

**PROJECT  
PLOUGHSHARES  
CALGARY**

# Peace News

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2011



## **Remembrance Day Ceremony, Calgary Community Peace Pole November 11, 2011 - 2 - 2:45 pm**

We invite you to join us for an innovative Remembrance Day Ceremony in memory of all those who have died in wars, and to express your hopes for a peaceful and nonviolent future. Lynn Chatzotsang of the Tibetan Buddhist Community and Rev. Debra Faulk of the Unitarian Church are the featured speakers, and additionally there will be music, poetry, the laying of a wreath, with Ronnie Joy Leah closing the ceremony with a circle dance. White poppies with the word 'peace' in the centre will be available for purchase for \$2.00. For more information, please contact Project Ploughshares Calgary at 403-270-7366 or email [office@ploughsharescalgary.ca](mailto:office@ploughsharescalgary.ca)



### **We are located:**

**Parkdale United  
Church  
2919 8<sup>th</sup> Ave NW  
T2N 1C8**

**403- 270-7366**

### **Office hours:**

**Mon & Thurs  
10:30am - 3pm**

**Tues. - 11:30—4**

**Wed 2 - 6pm**

## **27th Annual Holiday Peace Fair**

### **Supporting Social Justice and Fair Trade**

Delightful items from 30 vendors  
working for peace, social justice  
and the environment.

### **Saturday November 26th**

**9:30 am ~ 4:00 pm**

**St. David's United Church  
3303 Capitol Hill Cres NW  
(near the University LRT)**

**\$3.00 Admission – Free for  
children 12 and under**

**Light lunch available  
for purchase from:  
El~Rouhaa Pita  
Bakery & Restaurant**

# Ploughshares Calgary News



## What IS Peace Education Anyway? - October 12th Meeting

Karen Huggins presented information about the six tenets of peace education at our October meeting, interwoven with dialogue with attendees regarding what they could do personally to achieve peace in the areas of intercultural solidarity, human rights, environmental care, issues of justice, dismantling the culture of war, and experiencing personal peace. Participants enjoyed the interactive nature of the presentation and came up with several actions they felt they could take, either personally or in conjunction with established NGO's currently dealing with numerous issues around cultivating a culture of peace.

## Singing for Peace - October 15th

It was great to have Barry Luft back, with Louise Forsyth, for our tenth Singing for Peace concert. He brought some new songs, both moving and funny (including Pete Seeger's song about the country of Andora having a defense budget of \$4.95 for 1961). He ended with a favourite with the final word 'Love is somewhere to begin'. The homemade desserts at intermission were also fantastic!



## Donations



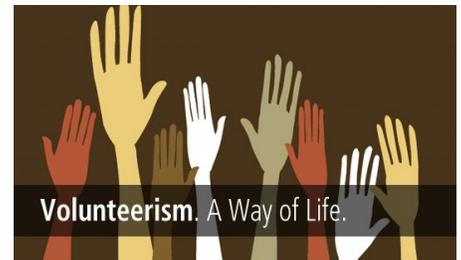
Donations from individuals during October came to \$1000. From organizations we received \$2550. We are sincerely grateful for all of our friends and supporters who are committed to our programs and in the ideals of peacemaking. Thanks to all who continue to donate to Ploughshares Calgary!

The Calgary Branch of the Federation of Russian Canadians recently honoured Project Ploughshares Calgary with a special donation. Ploughshares Calgary thanks them very much for their generosity and for choosing Ploughshares as one of their recipients. The Federation of Russian Canadians clearly remains committed to establishing and maintaining world peace. Thank you to Helen Negrave and Lydia Husak who presented the cheque.

## Volunteers Needed!

We would like to do another fundraiser selling Spolumbo's sausages again during the fall (early November) and need someone who would be responsible for taking the orders, placing the order with Spolumbo's, and having them ready to distribute at the Holiday Peace Fair on November 26th. This is quite an easy job!

- ◆ We are also looking for a volunteer who would be interested in sitting on the committee for the Calgary Peace Run & Walk, which will take place next summer. If you are enthusiastic and feel that you have a knack for identifying and talking with potential sponsors for this event, we'd love to have you on board!
- ◆ **We would also love to hear from YOU about something new and interesting we could sell at the Peace Fair on the Ploughshares table.**



Please email Karen at [office@ploughsharescalgary.ca](mailto:office@ploughsharescalgary.ca) or phone her at [403-270-7366](tel:403-270-7366) to tell us your willingness! Together, we will create more peace.

