

NonKilling Arts Research Committee (NKARC) Letter: November- December, 2017

"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

Dear NKARC members and friends,

Thank you so much for your comments and contributions pointing to possibilities of a nonkilling world expressed in art form. There is a resistance in the air to violence, showing peoples collective will and aspirations as demonstrated in the new UN Sec Gen's vision statement that highlights "centrality of violence prevention" as the overarching theme of UN and its institutions, or recent signing of the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty by almost all UN Member States except 9 Nuclear Weapons possessing states and their allies who ironically run UN Security Council. Even this year's Nobel Peace Prize went to a nuclear disarmament civil society International Coalition of Nuclear Weapons Abolition (ICAN). This is third time, despite Nobel Peace Prize gives odd past choices, the Prize was awarded to a nuclear disarmament group, previous recipients were IPPNW (1985) and Pugwash (1995).

1. Nonkilling Poetry:

"**And Still I Rise**" by Maya Angelou is one of those rare poems where indomitable human spirit shines reminding us never to give up the hope. Click for this classic Dr. Angelou poem (2.52 min):

https://www.google.ca/search?q=maya+angelou+youtube+still+i+rise&hl=fr-CA&gbv=2&oq=angelou+maya+youtube+i+rise&gs_l=heirloom-serp.1.0.0i22i30l3.11452.13388.0.17548.7.7.0.0.0.180.953.1j6.7.0....0...1.1.34.heirloom-serp..0.7.952.Ot_roMYkFNY

Additionally, two offerings from colleagues Ada Aharoni (Peace is a Woman and Mother) and Francisco Gomes de Matos (A Global Call to No Arms),

Peace Is a Woman and a Mother

By Ada Aharoni

How do you know
Peace is a Woman?
I know, for I met her yesterday
on my winding way to the world's fare.

She had such a sorrowful face
just like a golden flower faded
before her prime.

I asked her why she was so sad?

She told me her baby
was killed in Auschwitz,
her daughter in Hiroshima
and her sons in Vietnam, India, Pakistan,
Israel, Palestine, Lebanon,
Yemen, Serbia, Bosnia, Rwanda,
Darfur and Chechnya....

All the rest of her children, she said,
are on the Nuclear
Black-list of the dead,
all the rest, unless
the whole world understands
that peace is a woman.

A thousand candles then lit
in her starry eyes, and I saw -
Peace is indeed a pregnant woman,
Peace is a mother.

www.iflac.org

www.iflac.wordpress.com

A GLOBAL CALL TO NO ARMS

by Francisco Gomes de Matos,

The Las Vegas massacre is more than a page in the History of Urban Peace
being cruelly torn

It is reminder to all Humankind that for those victims and their families
we should mourn

and that national legislation on arms sale/use should be boldly enhanced
so that the local/global right to peace and security be effectively
advanced

The persons killed or injured in Las Vegas should not have been
victimized in vain

In all languages, a CALL TO NO ARMS Humanity should proclaim and sustain

When will that global human-improving transformation come true ?
When to share the Earth in PEACE , all of us will know what to do

One of the most urgent educational changes for Humankind to undergo
is how seeds of PEACE-and-DIGNITY everywhere to sow and to help grow

Reacting to Francisco's Gomes de Matos above reflection, CGNK Chair Anoop Swarup sent the following:

"Is that not a strong reason to say *goodbye to guns and arms* for a truly '*Nonkilling World'*

~ let us not forget that there are now 300 million guns already in the public domain in the US ie now one gun for every American and the gun sales see a rise after every massacre.

~ there are over 11000 gun related deaths in the US just in last one year alone & the gun trade lobby remains a major donor in all political campaigns.

As we pay homage to the innocent souls in Las Vegas and mourn,

Is it not once again in this massacre that our humanity gets torn;

Should there anymore be excuses debates to just say 'no to arms' once & for all,

Is it not strong enough a reason to say 'no more killings' for mankind to be tall;

(Since then in less than a month another massacre took place in the Texas, USA. 35,000 killings of innocent Americans annually by fellow Americans. Such fondness for guns and killing other human beings is unprecedented. No guns, No killings - it should be that simple. An American colleague explained that most hand-gun purchases in USA are made for self-defense by people believing that crime rates are rising - which is true only in a few urban areas. Nationally, the crime rate's been steadily declining for decades. These gun buyers also believe that they will be safer with a firearm, which is

also statistically false)

2. Nonkilling and Music

(a) Conference on Music, Nonkilling and Peacebuilding

A two day international interdisciplinary conference focusing on the topic “**Musicking and Nonkilling for Peacebuilding: Crises, Dangers and Opportunities**” was organized by the Center for Global Nonkilling and the Programme in Peace, Mediation and Conflict Research at Åbo Akademi University in Vasa, Finland (Sept 18-20). It was to introduce the concept of musicking in relation to nonkilling and peacebuilding paradigms of Glenn D. Paige, Daikasu Ikeda and Johan Galtung.

