



Ongoing Discussion

Reflections on the Language of Our Culture and How it Affects Us as a Peace Organization

The creeping normalcy of using violent words and metaphors can mean a death by a thousand cuts; the gradual replacement of words of kindness by words of callousness prevents us as a species from achieving our full potential as human beings. Did you feel your chest tighten in reading "death by a thousand cuts?" There's hope. We all have seen rhetoric inflame a situation or divert it towards violence. Many writers and journalists in recent years have moved away from using words that do violence to our language seeking more creative, conscientious and humane uses of the language.

The use of violent cliché and metaphor as prefabricated ideas may only loosely convey the intent of the writer and lead to misunderstandings that are difficult to resolve; they can intrude on our humanity. As a major shaper of the international language of commerce, America's

BWNW People



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Professionally she has pursued several

terminology influences how others behave in the industrialized world. Here we speak in a cold business jargon where goals become "targets," where ideas become "bulleted items", where employees are called "human capital," where anyone and anything of value has a "dollar equivalent," and where there is the greatest disparity between the rich and poor.

At our recent annual retreat, we reached a consensus to avoid the use of the common militant words that have pervaded the American language. These words give a "combat-ready" feel to language as exemplified by the closely-linked terms, "Mission" and "Strategy" used in key organizational documents of competitive businesses that are often adopted as models for peace organizations. They sound like headings on a battle plan. Similar avoidable militant terms are in common use.

It was proposed that during our scheduled revision of our "Mission" and "Strategy" statements that we instead use the terms, "Purpose" and "Blueprint" as something much more appropriate for a 501(c)3 peace organization. These words give a greater sense of equal respect and of constructiveness. While these suggested changes remove the militant quality of "Mission" and "Strategy", they may not be optimum word choices.

Can you think of words that are more closely-linked choices than "Purpose" and "Blueprint" that have a "peace-ready" feel? Would they be headings from a Peace Plan? Your suggestions are welcome. If we find a really great combination, maybe other peace organizations

careers. When looking to work for peace within her sphere of influence she was able to integrate her professional interests with her work for peace.

For instance, Anne is a zoologist who studies ring-tailed lemur communication and territoriality, issues that are vital to building a world beyond war. The lemurs model one of the variety of ways that primate species resolve conflicts over land and resources. Even for lemurs there are choices.

Anne was also a librarian for 19 years. That experience fed into the creation of the Eugene Book Group and the production of a book discussion guide and film resource list

<http://beyondwarnw.org/resources/films/>

Thinking about working within our sphere of influence, she finds it exciting to explore all the ways we can work for peace.

Upcoming Events

If you have events you would like to see announced here, local or global, email annemill@beyondwarnw.org. Newsletter deadline: Nov. 15th.

A New Study Series beginning in January based on the book:

Reweaving Our Human Fabric: Working

will also use them.

Submitted by Mike

Good Reading

Suggestions from the Eugene Book Group:

***Pay Any Price*, by James Risen**

Reviewed by Dorothy Sampson

James Risen's book reports on little known and suppressed stories of the "war on terror." Throughout history, those in power usually control the story.

With his reporting, Risen offers us an alternative to the narratives of the government, an alternative about abuses of power and the motivation of greed.

The stories offer answers to many questions such as why did the George W. Bush Administration throw out any notion of using the American legal system to arrest and prosecute those responsible for the 9/11 attacks. Who has cashed in from this decision? Why is the truth that torture was a direct result of official government policy suppressed? Why have both the Bush and the Obama administrations prosecuted whistleblowers and leakers so rigorously? Why are there so few incentives to end the war? How has the emphasis on secrecy promoted compartmentalization that conceals illegality? Risen puts the questions in front of us and then with careful, sometimes laborious, detail uncovers facts and lets the reader draw his own conclusions.

***Together to Create a Nonviolent Future*'**
by Miki Kashtan.

Kashtan encourages us to have a coherent constructive program, comparable to the society-wide of spinning of cloth in Gandhi's India, an activity that produces concrete material results that anyone can undertake. Much of our peace-work time is spent responding reflexively to the violence we see around us, or performing a collection of uncoordinated actions toward helping people, such as work to improve healthcare, reduce poverty, or educate about climate change.

How do we focus on what we want to create, not just what we oppose? In our daily lives, do we even connect with ourselves sufficiently to know what is important to us, what we really want? Once we clarify that vision, we can work together from there.