## Entertainment Books



We have the 2012 Entertainment Books available for purchase now - these books can save you hundreds of dollars on dining, travel, recreation, and retail purchases - AND you'll be helping Project Ploughshares with our program goals and expenses. Email Karen at [office@ploughsharescalgary.ca](mailto:office@ploughsharescalgary.ca) to reserve your book today! Only \$40.00! You can also purchase yours at the Holiday Peace Fair, or at the Kingsland Farmers' Market where we will have a table on Saturday October 29th.



## Costs of War

“As one who has witnessed the horror and the lingering sadness of war — as one who knows that another war could utterly destroy this civilization which has been so slowly and painfully built over thousands of years — I wish I could say tonight that a lasting peace is in sight.

As we peer into society's future, we — you and I, and our government — must avoid the impulse to live only for today, plundering for our own ease and convenience the precious resources of tomorrow. We cannot mortgage the material assets of our grandchildren without risking the loss also of their political and spiritual heritage. We want democracy to survive for all generations to come, not to become the insolvent phantom of tomorrow.”

*Dwight D. Eisenhower, Farewell Address, January 1961*

To see the human, economic, social and political costs of war, take a look at the following website:

<http://costsofwar.org/>

## Peace?

What about peace  
If everyday we read  
That the fire won't cease?

People on the street  
Have to dodge bullets  
But peace should be as solid as concrete.

Are there ways to live a peaceful life  
If the international news says  
We live in a constant strife?

If criminals sometimes work together  
Why can't love and peace change  
All this bad weather?

Let's just believe that change is possible  
Let's change our way of thinking  
Because this is no mission impossible

*Paul Leiva  
12th Grade, Mazapan School*

## GLOBAL DISARM CALL

World Citizens!

All Heads and Leaders of states and governments in the world! - Military leaders, doldiers, police, organizations, groups, and all single individuals in the world!

DISARM! - DISARM! - DISARM!

Beat your swords, your weapons, into another practice, for PEACE. To the children in the world, to their FREE-DOM to rise with no more fear from war and violence!

DISARM! - LOVE! - UNITE!

Jan Jacobsen, Norway

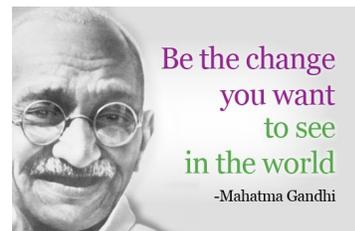
## Transformation Peace

One morning he wakes—  
realizes he has the gift  
of peace

and grasps that it takes more courage  
to look a soldier in the eye

place a flower in the barrel  
of his rifle  
than it does to shoot him.

by Larry Jaffe



If we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children.”

Mohandas Gandhi

## Ten years of war in Afghanistan and still relying on a failing strategy

Posted on 7 October 2011 by Ernie Regehr

***On this tenth anniversary of the start of the war against Taliban rule and an al Qaeda presence in Afghanistan, the central strategy of those who started the war now comes down to mounting a force of 352,000 armed Afghans to take over all the fighting in 2014.***

“Winning,” in the sense of defeating the insurgency by military means, has long been off the table. Although reconciliation and political accommodation are rhetorically embraced by the Government of Afghanistan and some of the international combatants, serious peace-making has yet to gain the political will and resources needed.<sup>[i]</sup>



So the choice of expedience has come down to an effort to shift the burden of the fighting fully to the Afghans. Canada is helping to train the new recruits for Afghan police and military forces in the service of this strategy, but there are key questions that training won't answer. Who will pay the Afghan forces, year in and year out? How will Afghan forces vanquish an insurgency that has steadily strengthened in response to the combined operations of Afghan and international forces?

It will cost \$6 billion a year to sustain a force of 350,000 plus Afghan police and soldiers.<sup>[ii]</sup> Since Afghanistan's GDP is only \$15 billion, a \$6 billion security burden is, to say the very least, rather daunting. The Government of Afghanistan can now raise only a total of \$3 billion per year in revenues,<sup>[iii]</sup> meaning that Afghanistan could itself realistically sustain only a force of less than one-tenth of the size projected (consuming about 20 percent of total revenue). In other words, nine-tenths will have to be covered by the international community indefinitely. The primary funder, the United States, is currently spending about \$12 billion per year to build up the Afghan forces to the proposed level, and Washington has already begun to focus on finding ways to radically reduce its obligation.<sup>[iv]</sup> It is safe to say that the international community won't long be pouring \$6 billion a year into Afghanistan's security forces – an amount that rivals the international community's annual aid and reconstruction contributions to Afghanistan.<sup>[v]</sup>