Joam Evans Pim writes: "To music is to take part, in any capacity, in a musical performance, whether by performing, by listening, by rehearsing or practicing, by providing material for performance (what is called composing), or by dancing. We might at times even extend its meaning to what the person is doing who takes the tickets at the door or the hefty men who shift the piano and the drums or the roadies who set up the instruments and carry out the sound checks or the cleaners who clean up after everyone else has gone. They, too, are all contributing to the nature of the event that is a musical performance." It's about what we do to ourselves and to each other through music."

Academic research on the connections between musicking and nonkilling as well as peacebuilding is still new. The first academic book on the topic was published in 2008, and re-edited in 2015: *Music and Conflict Transformation: Harmonies and Dissonances in Geopolitics* (London: I.B. Tauris, edited by Olivier Urbain). The term musicking, music as a verb, fell into oblivion for many decades before being revived by Christopher Small in his book titled *Musicking* (1998, Hanover: University Press of New England). He wrote: The fundamental nature and meaning of music lie not in objects, nor in musical works at all, but in action, in what people do. It is only by understanding what people do as they take part in a musical act that we can hope to understand its nature and the function it fulfills in human life.

For more on VASA Musicking conference, click on:

<http://nonkilling.org/center/2017/10/07/how-musicking-can-support-nonkilling-and-peacebuilding/>

(b) Quebec: Music and Nuclear Disarmament. See link to report by colleague and nuclear disarmament activist Pierre Jasmin, click on:

<https://www.actualites.uqam.ca/2017/concert-pour-la-paix-pierre-jasmin>

3. Theatre and Nonkilling:

(a) Interculturality and plays in Ireland

I came across this interesting book review in the recent issue of alt.theatre by Emer O' Toole, the book is entitled "Staging Intercultural Ireland" (edited by Charlotte McKivior and Matthew J. Spangler). Compared to multiculturalism where cultural exist in silos and viewed by others as exotic and to be tolerated, the concept of interculturality of two or more cultures in contact confronts possibility of tension and how to overcome tensions by through building bridges between the dominant older culture and new comers on the scene. Emer O' Toole's review takes the reader through emerging writing about subtle changes happening in Irish society in a "blink of the tiger's eye" from a comparatively small homogenous nation to a diverse one. The new plays tackle issues of racism, immigration, economic rights, discrimination and violence.

For Emer's full review, see pdf attachment O'Toole's book review with the front matter of the issue for those interested in this unique periodical. Thank you Emer and Michelle MacArthur.

(b) Terms of Surrender by Michael Moore

When a famous US peace activist stands up on Broadway stage to tell his life story, it is rightly expected to be polemical. However, in the case of Moore it turns out to be more -- inspirational about how Moore's path of activism got set early in life, driven by conscience and unexpected small successes resulting from Moore's creative strategies of nonviolent political action. Diane Snyder of The Telegraph in her review of the play where the narrator is the play's living protagonist, writes: "But the Oscar-winning documentarian seeks to inspire as much as inflame. Part memoir, part comedy show and part Democratic Party group-therapy session, this is a vehicle for the lefty provocateur to unleash his anger at the president and at the electoral system that put him where he is." To continue, click on:

<https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/michael-moore-takes-trump-entertaining-020000810.html>

4.. Plato's four Arts and Nonkilling

Reacting favourably to poetry and comments on bombastic USA-North Korean nuclear rhetoric mentioned in previous NKARC Letters, our political philosopher colleague Clay Edwards sent the following commentary tried to connect politics to Plato's four forms of arts. I enclose below excerpts from Clay's email pointing to the missing art of politics from Kim Jong Un and Donald Trump's notorious reliance on nuclear threats.

"Mistaken as bravery or tough talk in rhetoric, this poor political condition truly describes cowardice and intemperance, an absence of courage and temperance which are hallmarks of political knowledge in political science. For some reason, North Korea and the United States have been locked into a seventy-year absence of politics, to which

China, Russia and Japan are also chained and by their own flattery are all rendered impotent - without energy even while they display nuclear stockpiles that threaten to release the energy of chaos. South Korea is caught as a fly among the regional elephants as is North Korea. This evokes images of Aristophanes' play "Peace", where Polemos the War God, accompanied by his bride Hubris parade with Tumult who threatens to grind all the Greek city states into powder on a pestle, disappear and are never seen again in the play. This cynical understanding of peace describes the absence of philosophy in art, politics, in the four arts and suggests a divine warning that we live in a very dangerous environment, in which we best not tempt fate.

