

Title: **Random Kindness and Senseless Acts of Beauty**

Authors: Anne Herbert and Margaret Paloma Pavel

Illustrator: Mayumi Oda

Foreword: Desmond Tutu

Publisher	New Village Press
Distributor	Consortium
Pub Date	September 30, 2014
Pages	40
Format	Trade Cloth, Dust Jacket, Picture Book
Trim	7 x 8 1/8 x 3/8 inches
Illustrations	Color, throughout
US Price	\$15.95
ISBN-13	978-1-61332-015-0
BISAC 1	Juvenile Fiction/ Legends, Myths, Fables
BISAC 2	Body, Mind & Spirit/ Inspiration & Personal Growth
BISAC 3	Philosophy/ Ethics&Moral



An Exhilarating Parable of Hope and Peace for All Ages



This Fall, New Village Press will release *Random Kindness and Senseless Acts of Beauty*, a modern parable that combines the timeless phrase coined by Anne Herbert, the poetic and powerful prose of Herbert and Pavel, and Mayumi Oda's beautiful watercolor art in the playful style of picture scrolls from 12th-century Japan. These three artists come together in this small book of wisdom to create a joyfully empowering message of agency that knows no bounds of age, race, or creed.

In *Random Kindness and Senseless Acts of Beauty*, Herbert, Pavel, and Oda weave a story of our world told through beautifully crafted animal figures and startlingly simple words packed with overwhelming truth. They show us on the edge of our world's two potential futures: one of great violence and waste, and one of peaceful coexistence and growth. In reading this book, we realize the power in our actions.

We realize that we create our world through random acts—acts such as planting a garden and making music with those around us. *Random Kindness* teaches that it is up to us to give sense to beautiful acts of creation instead of acts of destruction. We have the power to be good to one another, and to create a world of good.

This twentieth-anniversary edition, with new full-color illustrations by artist Mayumi Oda and a new foreword by the honorable Desmond Tutu, is dedicated to peace and recovery in the face of world unrest and climate crises. All royalties from the sale of this book will be donated to antinuclear advocacy and community resiliency across boundaries.



About the Contributors

Illustrator **Mayumi Oda**, known to many as the “Matisse of Japan”, has exhibited over 50 one-woman shows throughout the world. Her artwork is part of the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Yale University Art Gallery; the Library of Congress; and many others. She has authored books about her own creative life, including *Goddesses* and *I Opened the Gate Laughing*. She has also illustrated several books for notable authors, including the esteemed Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh.

In addition to her work as an artist, Oda has spent many years of her life as a global activist participating in anti-nuclear campaigns worldwide. She founded Plutonium Free Future in 1992, launched the WASH (World Atomic Safety Holiday) Campaign in 1999, and is currently working to raise awareness among Hawaiians about the use of depleted uranium at the Pohakuloa military base.

Author **Margaret Paloma Pavel** is an international advocate of healthy, just, and resilient urban communities. She is founder and president of Earth House of

Oakland, California, founder of the Eco-Justice film series in the San Francisco Bay Area, and editor of *Breakthrough Communities: Sustainability and Justice in the Next American Metropolis*. Dr. Pavel holds a Master of Divinity from Harvard University as well as degrees in psychology and economics.

Author **Anne Herbert** is perhaps best known for coining the phrases “Practice random kindness and senseless acts of beauty” and “Libraries will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no libraries.” She is an American writer and past editor of *CoEvolution Quarterly*, a precursor to the *Whole Earth Review*.

Writer of the foreword **Desmond Mpilo Tutu** is Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town South Africa and a world renowned social rights activist known for his campaigns against apartheid, AIDS, poverty, sexism, racism, and many other forms of oppression. Tutu is recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, the Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism, the Pacem in Terris Award, the Sydney Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Gandhi Peace Prize.

About the Publisher

New Village Press is an independent, public-benefit publisher specializing in works about grassroots community development, urban ecology, and community cultural development. The Press publishes progressive works that offer useful solutions to critical social, environmental, and economic challenges. It is a division of the national nonprofit organization Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility.

Praise for Random Kindness and Senseless Acts of Beauty

This exquisite book offers guidance to us all.

—**Alice Walker**, author of *The Color Purple*

It distills—in ordinary, inspired language—all we need to know right now in order to let our lives count in building a sustainable world. It tells us about the kind of power we each have right now to take a choice—and the delight that can be ours, if we are not afraid to seize it.

—**Joanna Macy**, author, Buddhist scholar, environmental activist