The plan to mount an absurdly large security force in one of the world's poorest countries is at best unrealistic for the long term, but the plan to do this in support of a strategy that is manifestly failing is downright irrational. Afghan forces are being asked to take over a counterinsurgency war that has seen the unrelenting growth of the insurgency. The combined Afghan and international forces now number well over 400,000, and they are presiding over a situation of steadily increasing insecurity. Indeed from 2005 through 2011 every report of the Secretary-General on the security situation in Afghanistan opens with the sombre assessment that during the previous year there has been a substantial deterioration in security.<sup>[vi]</sup> That doesn't mean there haven't been important improvements in some areas. Many urban Afghans have seen huge improvements in their social and economic conditions, but overall the decline in security is persistent and unrelenting, and 2011 is on track to being the deadliest year yet for civilians in Afghanistan.<sup>[vii]</sup>

Ten years after starting a regime change war that lacked any credible plan for ending the decades of violent division in Afghanistan, the United States and its allies in the International Security Assistance Force have now tired of the fighting, but they still lack any credible plan for ending the war and the violent divisions that have now claimed another decade. The Afghan Analysts Network's Thomas Ruttig,<sup>[viii]</sup> sensibly calls for a major strategic shift that privileges the pursuit of a political solution over the pursuit of an unaffordable and ineffective military-centered strategy. He calls it a shift from the current strategy of “shooting and talking” to one of “talking instead of shooting.”

[eregehr@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:eregehr@uwaterloo.ca)

Notes: Please go to the following website to read the full notes attached to this article:

<http://disarmingconflict.ca/2011/10/07/ten-years-of-war-in-afghanistan-and-still-relying-on-a-failing-strategy/#more-913>



### Launch of the new **Nuclear Abolition Forum**

The Forum consists of a [dedicated website](#) for posting articles and discussing key nuclear abolition aspects and initiatives, and a periodical (available in hardcopy and as online PDF), which will focus on specific issues and elements (technical, legal, institutional and political) for achieving and sustaining a world free of nuclear weapons.

<http://www.abolitionforum.org/site/>



## **A Farewell to Nuclear Arms (excerpt) by Mikhail Gorbachev**

2011-10-09 Project Syndicate <http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/gorbachev8/English>

MOSCOW – Twenty-five years ago this month, I sat across from Ronald Reagan in Reykjavik, Iceland to negotiate a deal that would have reduced, and could have ultimately eliminated by 2000, the fearsome arsenals of nuclear weapons held by the United States and the Soviet Union.

For all our differences, Reagan and I shared the strong conviction that civilized countries should not make such barbaric weapons the linchpin of their security. Even though we failed to achieve our highest aspirations in Reykjavik, the summit was nonetheless, in the words of my former counterpart, “a major turning point in the quest for a safer and secure world.”

The next few years may well determine if our shared dream of ridding the world of nuclear weapons will ever be realized. Critics present nuclear disarmament as unrealistic at best, and a risky utopian dream at worst. They point to the Cold War’s “long peace” as proof that nuclear deterrence is the only means of staving off a major war.

As someone who has commanded these weapons, I strongly disagree. Nuclear deterrence has always been a hard and brittle guarantor of peace. By failing to propose a compelling plan for nuclear disarmament, the US, Russia, and the remaining nuclear powers are promoting through inaction a future in which nuclear weapons will inevitably be used. That catastrophe must be forestalled.

Barring preemptive war (which has proven counterproductive) or effective sanctions (which have thus far proven insufficient), only sincere steps toward nuclear disarmament can furnish the mutual security needed to forge tough compromises on arms control and nonproliferation matters.

But prospects for progress on arms control and nonproliferation are darkening in the absence of a credible push for nuclear disarmament. Only a serious program of universal nuclear disarmament can provide the reassurance and the credibility needed to build a global consensus that nuclear deterrence is a dead doctrine. We can no longer afford, politically or financially, the discriminatory nature of the current system of nuclear “haves” and “have-nots.”

What seem to be lacking today are leaders with the boldness and vision to build the trust needed to reintroduce nuclear disarmament as the centerpiece of a peaceful global order. Economic constraints and the Chernobyl disaster helped spur us to action. Why has the Great Recession and the disastrous meltdown at Fukushima Daiichi in Japan not elicited a similar response today?

A first step would be for the US finally to ratify the 1996 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). President Barack Obama has endorsed this treaty as a vital instrument to discourage proliferation and avert nuclear war. This would compel the remaining holdouts – China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, North Korea, and Pakistan – to reconsider the CTBT as well. That would bring us closer to a global ban on nuclear tests in any environment – the atmosphere, undersea, in outer space, or underground.

