

Beauty among our broken dishes, broken bones

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grassroots organizers, artists, elders, and youngsters, and a dozen masked anarchists moving toward those counter-protestors. I was imagining one side or both losing their tempers, Port of Portland police arriving, and all kinds of mayhem on local evening news. But then: Something beautiful happened.

Off the side of our turmoil stood Dr. Baher Butti, an Iraqi refugee and father who with his professional peers, before the disintegration of his entire nation, introduced the theory and practice of communal and familial wellness to the Arab world. He was chatting with a circle of pretty little girls and Bambi-eyed boys. Kids he brought to sing at our celebration. I went to him. "Dr. Baher, can your kids come on stage now? Right now?"

"Now?" Then checking my eyes the way doctors do, he smiled. "Yesss."

I went on stage with a mic. "Fellas, fellas —" I asked those big bad guys, facing down our demonstrators. "Fellas — listen. Listen please." A few turned around.

"Fellas please. Everyone please." More turned my way. "Everyone, please know this. Because this matters a lot. It really does." They listened.

"Coming on stage now are Iraqi kids. Little girls and their little brothers. Really wounded children, they are. Hurt so bad by all that craziness back home. All that anger." They listened.

"Please, let's give them, let's give their broken bones and broken hearts, our reverence. Please." They were moved. Those men were. And they moved to the side. Backs against PDX's arrival driveway railing, they gave their respect to our children.

We went off our planned run-of-show, and our kids sang earnestly. The way sweet little souls do. They danced in folk-step as old as Rivers Euphrates and Tigris, and their elegant civilization in between. For that slim moment all of us, pro- and anti-immigrant, went off script. A beautiful departure.

We departed from habits of thinking and doing, from reflexes traditional and modern, from biases left and right. And we turned instead toward instincts simpler and truer.

Our Saturday was all that. Port authorities permitted us a very public place, when they could've put our protest behind that mammoth parking structure. Portland Police officers, men and women daily distancing themselves from a legacy of awful excesses, secured protest participants' arrival on the same eastbound MAX ride that ended with the fatal stabbing of a Portland dad and a Reed grad just last May. Two white men who had shielded two black girls from another's rage.

Likewise, our pro-Trump protestors permitted our girls and boys their quiet moment. They backed off for long thoughtful minutes. And our kids sang their hearts out. These guys did that, for them. They gave this, to all of us. For which I am humbled. Terima kasih banyak — I offer you our love.

Notas:

To Tiny, Pro-Trumper and Samoan brother, big as a school bus: Mahalo nui brah, for letting me duck behind you.

To Portland Peace Team, thank you all for sandwiching yourselves between troubles. Thank you for your self-discipline.

You kept our peace, our promise to the Port and to Portland.

Event participants:

Unite Oregon; City of Portland, New Portlanders Program; Greater Portland chapter of the National Organization for Women; Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition; Oregon chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations; Buddhist Peace Fellowship, Portland; Portland chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace; Portland-Shiraz Friendship Community; Veterans For Peace Chapter 72; Portland Peace Team; Cascadia Pacific Peace Professionals; Anarchist Alternative Media Collective; Portland Refugee Support Group; International Socialist Organization; Portland Network Against Racism and Islamophobia; Oregon Small Business for Responsible Leadership; Jump Jump Music; Terra Incognita Media; Women's March on Portland; No Lost Generation UO; United Nations Association Portland Chapter; Amnesty International USA Group 48; and Portland Meet Portland.

Mystery cloaks Japanese dad of 13 born from Thai surrogates

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kissing a baby when they visited their son in Cambodia, where he also had several children by surrogate mothers.

The Thai court said Shigeta plans to send the

children to an international school and is preparing a house for them in Tokyo where they will be looked after by nurses and nannies. His lawyer in Thailand said he simply wants a big family.

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As part of the Social Equity, Policy and Communications Department, this position will provide leadership, direction and guidance for equity, diversity, and inclusion-based internal and external strategies and programs. For internal equity initiatives, this position will serve as a group facilitator, subject matter expert and consultant to the agency. For external initiatives, this position coordinates and consults with staff on public engagement and outreach strategies for agency meetings, events, and programs that encourage inclusive community engagement and improve access and participation for underserved communities. Establishes, develops and advances relationships community-based organizations, leaders, and networks to foster inclusive community engagement and mutual collaboration. In addition, this position will serve as a liaison between the agency and key standing committees and advisory bodies.

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