Kim Jong Un is not going to be bought off by money tantamount to bribery which only shows the ineffectiveness of the so-called art of the deal. Deals not supported by politics cannot survive when advantage over others motivates and drives the bargain. Famines are not a problem for him, only personal and physical survival at all costs.

Politics must be generated as power directed and not simply released and given away. Nonkilling Global Political Science must recognize the absence of politics, in art of doing politics. Politics can only operate with a philosophy that standardizes a mixture of temperance and courage. This admixture requires art and again, art in legislation ministered to a political body in need, with medicine and justice the four necessary ingredients.

I really hope that not only is political science recognized as the science it is, but the art it does, and that the powerless who lead great nations and manage huge nuclear stockpiles will recognize that this "peace" we have now is a poor substitute for political competence and seek to recognize that the world cannot pretend to competence in political science without nonkilling global political science, in all the arts and knowledge we already have, but fail to use."

Thank you, Clay

5. Activist Filmmaker Oliver Stone's Tips for screen writers:

A pithy advice to screen writers from a veteran film maker and peace activist Oliver Stone, Click on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nBKiqhJpDQk>

6. CGNK Nonkilling News

It has been busy two months at CGNC as reflected in postings on its website (www.nonkilling.org). See postings below:

(i) CGNK signs MoU with Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific, click on

<http://nonkilling.org/center/2017/11/14/cgmk-signs-mou-with-association-of-universities-of-asia-and-the-pacific/>

(ii) Building Nonviolent Societies Workshop in Melbourne, click on:

<http://nonkilling.org/center/2017/10/15/building-nonviolent-societies-workshop-in-melbourne/>

(iii) CGMK at Violence Prevention Alliance 8th Milestones Meeting, click on:

<http://nonkilling.org/center/2017/10/27/cgmk-at-violence-prevention-alliance-8th-milestones-meeting/>

(iv) Nonkilling Anthropology course at University of Hawaii, click on:

<http://nonkilling.org/center/2017/10/27/nonkilling-anthropology-course-at-university-of-hawaii/>

7. International Day of Peace and Peace Festivals:

September and October are peace festival months. Sept. 21 over the past decade has become popular with public through global celebration of the International Day of Peace, World Day of Nonviolence and even an International Day of Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. All over the world many statements for a Culture of Peace were read during this period.

In Canada, the IDP was celebrated in many cities including Ottawa and Edmonton. See below a link to the Annual Ottawa Peace Festival, it has been described as the world's longest (11 years, running from September 21 to October 02) and the biggest (29 events this year). The peace festival program ranged from Peace meditation by Dr. Zinn on Parliament Hill to a mock Signing of Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty, Indigenous - Settlers Relations and Peace Arts Concerts etc. For the program etc click on:

<http://ottawapeacefestival.blogspot.ca/>

Also below an important declaration International Council of Women to mark the IDP: INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES FEMMES (Founded 1888)

*STATEMENT TO MARK THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE *

*21st September 2017 *

***"Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All". *This theme - declared by the United Nations for 2017 - presents intrinsic values which are amongst those at the forefront of women's organizations all over the

world. Day after day indeed, through educational programs and activities, we disseminate this set of norms in the complex society in which each one of us live.

In every small community, one can see how women try to preserve these values; women from diverse population groups try to work together, supporting one another, tackling challenges, and marching forward toward justice and rights for women and girls and for marginalized populations such as migrants and refugees, building bridges, transforming fear and despair into hope.

This year, as the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres emphasized, “The International Day of Peace will highlight solidarity with refugees and migrants, bringing people together and reminding them of their common humanity”.

ICW - through its affiliates activism and policy advocacy responds to the challenges that arise in diverse societies: to take on issues, to aid weak communities and to focus on rights of women and children, migrants and refugees in order to secure a better life for all.

However, despite the recognition of the *role of women in educating for respect, safety and dignity for all*, women continue to be under-represented in the processes dealing with peace-building. It is imperative that lessons should be learned from actual experiences to better identify and overcome barriers to women's equal participation. To achieve sustainable and durable peace, it is notably essential to ensure the integration of gender perspectives in all aspects of conflict prevention and in conflict resolution.

There is obviously a need for women's organizations to make their voices heard in their own national spheres, propose solutions to remove obstacles to gender equality, analyse the existing policy for promoting women's and girls' rights, and serve as local "gatekeepers". They clearly need to be provided with an opportunity for a local discourse and for raising awareness of issues related to the connection between gender, security and peace.

