

NonKilling Arts Research Committee (NKARC) Letter: September-October, 2017
(Also as attachment in Word doc)

"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,

The past month has been dominated by the news and events on the topic of nuclear disarmament: commemoration of devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by two atomic bombs dropped by USA on August 6 and 9, 1945 during the final stages of World War II; non-signing of the UN Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty by 9 nuclear weapons possessing states and NATO members, and this month's bombastic nuclear war rhetoric by the USA and North Korea Leaders. Is there any way to prevent this nuclear weapons possessing group and their allies on changing their ways to save this planet from a nuclear holocaust?

NKARC colleague Ina Curic, a poet and a mother of two, responded on the absurdity of nuclear arms race as follows: "This Nuclear weapons talk is outright ridiculous, not signing the UN Ban Treaty. As if, in case they did drop the bomb, they would be held responsible after blowing the current earth's face and everybody here into shards again. The 5 or 6th civilization on earth to possibly disappear again, some say. I can't get it out of my mother head. Tonight I told my kids that this is the planet we live on, in storytelling metaphor. I stopped soon, realizing they are in their natural process of ego development. The big boys out there have surpassed it. How to tell them in a way that makes more sense to their heads?

Mammas haven't been good enough at telling them at all times that this is a game for little boys only. Grown up men could show their manliness by Artful Waging of Emotions rather than continue jumping at one another's throat. It's called emotional maturity and social development, right?

I can't think of anything but showing this absurdity through art and play, reinterpretation and meaning re-weaving."

Ina is so right about this macho psycho drama, that we need something creative - an artistic, whimsical expression that may produce a different type of impact. And true to herself she is working on a project to launch "a collection of children's bedtime stories for waking up adults".

In addition to poetry, other Nonkilling contributions to NKARC Letter are about music, fiction, cinema, documentary film, and museums etc, the dominant theme is how through these art forms reverse the direction of anxiety caused by nuclear weapons owning states and their leadership.

1. Nonkilling Poetry

In the spirit of what Ina noted above, it will be appropriate to start this letter with her Nonkilling poem about **the Zooks and the Yooks**, it is inspired by Dr. Suess' Butter Battle Book.

" *I bet the Zooks and the Yooks*
 *shared the same Mother *
 *who used to pull their ears *
 *when **they fought each other.*

*but they then grew up *
 *and decided they know better *
 *who is at fault and who **deserves *
 *to be killed **by the latter.*

*i hear HER: ***"though shall not beat up*
 *your brothers or sisters, *
 *in flesh or in metaphor, *
 *No poisonous arrows either *
 of thoughts into words.
 *Time in now for love connection. *
 We ONLY beat up eggs in this house.
 or carpets, old style, no objection,
 *heart shaped glasses NOW on your nose, *
 before I call in more intervention!"

* grown ups don't know anymore*
 * how to live and play *
 *a basic game with rules *
 for all to feel hearty and hale

*killing is only *
 a joke
 for the ego or any
 other balloon
 to poke!

Boom!
 confetti out,
 party on again!
 who wins this game of fooling each other
 that this is way more serious than a game?

there is a photo with Ina's girls - "we do practice wearing the heart shaped glasses, and Early warning and early response systems"

Thank you so much Ina, we wish you and your two daughters and all of us a safe and nuclear weapons free world! For the youtube version of Dr Seuss' Butter Battle Book animation, click on: (ctrl plus click on the link to activate)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_MNNI-oOI7I
 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_MNNI-oOI7I>

2. Nonkilling and Music

(a) Musicking and Nonkilling for Peacebuilding Conference in Vasa, Finland, September 19-20, 2017

NKARC Arts Committee is holding a conference on Music and Nonkilling in Vasa, Finland from September 19-20. All are invited to this admissions free event. . See below information on this from NKARC colleague and conference organizer Joam Evans Pim. He writes:

"Musicking (a concept created by Christopher Small) allows to look at what we do to ourselves and others through music, the actions we take with and around music, in addition to musical objects such as rhythm, pitch and tempo. This conference seeks to understand the limitless possibilities provided by musicking in relation to the goal of establishing killing-free societies and contributing to peacebuilding. Registration is free (emailing ingrida.grigaityte@abo.fi). For complete article, click on:

<http://nonkilling.org/center/2017/07/11/musicking-and-nonkilling-for-peacebuilding-conference-in-september/>

(b) New Canadian Global Music Orchestra

In Canada around 200 languages are spoken. In an effort to rise above the linguistic and cultural differences and to celebrate multicultural pluralism of the country, the New Canadian Global Music Orchestra was created by The Royal Conservatory of Music as Canada turned 150 this year. The 12 ensemble members were chosen from more than 100 New Canadians hailing from 47 countries. Led by Artistic Director David Buchbinder, the musicians are in residence at The Conservatory writing the music together, participating in activities, and creating new traditions that reflect what Canada

sounds and looks like in 2017. The inaugural event started with a concert at Koerner Hall on June 2, 2017 in Toronto which was followed by a tour of Ontario and beyond. For a glimpse of the global music orchestra click on the links below to two short trailers:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZY_NkWaPRek
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iKD_vYe5TrI

(c) Musical video clip: Hiroshima Day commemoration from Ceasefire

Stuart Cryer, producer. 'Nagasaki Peace Lantern Ceremony'. Video clip (3:06") on Vimeo <https://vimeo.com/229220069> . August 9th, 2017.
 Featuring musician: Caroline Parry. Thanks, Stuart.

