

**PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY**

Peace News

OCTOBER 2015



We are located:

Parkdale United
Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8

403-270-7366

Office hours:

Mon Tues & Wed
11:00 am - 5:00 pm

31st Annual

Holiday Peace Fair

Sat. November 7, 2015

**Parkdale United Church
2919 – 8 Avenue NW
9:30 AM – 4 PM**

**Supporting Social
Justice, Fair Trade and
the Environment**

**Unique items from 30
vendors working for peace,
social justice and the
environment**

**Light lunch available
for purchase**

**\$5.00 admission
\$3.00 for seniors & students
(Free for children
12 and under)**

Sponsored by

Project Ploughshares Calgary

www.ploughsharescalgary.ca

office@ploughsharescalgary.ca

403-270-7366

Ploughshares News



Refugees of the Blue Planet Film Night October 14, 2015

This film, featuring stories of environmental refugees from the Maldives, Brazil and Alberta, was shown to an audience of about 20 very engaged people. Following the film a discussion was held where people shared their thoughts and feelings, with some feeling that personal responsibility was not going far enough in terms of rectifying environmental wrongs, but rather we need systems put in place to protect both people and resources.

Alternate Remembrance Day Ceremony Wednesday November 11, 2015 - 1 - 2 PM Calgary Community Peace Pole

Join us the Peace Pole to share memories of war and refugees, and the importance of peacebuilding to people across the world today.



Project Ploughshares Calgary *Holiday Open House*

Everyone welcome!

Saturday December 5th, 1 - 3 PM
Parkdale United Church Auditorium

2919 - 8 Avenue NW

*Hot Chocolate, Mulled Cider,
Cookies and Music*



Marda Loop Justice Film Festival
 November 17 - 22, Riverpark Church
 3818 14a St SW

The mandate of a film festival is usually very simple: present the best films available to a varied audience. But the annual Marda Loop Festival is more than just film. Screenings includes post-show discussions with local and international artists and experts, and opportunities to interact and connect with community, no matter how you define it.

NGO Village

Our NGO Village is where you can meet representatives from local non-profit groups, learn about their missions and volunteer opportunities, and buy crafts and fair trade items.

The Standing Protest may be of particular interest to Project Ploughshares members:

'While violence, chaos and confrontations enveloped Istanbul, Erdem Gündüz put his hands in his pockets, and was standing still and silent for eight hours. His passive resistance quickly attracted attention of protesters who shared the information on the internet, prompting hundreds of people to join'.



Syria and Iraq Crisis - Mennonite Central Committee

To leave or to stay? Many Syrian and Iraqi families face that question as the conflict continues to rage around them. International humanitarian assistance is dwindling and the patchwork of resources they used to rely on is wearing thin. To leave is to risk their lives over dangerous seas and through countries hesitant to open their doors. But to stay is also a great risk. **Responding to this crisis is MCC's largest ever humanitarian effort, but the needs are growing faster than the resources are coming in.**

While it's easy to feel overwhelmed by the number of people in need, there are four ways you can make a difference:

1. Give a donation to MCC's humanitarian work in the region.
2. Learn how you, your church or other organization can get involved with refugee sponsorship.
3. Advocate for a peaceful resolution to the conflict and for a solution to the refugee crisis.
4. Pray for peace in Syria and Iraq and for all those who have been affected or displaced by the conflict.

Learn more at <http://mcccanada.ca/learn/what/relief/syria#Learn>



DONATIONS

2015 is quickly drawing to a close...have you remembered your yearly contribution to **Project Ploughshares**? We need your commitment to help us maintain our Peace Education Programs as well as the many community-oriented and educational events that we do every year. We are very appreciative of your help in keeping the doors open of your local Peace Education Organization!

During the month of October, donations were received from individuals totalling \$1075. We are deeply appreciative of their support. Thanks so much for considering Project Ploughshares Calgary!



CALGARIANS WRITE PEACE A PROJECT PLOUGHSHARES INITIATIVE

These booklets, featuring the work of 10 writers and 3 local artists, will be available for sale at the Holiday Peace Fair on November 7th. **This is a limited edition print - only 50 copies available!** Be sure to pick one up for yourself or as a gift for a loved one!

Nuclear Zero

On April 24, 2014, the Republic of the Marshall Islands filed landmark lawsuits against the nine nuclear-armed nations for failing to comply with their obligations under international law to pursue negotiations for the worldwide elimination of nuclear weapons.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands acts for the seven billion of us who live on this planet to end the nuclear weapons threat hanging over all humanity.

Everyone has a stake in this. Sign the petition at: <http://www.nuclearzero.org/petition>

Ploughshares Upcoming 2015-16 Events



October 28th - Nov 13th - **3rd Annual Toy Audit**

November 7th - **31st Annual Holiday Peace Fair**

November 11th - **Remembrance Day** at the Calgary Community Peace Pole, 1 - 2 PM

December 5th - **Ploughshares Holiday Open House**, Parkdale United Church Auditorium, 1 - 3 PM

January 13th - **Brown Bag Lunch Seminar** - downtown location TBA - 12 - 1 PM

The Peaceful Shepherd by Robert Frost



If heaven were to do again,
And on the pasture bars,
I leaned to line the figures in
Between the dotted starts,

I should be tempted to forget,
I fear, the Crown of Rule,
The Scales of Trade, the Cross of Faith,
As hardly worth renewal.

