

CHALLENGES OF PEACE AND WAR

A Community Conference

CO-Sponsored by the Calgary Association of Lifelong Learners (CALL) &

The Ploughshares Calgary Society

Saturday, May 5, 2018, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church, 4612 Varsity Dr. N.W.

Given conflicts in the Middle East and elsewhere, as well as the horrifying possibility of nuclear war, it seems appropriate to take stock and consider alternative solutions to serious conflicts. World politics is shifting, requiring the deployment of different strategies in conflict zones. The program will explore shifts in world politics and specific successes and failures in Canadian peacekeeping and nonviolent conflict resolution.

PROGRAM

9:30 a.m. Welcome: George Melnyk, M.C.

Keynote Address: A Return to Power Politics? What Does It Mean for International Peace and Security? Rob Huebert, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Calgary

10:15: Q & A

10: 30 Break

10:45—11:45 Panel: Perspectives on Successes and Failures

Moderator: Doreen Barrie, University of Calgary

- Major John Vintar, Canadian Armed Forces
- Abe Janzen, Mennonite Central Committee
- Mark Ayyash, Peace and Conflict Studies, Mount Royal University
- Trudy Govier, Ploughshares Calgary Society

11:45-12:15: Q &A

12.15 -1:00 Lunch

1:00--Introduction to *In Pursuit of Peace*, Madelyn MacKay, Voice of Women for Peace

1:15-2:30-- Film: *In Pursuit of Peace*

2:30-3:00--Discussion

3:00--Concluding Remarks

Conference Presenters

Mark Ayyash is an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Director of the John de Chastelain Peace Studies Initiative at Mount Royal University. His teaching and research focus on social and political theory, the study of violence, decolonial movements, as well as culture and politics in the Middle East, particularly the Palestinian-Israeli struggle. In addition to several academic articles, his co-edited book (with Ratiba Hadj-Moussa), *Protests and Generations: Legacies and Emergences in the Middle East, North Africa and the Mediterranean*, was published in 2017. Mark organizes a Lecture Series and the Annual Calgary Peace Prize Ceremony. He has recently developed a Minor in Peace and Conflict Studies at Mount Royal University.

Doreen Barrie is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Political Science Department at the University of Calgary. She has written on Canadian and Alberta politics, health care, federalism and environmental protection. She is currently researching issues on water, particularly water markets.

Trudy Govier is a founding member and currently Chair of the Ploughshares Calgary Society. She taught philosophy at the University of Lethbridge, retiring in 2012. Trudy is particularly well known for her work in informal logic and argumentation: the 7th edition of her book, *A Practical Study of Argument* was published in 2012. She has also written widely on issues related to violence and conflict resolution, including *A Delicate Balance: What Philosophy Can Tell Us About Terrorism* (2002), and *Taking Wrongs Seriously: Acknowledgement, Reconciliation, and the Politics of Sustainable Peace* (2006). In recent years, Trudy has facilitated a number of Interest Groups for CALL.

Rob Huebert is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Calgary, where his research and teaching focus on Canadian foreign and defence policies, circumpolar relations, and international relations and strategic studies more generally. In addition to numerous articles on these subjects, his publications include a co-edited book (with H. Exner-Pirot, A. Lajeunesse & J. Gullledge), *Climate Change and International Security: The Arctic as a Bellwether*, 2012.

Abe Janzen served as the executive director of the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Alberta for 21 years, retiring to Donor and Church Relations in the fall. He has travelled to the Palestine-Israel region multiple times and is passionate about working for peace. Before beginning with MCC Alberta, Abe and his wife served with MCC in Bolivia for 10 years. He is originally from Saskatchewan, where he studied adult education. He blogs regularly at somemessynotes.wordpress.com.

Madelyn MacKay is a peace activist who lived in Calgary in the 1970s and is now living in Nelson BC, where she co-teaches in the Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping program at Selkirk College. Selkirk is the first school in the world to offer this Nonviolent Peace force training for peacekeepers. She recently participated in the UN Commission on the Status of Women with the Voice of Women for Peace delegation.

George Melnyk is Professor Emeritus of Communication Media and Film at the University of Calgary. In addition to his work in Canadian literary history, film history, and Western Canadian identity, he has written widely on peace issues from a Canadian perspective. His work in the area of Peace Studies includes the co-edited volume, *Canada and September 11th: Impact and Response* (2002) and the edited volume, *Canada and the New American Empire: War and Anti-War* (2004). George has also facilitated a number of Interest Groups for CALL.

Major John Vintar has served in a number of positions in the Canadian army since enlisting in the early 1980's. In 2015-16, he was deployed to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, where his tasks included protecting civilians, investigating human rights abuses, supporting the delivery of humanitarian aid, and supporting the conditions of tenuous ceasefire agreements.