

# Annual Report 2016-2017

Fiscal Year: April 1, 2016 thru March 31, 2017

*In a dark time,  
the eye begins to see.*  
**Theodore Roethke**

## Financial Report

To obtain a copy of our latest form 990, please visit  
[www.mettacenter.org](http://www.mettacenter.org) or email [info@mettacenter.org](mailto:info@mettacenter.org)

### Statement of Financial Condition

(April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017)

#### Support and Revenue

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Donations .....                                   | \$65,675.10         |
| Grants .....                                      | \$65,750            |
| Other (reimbursement, rent, interest, etc.) ..... | \$5,026.82          |
| <b>Total Support and Revenue .....</b>            | <b>\$136,451.92</b> |

#### Expenses

|                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Programs:                   |                     |
| Study .....                 | \$ 31,550.43        |
| Practice .....              | \$ 21, 554. 42      |
| Research .....              | \$ 16, 904. 42      |
| Media .....                 | \$ 31, 175. 12      |
| Admin .....                 | \$ 24,455.78        |
| <b>Total Expenses .....</b> | <b>\$125,640.17</b> |

#### Assets

|                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Total Current Assets ..... | \$118,635.69        |
| Other Assets .....         | \$2,025.00          |
| <b>Total Assets .....</b>  | <b>\$120,660.69</b> |

#### Liabilities

|                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Total Liabilities .....</b> | <b>\$1,177.46</b> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|

#### Equity

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Net Assets - Unrestricted .....           | \$113,291.55        |
| Net Income .....                          | \$6,191.68          |
| <b>Total Equity .....</b>                 | <b>\$119,483.23</b> |
| <b>Total Equity and Liabilities .....</b> | <b>\$120,660.69</b> |

The Metta Center works with a small staff, all of whom share the tasks of work related to fundraising and administration, making every dollar that much more effective in terms of what it accomplishes. We are very proud to share that it is no exaggeration to say that most everything we do at the Metta Center is directly related to programs - from every letter we write to every material we create and every conversation we have. This is how the message of nonviolence spreads.

If you are interested in learning more about making a charitable donation or getting involved in our mission, please contact us at [info@mettacenter.org](mailto:info@mettacenter.org).

## Nonviolence as Peak Experience



In terms of electoral politics, the year 2016 presented us with a dismal process that led to an even more dismal conclusion. How it will all end no one can see for sure, but we can see for sure that the “dark time” stimulated new life in the peace movement and more particularly what Kenneth Boulding used to call the “movement toward peace” – the informal, ‘undocumented’ general swell of change that happens as part of human social evolution – slow but unstoppable. Metta rose with both. The increased number of people from both sectors, formal and informal, who come to us for advice, opportunities to contribute, and just plain hope boosted our ascent, helping to make every moment at Metta a ‘peak experience.’\*

As I was preparing the news segment for the latest episode of our newly restyled program, “Nonviolence Radio” (if you please) I noticed three trends that are part of this rise: local governments and communities taking over to replace the vacuum at the top, particularly in the areas of climate and immigration; a new consciousness in progressive religious groups that it’s high time they took back the moral high ground from the “religious” right (what a misnomer), and “subvertising:” deliberate efforts to replace the culture of commercial advertising that got us into this mess.

Toward the end of the year a wonderful group of volunteers and interns began coming to the Metta community, and I find this maybe the most hopeful development of all for our organization in particular. They bring us so much inspiration and ideas, as well as the social benefits and the expansion of what we can do, and take away their enhanced understanding of and renewed dedication to “the greatest force humanity has been endowed with.” The climb of nonviolence is a great purpose and the way the community has filled out really dispels some of the clouds surrounding that peak and gives it a shining prospect, looking way forward.

And speaking of the future, since you’ll be reading more about the year’s heartwarming developments inside, what are some of things we see up ahead on the trail: the completion of The Journey Home, our long hoped for and much worked on documentary, the launch, also long-awaited of the science resource, and work at the United Nations. Where would we be without Metta – and your support. Accept our thanks and the continued satisfaction of our collaboration.