***Reweaving Our Human Fabric* addresses issues in communication, collaboration, power and leadership. It examines what has worked and what has failed. It tells stories that provide examples of what is possible. It is so overflowing in wisdom that our book group has decided to discuss it again, in parts, in order to do it justice.**

Beginning in January 2016, we will convene monthly discussions for five months. Each session will examine about

Just after 9/11 but before we invaded Iraq, an open-ended “sweetheart” contract called LOGCAP, the army’s main field support program, was awarded to KBR. While the country was still in peacetime mode, no one gave much thought to the contract’s specifications. KBR performed the traditional supply and rear echelon work of the army. Under the terms of their contract, they were reimbursed for all costs associated with the work as well as bonus payments. In the chaos of the invasion and the immediate needs, KBR was allowed to do the work and submit the paperwork and billing later. KBR never provided the army with an original cost estimate and, therefore, could claim it was owed any amount. Their profits have been staggering. *Risen* reminds us that KBR was a spin off from Halliburton, the Texas based oil services company run by Dick Cheney before he became vice president. We can draw our own conclusions.

There have been brave citizens who have tried to hold the government accountable . Our government has retaliated with ruthless suppression, ruining the life and health of many. Through all this America has become accustomed to a permanent state of war. It is not enjoyable to look into a moral abyss, but if we don’t acknowledge what has happened and is happening, how can we change?

This is the 50th Anniversary of the beginning of the

100 pages of the book. We invite anyone in the Eugene area to participate and to let us know the day and time most convenient for them by emailing annemill@beyondwarnw.org. We encourage everyone to read and discuss this book.

October 19–Book Group, 5:15 pm–
Discussion of the fiction book *Denmark Rising* by Barry Clemson (2009). Clemson re-imagines the history of Danish nonviolent resistance in response to the Nazi invasion of their country.

October 21–Film, 7:00 pm–
Discussion of the film *Countdown to Zero*, in room 180 Prince Lucien Campbell, 14th and Kincaid, on the University of Oregon campus. (1 hour 29 minutes long) The film traces the history of the atomic bomb from its origins to the present state of global affairs, leaving the world held in a delicate balance that could be shattered by an act of terrorism, failed diplomacy, or a simple accident. The film makes a compelling case for worldwide nuclear disarmament; the discussion will address how best to accomplish that. Co-sponsored by Global Zero U O.

Vietnam War. The Pentagon planned for a national official commemoration. They were seemingly surprised by the push-back that came from Vietnam veterans themselves. The Veterans groups are resisting a false narrative and questioning a plan to celebrate the start of the war that was a debacle. It's time to confront our past with shame & sorrow. That is why we need to remember the truth of what happened in Vietnam and to learn the truth about what is happening now in our endless wars. Risen's book can start us on that path.

Beyond War Northwest is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Oregon, USA. Our Federal EIN is: 20-0912219.

Thoughts on meetings:

The Metta Center for Nonviolence

recently sent out this email. Since similar issues came up at our retreat, we would like to share their comments:

“History gives not a single example of Swaraj won by holding meetings.”

–*Gandhi* (Day to Day with Gandhi, vol. 4, p. 166)

Wow, even Gandhi did not love endless meetings. Not surprising actually—he emphasized that the only way to win Independence was through action; through, in his words, “blood and sweat.” He was not down on meetings held for a certain purpose; if you remember, he spent most of his day in meetings and interviews, but they had a specific purpose: to educate others about the movement and its goals; to refine strategies, to reinforce unity among opposing parties. And in contemporary settings where it's hard enough to bring people together for nonviolent, collaborative ends, meetings—opportunities to see one another, get to know each other, hear from one another—are important. Restorative justice, for example, works primarily through meetings. But they are only part of the picture; words alone do not make a person or an entity nonviolent—only practice can do that. Take the United Nations. To what extent do they talk about peace and to what extent do they implement strategies to build it? Think about it: What would a United Nations

be capable of if they went beyond the “talk-shop” format and took the form of a strategic council for world friendship, where good ideas were not just applauded, but implemented and even funded?

Experiment in Nonviolence:

The next time you call a meeting, clearly articulate the reasons why you are doing it. What does it have to do with human relationships and nonviolence? If you cannot articulate these, consider canceling it.

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