3. Nonkilling Fiction

An interesting comment was received from NKARC colleague Rebecca Mann. She pointed to the Nonkilling premise of some of the fairy tales of Hans Christian Anderson's. Rebecca writes: "I really like how you connect art and social sciences, for changing the stories in which we believe seems to be a very worthy starting point for changing the way we (co-) exist. The ways in which we limit and empower ourselves through our ideas of the world and the power of these stories interests me a lot....Speaking of which: have you ever read the fairy tales of Hans Christian Andersen? His original version of The Little Mermaid may be the most prominent fairy tale about non-killing that I know. (In the end, the mermaid rejects the offer to murder the prince and his lover thus regaining access to her former life and instead dissolves into white crest.)".

Thank you, Rebecca. Look forward to hearing more from you on the subject.

(a) Nonkilling Novel:

On the Beach by Nevil Shute

"This is the way the world ends
 Not with a bang but a whimper"

These lines from T.S. Eliot's poem The Hollow Men appear at the beginning of Nevil Shute's novel. An important nonkilling fiction for the times we are living in.

On the Beach is a 1957 post-apocalyptic novel written by British-Australian author Nevil Shute after he emigrated to Australia. The novel starts with the aftermath of World War III. However, wind currents carrying lingering radiation all but condemn those on the continent to the same fate suffered by the rest of the world. The novel details the experiences of a group of people in Melbourne as they await the deadly radiation

spreading towards them from the Northern Hemisphere. As the radiation approaches each person deals with impending death differently:

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/On_the_Beach_\(novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/On_the_Beach_(novel)))

In a recent article about the book, critic John Pilger writes that at the height of the Cold War when too many writers were silent or cowed, Nevil Shute wrote this masterpiece. "At first the language suggests a genteel relic; yet nothing I have read on nuclear war is as unyielding in its warning. No book is more urgent..." For more on Pilger's article, click: <https://www.counterpunch.org/2017/08/04/on-the-beach-2017/>

There was a black and white movie made in 1959 on the book with the same title starring Gregory Peck, Ava Gardner, Tony Perkins etc. Recommended book and movie.

4. Nonkilling Cinema:

This year's Hollywood war epic **film Dunkirk** has been getting raving reviews for its craft, grittiness, and realism in depicting the Second World War, however peace activist David Swanson in a recent article, "**What's Missing from Dunkirk Film**" provides an alternative review. He writes: "One of the oddest things about World War II is how it has been marketed as a humanitarian war since the moment it ended." For his insightful article click on:

<http://davidswanson.org/whats-missing-from-dunkirk-film/>

5. Nonkilling Reflections:

THE WAR PRAYER

by Mark Twain

" O Lord our God, help us to tear their soldiers to bloody shreds with our shells; help us to cover their smiling fields with the pale forms of their patriot dead; help us to drown the thunder of the guns with the shrieks of their wounded, writhing in pain; help us to lay waste their humble homes with a hurricane of fire; help us to wring the hearts of their unoffending widows with unavailing grief; help us to turn them out roofless with their little children to wander unfriended the wastes of their desolated land in rags and hunger and thirst

– From "The War Prayer" by Mark Twain

LET US CELEBRATE LIFE

by Mrinalini Pandey

"The longer I live, the more beautiful life becomes"

– Frank Lloyd Wright

When life is so beautiful and precious, why kill then? What right does a person have to

take away something, which he cannot give back? So let's refrain from destroying life in any form— whether it be because of terrorism, war, capital punishment, homicide, self-destruction, poaching (of animals) etc.

This concept of Nonkilling also forms a basic tenet of most religions and communities. It takes precedence over non-violence, it is measurable. Killing has never helped anyone; all major wars and fierce battles end with peace treaties and negotiations between the countries involved. The importance of non-killing can be understood by the fact that Mahatma Gandhi strongly denounced killing or violence of any kind, and through satyagraha and non-cooperation, almost single-handedly succeeded in winning freedom for India. In order to stop the killing of one human by another, the importance of forgiveness needs to be re-emphasized. If we forgive someone, we in turn do a greater favor to ourselves.