For these have governed in our lives,
And see how men have warred.
The Cross, the Crown, the Scales may all
As well have been the Sword.

Reason Is Not Enough by David Krieger



Reason is not enough to halt the nuclear juggernaut that rumbles unsteadily toward catastrophe, toward omnicide.

The broken heart of humanity must find a way to enter the debate. The heart must find common cause with imagination. We cannot wait until the missiles are in the air with the sand falling through the hourglass. We must use our imaginations. We must listen to the sad stories of those who survived Hiroshima and Nagasaki and imagine the force of the winds, the firestorms rushing through our cities, the mushroom clouds rising, the invisible radiation spreading. If we can't imagine the death and destruction, we cannot combat it and we will never stop it.

We are trapped by our myopia and lethargy, the forces that keep us impotent in the face of the nuclear threat. I call these forces ACID: Apathy, Conformity, Ignorance and Denial. ACID is corrosive to our common future. ACID is the collection of obstacles to change that is preventing us from ending the nuclear weapons era and preserving the human future.

Our challenge is to move from ACID to Action by changing apathy to empathy; conformity to critical thinking; ignorance to wisdom; and denial to recognition.

Apathy is indifference, a recipe for maintaining the status quo. Empathy is the result of imagining oneself in another's shoes, in this case the shoes of those who were victims of the atomic bombings, either at Hiroshima or Nagasaki, or victims of atmospheric nuclear testing.

Conformity is going along with the herd mentality, like lemmings over a cliff. Critical thinking is a means of breaking with the herd, of seeing the dangers in what is commonly considered acceptable. Apply critical thinking to nuclear deterrence theory and you find a theory that cannot be proven and is subject to failure. Nuclear deterrence cannot, for example, stand up to terrorists, those who have no territory or are suicidal. Nor can deterrence theory apply to leaders who are not rational, and most leaders are not fully rational in times of extreme crisis.

Ignorance is not knowing, or thinking one knows that which is just plain wrong. It is a result of disinterest or a warped perspective. It bends toward extreme arrogance or hubris, and includes an absurd and dangerous belief in human infallibility. Wisdom is grasping our human fallibility and acting to prevent it from leading to disaster.

Denial is putting on blindfolds and failing to see a problem or threat that would otherwise be obvious. It is countered by recognition of the threat, in the case of nuclear weapons by recognition of the threat to all humanity.

We must move from ACID to action, from education to engagement, starting with the recognition that nuclear weapons undermine security, provide no physical protection, threaten civilization and complex life, and are subject to human fallibility. They are the ultimate evil for they threaten all we love and cherish.

What can you do? Start with A-B-C. Awaken. Believe. Contribute. Awaken to the threat (be aware, attentive and active). Believe you can make a difference on this most critical of issues. Contribute time, talent, money, ideas. Everyone has something they can contribute, and it will take many of us joining together to achieve the goal. Beyond A-B-C, stand up, speak out and join in. Be a nonviolent warrior for peace and a world free of nuclear weapons. Choose hope and keep hope alive, and persevere and never give up.

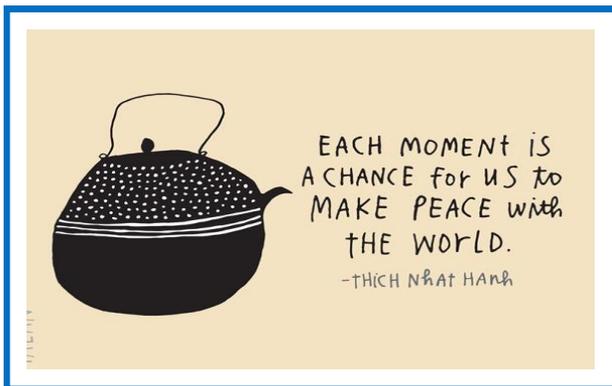


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Special thanks to Karen Huggins & Tracey Braun for their work writing and editing this issue of the newsletter.



“Within a system which denies the existence of basic human rights, fear tends to be the order of the day. Fear of imprisonment, fear of torture, fear of death, fear of losing friends, family, property or means of livelihood, fear of poverty, fear of isolation, fear of failure. A most insidious form of fear is that which masquerades as common sense or even wisdom, condemning as foolish, reckless, insignificant or futile the small, daily acts of courage which help to preserve man's self-respect and inherent human dignity. It is not easy for a people conditioned by fear under the iron rule of the principle that might is right to free themselves from the enervating miasma of fear. Yet even under the most crushing state machinery courage rises up again and again, for fear is not the natural state of civilized man.”

— Aung San Suu Kyi, Freedom from Fear



Project Ploughshares Calgary

Yes...I am interested in supporting the peace work of Project Ploughshares!

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to make a
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/>	monthly donation
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/>	of \$_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to volunteer
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1000		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Amount (Specify)	\$_____	

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Donation Options: Cheque PayPal Cash

Make cheque payable to Project Ploughshares Calgary or go to www.ploughsharescalgary.ca to make your payment via PayPal.

Please mail completed form with donation to:

Project Ploughshares Calgary, 2919 - 8 Ave. NW, Calgary, AB T2N 1C8

(Project Ploughshares is a charitable organization - we issue tax receipts for all donations over \$20)