On the International Day of Peace, it is accordingly a must to repeat, again and again, that women and girls should be protected from sexual and gender violence. In such context, it is necessary to expand the policy of

enforcement and punishment of perpetrators, to broaden the array of services provided to women and girls in all spheres of life, especially to maintain their personal and economic security. Without that daily battle, we cannot ensure a life of respect, safety and dignity.

8. Nonkilling Reflection on Poetry: Physician colleague Hugh Mann offers the following thoughtful connection between conflict, scripture, and poetry: "Religions are based on scripture, which is mostly poetry. So it only makes sense that religious conflicts 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."

9. Nonkilling Journalism

(a) A friend forwarded from the Ground Report India the following commentary by **Robert J. Burrowes on Mahatma Gandhi's birthday on 2nd October**. Burrowes writes:

"This is because if you want to make a lot of money in this world, then killing or exploiting fellow human beings and destroying the natural world are the three most lucrative business enterprises on the planet. And we are now very good at it, as the record shows, with the planetary death toll from violence and exploitation now well over 100,000 human beings each day, 200 species driven to extinction each day and ecological destruction so advanced that the end of all life (not just human life) on Earth is postulated to occur within decades, if not sooner, depending on the scenario. See, for example, 'The End of Being: Abrupt Climate Change One of Many Ecological Crises Threatening to Collapse the Biosphere'.

(b) **Path breaking Holy See steps up opposition to nuclear weapons:** The Vatican cast its first ever UN vote in July when it backed a nuclear disarmament treaty. The vote signaled an evolution of the Church's doctrine, one of taking an ever tougher stance against nuclear weapons. Since then, the Vatican has kept the momentum last week **hosting a major disarmament conference** that brought 11 Nobel Peace Prize winners to the Vatican. For more, see article, "Pope Francis, in change from predecessors, condemns nuclear arsenals for deterrence" By Philip Pullella, Reuters, <http://tinyurl.com/yb9vfw23>

(c) **New Armistice Day** By David Swanson: Swanson proposes a new/ old kind of Armistice/Remembrance Day. He writes:

"Exactly at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, 99 years ago, people across Europe suddenly stopped shooting guns at each other. Up until that moment, they were killing and taking bullets, falling and screaming, moaning and dying. Then they stopped, on schedule...The U.S. Congress called Armistice Day a holiday to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations, a Day dedicated to the cause of world peace. When churches rang their bells at 11:00, that was what they meant. And they meant it right up until the war on Korea, the one the North Koreans all still remember with shudders of horror. And then Congress turned Armistice Day into Veterans Day, and veterans into props for marketing more wars and a permanent state of war preparations." For complete article, click on: <http://davidswanson.org/a-new-armistice-day/>

LAST WORD:

NKARC colleague Francisco Gomes de Matos sent two bold inspirational pieces on "sustainable search for global serenity".

A NONKILLING WORLD : An imaginative reflection

"If we shared a Nonkilling World, how would we live?

To local/global Nonkilling actions, what priority would we give ?

Would Killing-prevention campaigns be effectively intense?

Would killings be few, resulting from the right to self-defense?

Would Peace, Nonviolence and Nonkilling be strongly connected ?

To Nonkilling Principles would (inter)national relations be directed ?

Would sharing the Earth nonkillingly lead Humankind to see that always interacting as nonkilling beings we should be?"

Professor Gomes De Matos concludes: "May this imaginative piece humbly inspire a sustainable search for global serenity as illuminatingly expressed by Glenn Paige's Nonkilling legacy". Francisco couldn't help resist adding following mindful answers to his insightful questions, inviting others to join in:

"TO BE A WORLDCHANGER CALLS FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL GLOBAL AWARENESS:

Here is an open-ended list of what's needed. Please add to it.

BEING AN EFFECTIVE COSMOCHANGER calls for developing/nurturing:

- * Global ART awareness
- *Global citizenship awareness
- *Global diplomacy awareness
- *Global education awareness

- *Global economy awareness
- *Global ethics awareness
- *Global health awareness
- *Global history awareness
- *Global human rights awareness
- *Global interaction awareness
- *Global Nonkilling awareness
- *Global Nonviolenceawareness
- *Global PEACE awarenss
- *Global politics awareness
- *Global scienceawareness
- *Global security awareness
- *Global solidarity awareness
- *Global spirituality awareness
- *Global technology awareness
- *Global tradeawareness"--

ABrAço

Francisco

WE CAN DO IT.

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

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"Nonkilling Culture crosses all the lines." - Glenn D. Paige
== Nonkilling is THE measure of Human progress==