It is essential to channelize one's energies towards creative activities rather than destructive ones. The progress of any nation encompasses the well-being, safety and happiness of its citizens, and this can only be achieved when people understand how precious life is. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

++++

6. Nonkilling and Documentary Film

A new USA made PBS documentary, THE BOMB - NUCLEAR WEAPONS (1:55 min) goes over the same old material with conclusion that there is no going back on nuclear bomb we have to learn to live with it. One is not clear if it is a critique or celebration of this deadly accomplishment in having created this weapon of global destruction, click on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hrvgsk8eX24&feature=youtu.be>

7. Museums, History and Nonkilling

Journalist Kate Taylor in her two reports below on Museums and History tells us that museums can help to re-write history of a country. The renovated Canadian Museum of History in Ottawa seeks a new narrative for Canada's colonial past and treatment of its indigenous population. The newly opened Canadian History Hall covers the expanse of the country's history, affirming links from narratives of cultural genocidal past of its first nations to future hopes. See below links to the reports by Kate Taylor:

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/arts/art-and-architecture/kate-taylor-the-canadian-museum-of-history-seeks-a-new-narrative/article29572939/>

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/arts/at-the-canadian-history-hall-the-owners-of-the-past-and-futurecollide/article35612596/>

8. Nonkilling Journalism

(a) Wistful eyes: capital punishment in Israel

<https://www.transcend.org/tms/2017/08/wistful-eyes/>

(b) North Korea: An insightful statement by former US President Jimmy Carter on North Korea's Peaceful Settlement with USA

<https://www.transcend.org/tms/2017/08/former-president-jimmy-carter-releases-statement-on-north-korea/>

(c) Bob Koehler's two thoughtful Nonkilling pieces

- Dead Civilian and the Language of War

<http://commonwonders.com/dead-civilians-and-the-language-of-war/>

- Nukes and the Global Schism

<http://commonwonders.com/nukes-and-the-global-schism/>

(d) Koozma Tarasoff's report on Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear devastations commemorations on August 6 and 9: [Hiroshima and Nagasaki Remembered — What are we waiting for?](#)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/14yXBYrjKeK3jUFzX39pXwuqiDZTdHsEYfCslvqtFUVU/edit>

(e) Reading summary of Tolstoy's Confession in my last Letter, our humanist psychotherapist colleague Sohail was reminded of his essay, CREATIVITY, SPIRITUALITY, INSANITY in which he analyzes three spiritual autobiographies of Ghazali, Tolstoy and Jung. See his attachment, Inspirations.

(f) Peace poetry: an article about a burgeoning movement of peace poets from Pakistan's KP province ...

www.peace-ed-campaign.org/peace-poetry-burgeoning-movement-pakistans-kp-province/

(g) How to make fun of Nazis

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/17/opinion/how-to-make-fun-of-nazis.html?smprod=nytcore-ipad&smid=nytcore-ipad-share>

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/how-to-stand-up-to-online-trolls-and-profit-with-humour/article34792044/>

9. Nonkilling Poster:

The Goals of Peace Linguistics by NKARC colleague Francisco Gomes de Matos.
Please see the pdf attachment

LAST WORD:

We started with a poem and end with one also, it's entitled, "Making Peace" by Denise Levertov. Thank you, Dick Preston for forwarding this.

Making Peace
BY DENISE LEVERTOV

A voice from the dark called out,

'The poets must give us

imagination of peace, to oust the intense, familiar

imagination of disaster. Peace, not only

the absence of war.'

But peace, like a poem,

is not there ahead of itself,

can't be imagined before it is made,

can't be known except

in the words of its making,

grammar of justice,

syntax of mutual aid.

A feeling towards it,

dimly sensing a rhythm, is all we have

until we begin to utter its metaphors,
learning them as we speak.
A line of peace might appear
if we restructured the sentence our lives are making,
revoked its reaffirmation of profit and power,
questioned our needs, allowed
long pauses . . .
A cadence of peace might balance its weight
on that different fulcrum; peace, a presence,
an energy field more intense than war,
might pulse then,
stanza by stanza into the world,
each act of living
one of its words, each word
a vibration of light—facets
of the forming crystal.

Denise Levertov, "Making Peace" from Breathing the Water. Copyright © 1987
by Denise Levertov. New Directions Publishing Corporation. Source: Breathing
the Water (New Directions Publishing
Corporation, 1987)a.. b.. c.. d.

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/53900/making-peace>

###

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. Until next time.

Nonkilling Regards,
Bill

Bill (Balwant) Bhaneja
Coordinator
NonKilling Arts Research Committee(NKARC)
Center for Global Nonkilling(CGNK)
www.nonkilling.org

"Nonkilling Culture crosses all the lines." - Glenn D. Paige

== Nonkilling is THE measure of Human progress==