering for Professor Glenn D. Paige at MuRyangSa Buddhist Temple, Honolulu, Hawaii on 12 March, 2017. Text is given below.

"Good Morning, Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My name is Bill Bhaneja. I am one of the members of the Governing Council of the Centre for Global Nonkilling.

This morning we have gathered here to celebrate the life of Professor Glenn D. Paige who left us couple of weeks ago (January 22). It is a great honour and privilege to be standing here and say these few words.

This temple evokes many memories of Glenn Paige because this was the place where the seeds for establishing Center for Global Nonkilling were sown in 2007 when Glenn organized the first Nonkilling Global Peace Leadership Conference here and then again in 2015 when we had a Futures Meeting discussing CGNK priorities for next decade.

We will miss Glenn's thoughtful leadership, his optimism, his cheerfulness, and most of all his clear vision of a Global Nonkilling Society as he described it in his seminal work Nonkilling Global Political Science.

Glenn was a deeply spiritual person. His first letter inviting me to comment on his book, Nonkilling Global Political Science ended with the following salutation: "Om Aloha, Allah, Shalom, Salaam, Peace, and Shanti." That won me over to become his foot soldier of peace. I had never heard such a salutation from any other scholar which was so global and inclusive.

There was always a radiance on Glenn's face, a smile which reflected inner purity that comes from courage derived from selflessness.

Though spiritual, Prof. Paige was primarily a scientist. "Is Nonkilling Global Society possible?" Finding that question was Glenn's Eureka moment. Posing right question is the most important thing for a scientist. Once you have posed the question, the work starts, search for right answers begins.

All of us were awed by his Nonkilling creativity. For example, on Peace he would say that the way the term loosely used had caused more harm than good. He would say: Hitler also used to say that he was doing everything for Peace, Stalin also used to say the same, so did Bush. When I interjected that he meant we should be more specific, should we call it "Nonkilling Peace". Lifting his finger, he pointed out, "Hold on to that."

Similarly on 'Why Nonkilling?' this question was often asked in various fora. He would quote his PhD student, who later became a Professor in Thailand, Chaiwat Sath-Anand, reminding us that when a young student at one of the Nonkilling Leadership Academy workshops asked him "why nonkilling", Chaiwath replied: "Nonkilling is Alpha and Omega of our existence. Nonkilling is there from the beginning to end of life - our life, and life on the planet. Precondition to every activity is nonkilling - it is measurable". Without Nonkilling everything else becomes meaningless whether we are talking about environment, security, or amity. Reverence for life comes first, something that Glenn taught us.

Glenn loved precise formulations that could be examined, analyzed and tested.

For example for Peace, Nonviolence, and Nonkilling, he was adamant that these were non interchangeable terms. Though all of these were part of the same family, each had specific meaning. He had intellectual argument for Nonkilling's non interchangeability. See his following formulation:

"Nonkilling will certainly contribute to Nonviolence and Peace. But Peace and Nonviolence do not necessarily lead to Nonkilling." Then he will go on to explain, why?

Nonkilling creativity was very important to him. For his citation for Honorary Doctorate awarded to him by the Jagaran University in Bhopal, India last year, when the university wanted to put Political Scientist beside his name, he insisted that this be corrected to "Global" Political Scientist. It was not for status. But to make sure that social scientists have to rise above the confines of a nation state, citizenship and caste etc. To him a nation state and to be its citizen was too narrow and quaint - his vision transcended narrow definitions of race, religion and nationhood.

Just a week before his passing I was talking to Glenn on phone from Canada. He said three sentences which are very important, I consider these as his last words for me:

- \* 100 years from now someone will recognize importance of a nonkilling world and society
- \* I am sure all of you will carry on the nonkilling work you are doing, we have a big global supportive network
- \* We are blessed to have Professor Anoop Swarup as the chair with his impressive background and wide ranging experience

It has been a great honour to be working with Professor Paige for all these years. May our beloved Glenn rest in peace! This memorial gathering inspires us to carry on his work, we have work to do.

Om Aloha, Allah, Peace, Shalom, Salaam, and Shanti

Thank you.

( For the you tube video version, click on link : <https://youtu.be/q9MxHY3WLOU> )

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My deep gratitude to all who contributed or pointed to the material for the letter.

Looking forward to your contributions, inspirations, and comments as always.

Nonkilling Regards,  
Bill

Bill (Balwant) Bhaneja  
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NonKilling Arts Research Committee(NKARC)  
Center for Global Nonkilling(CGNK)  
[www.nonkilling.org](http://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 Culture crosses all the lines." - Glenn D. Paige

== Nonkilling is THE measure of Human progress==