Michael

\* The reference is to Chapter Three of The Search for a Nonviolent Future (you knew that!).

### Our Mission

To promote the transition to a nonviolent future by making the logic, history, and yet-unexplored potential of nonviolence available to activists and agents of cultural change (which ultimately includes all of us). We help practitioners use nonviolence more safely and effectively, and anyone interested to understand and articulate its power more fully.

One very positive development at the Metta Center over the past year is our increased dedication to our translation work. We now have a small band of friends working diligently to get key work from the Metta Center translated and into the hands of people around the world—in their own languages.

### Here’s one success:

You may be vaguely aware that a major ‘occupation’ was staged in Baghdad in early May, in which protestors entered the heavily fortified Green Zone – often with the help of security personnel – and confronted parliamentarians who were dragging their feet on key issues, like the restructuring of the Iraqi government along secular lines to reduce the inter-communal violence that (among other problems) has made life in Iraq so painful and insecure since the „end“ of the war. You are almost certainly not aware – such are the mainstream media – that that „invasion“ was carried out with a high degree of nonviolent discipline, averting what could have been another bloodbath in that country.

Michael has been in touch with an Iraqi refugee living in Florence for some time now (we visited Ishmael on our way to Israel-Palestine in 2014). He sent him an electronic copy of the Arabic translation of *The Nonviolence Handbook*, but heard nothing – until a few months later, when we learned that it had been printed out and put in the hands of the leaders of that important uprising just before they took to the streets!

As Gandhi said, in nonviolence, as in life, no good action is ever wasted. We feel sure that we (and you) played an inconspicuous but critical role in an event that changed history.

*Revolution, total revolution, implies experimenting with the impossible.  
And when an individual takes a step in the direction of the new, the impossible,  
the whole human race travels through that individual.*

*–Vimala Thakar*

## 2016-2017 Key Accomplishments

Launched **Person Power Press**, Metta Center's publishing wing!

**Published Gandhi Searches for Truth:** A Practical Biography for Children for children ages four years old and up.

**More Radio Show:** Rebranded from Peace Paradigm Radio to Nonviolence Radio: Two episodes a month out of KWMR FM Radio, interviewing important voices in the field and covering nonviolence in the news. Syndicated through Pacifica site and other local stations.

**Magazine:** Rebranded from Emergence to Nonviolence Magazine. A bi-annual offering.

**Person Power Yoga:** new social outreach and two in-person retreats for yoga practitioners to learn nonviolence and nonviolence activists to gain skills in yoga and meditation.

**Certificate Program:** our new cohort completes an 8-month long in-depth guided study of nonviolence with our Director of Education

**Parent Power Podcasts:** a short podcast out aimed to support parents and teachers who want to develop more nonviolence skills in their work with small children.

**Hope Tank:** our monthly "think tank" gathering to discuss and strategize about nonviolence in our world today.

**Consulting:** on-going work with activists around the world, including in Iraq, Iran, Israel-Palestine.

**Translations:** Growth of translation work, including the translation of Michael Nagler's Nonviolence Handbook into Spanish!

**Daily Metta:** Completed a two-year cycle of a Gandhi Thought for the Day!

**Science and Nonviolence:** Taking the final steps to create a database that shares resources about the hard science that backs up claims about nonviolence's power.

**Animations:** Short three to four minute animations to share key ideas about nonviolence with the wider world. In 2016, we published: "Terrorism and Nonviolence," and an "Open Letter to Sanders' Supporters."

**Documentary:** On-going interviews and curation of The Journey Home," a feature-length documentary on nonviolence.

**Transcriptions:** Major transcriptions of the famous Peace and Conflict Studies A (PACS A) Lectures for our archives.

**Writing** for alternative media outlets reaching thousands of people with key ideas from our work.

**Collaborative projects** with other like-minded organizations, including maintaining the Shanti Sena Network, an umbrella network for third-party nonviolent intervention organizations in the United States.



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