A second necessary step is for the US and Russia to follow up on the New START agreement and begin deeper weapons cuts, especially tactical and reserve weapons, which serve no purpose, waste funds, and threaten security. This step must be related to limits on missile defense, one of the key issues that undermined the Reykjavik summit.

Our world remains too militarized. In today’s economic climate, nuclear weapons have become loathsome money pits. If, as seems likely, economic troubles continue, the US, Russia, and other nuclear powers should seize the moment to launch multilateral arms reductions through new or existing channels such as the UN Conference on Disarmament. These deliberations would yield greater security for less money. But the buildup of conventional military forces – driven in large part by the enormous military might deployed globally by the US – must be addressed as well. As we engage in furthering our Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) agreement, we should seriously consider reducing the burden of military budgets and forces globally.

US President John F. Kennedy once warned that “every man, woman, and child lives under a nuclear sword of Damocles, hanging by the slenderest of threads, capable of being cut at any moment.” For more than 50 years, humanity has warily eyed that lethal pendulum while statesmen debated how to mend its fraying cords. The example of Reykjavik should remind us that palliative measures are not enough. Our efforts 25 years ago can be vindicated only when the Bomb ends up beside the slave trader’s manacles and the Great War’s mustard gas in the museum of bygone savagery.

*Mikhail Gorbachev, former President of the USSR, founded Green Cross International, the independent non-profit and nongovernmental organization working to address the inter-connected global challenges of security, poverty eradication, and environmental degradation.*



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Special thanks to Karen Huggins & Sally Hodges for their work writing and editing this issue of the newsletter.

## Calgary Peace Events



**Thursday November 10th - 7:00 PM**  
**Justice for Palestinians**  
**Popcorn & Movie Series**  
**Old Y Common Room, 223 -12 Ave SW**

### Featuring: *Life in Occupied Palestine: Eyewitness Stories and Photos*

A video by Anna Baltzer outlining human rights abuses and the joint Palestinian and Israeli nonviolent resistance movement. Baltzer is a Jewish American Columbia graduate, former-Fulbright scholar, granddaughter of Holocaust refugees, author of *Witness in Palestine*, and award-winning lecturer on the Middle East conflict. Admission Free - Donations Welcome  
For more information email us at [calgary.justiceforpalestinians@gmail.com](mailto:calgary.justiceforpalestinians@gmail.com) and/or look for our Facebook page.



**Saturday, November 19, 2011 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM**  
**The Human Voice Project**  
**Endeavor Arts Gallery and Event Space**  
**#200 1209 1 Street SW**

The Human Voice Project gives Calgarians the opportunity to learn from thirteen ordinary yet extraordinary Calgarians who celebrate the human spirit everyday. The participants shared their stories of love, laughter, struggle and growth, and now we want to share these stories with you! These are people from all walks of life; small business owners, teachers, spiritual practitioners, artists, and students. They are mothers, grandfathers, work colleagues, rugby coaches, cadet leaders. They are us, they are Calgarians!

Storytelling and oral history play a critical role in learning from the past and preparing ourselves for the future. The Human Voice Project encourages us to reflect on our own lives and the gifts we can share to become more active, engaged and hopeful global citizens. If you can't make it to the launch, be sure to stop by Endeavor Arts Gallery between November 20 and December 2 to take in the Human Voice Project exhibit.

### Initiatives of Change - Calgary Women's Peace Circles

**Upcoming: January 17, 24, 31st & February 7, 14, 21** (one day a week for 6 weeks)

**February 10 - 12, 2012** (weekend format)

***What is your understanding of peace? Can anyone create peace? Whose job is it anyway?***

These workshops provide a space for women of different cultures, faiths and backgrounds to discover their own ability, as individuals and as a group, to create peace at home, at work, and in their communities. At the end of this program, women will have a deeper understanding of their roles as creators of peace and will have the opportunity to make a commitment to take tangible action to meet a need identified in their local community. Please contact Janyce Konkin at 403-270-0975 or [iofc.calgary@ca.iofc.org](mailto:iofc.calgary@ca.iofc.org) for further information and other future dates.



**Yes!** I want to become a Project Ploughshares Calgary donor and partner in building peace.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

Here is my donation for 2011 of:

\$35    \$50    \$100    \$500    \$\_\_\_\_\_

(donations of \$10 or more will receive a tax receipt)

I'd like to become a Friend of Ploughshares and give a monthly pre-authorized debit donation, please send me an application form:

I'd like to receive the monthly newsletter by:

Email (recommended)    Mail (with \$35 donation)