

PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY

Peace News

MARCH 2009



We are located:

**Parkdale United
Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8**

403- 270-7366

Office hours:

**Mon, Tue, Thurs
10:30am - 3pm**

Wed 2 - 6pm

THE STRANGEST DREAM

**Sunday March 8th, 12 noon, FREE
Plaza Theatre 1133 Kensington Rd NW**



Ploughshares is pleased to work with the National Film Board of Canada on the Calgary premiere of a new film, *The Strangest Dream*.

The Strangest Dream tells the story of Joseph Rotblat (1995 Nobel Peace Prize winner), the history of nuclear weapons and the efforts of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs—an international movement Rotblat co-founded—to halt nuclear proliferation.

After the film there will be a comments from, and a time of question and answer with Ploughshares Calgary's Program Coordinator Diane Janzen and The Very Reverend Bill Phipps.



Making Nonviolence Work: History and Conflict Intervention Training

Ploughshares' Annual Spring Workshop

**Friday April 17th 7:30pm and Saturday April 18th 9am to 5pm
The Village Park Inn - 1804 Crowchild Trail NW**

Our guest speakers/facilitators will include:

- Madelyn MacKay, board member, Nonviolent Peaceforce Canada; Nonviolent Conflict Intervention (NCI) workshop leader
- Sandra Hoenle, Prof of German, U of C; board member, Consortium for Peace Studies; will speak on non-violent resistance in Germany before and after World War II
- Diane Janzen, Program Coordinator, Project Ploughshares Calgary; will bring practical experience from her work with Christian Peacemaker Teams

Learning from the world's rich nonviolent history on Friday night will illumine the day of nonviolence training on Saturday. NCI training explores nonviolent methods for preventing or lessening conflict— at home, at work, in public places or around the world.

Full Workshop: \$40 (lunch included)
Student and Low Income: \$20

After April 3rd: \$45
Friday evening only: \$12

Register for the conference by contacting the Ploughshares office at 403-270-7366 or office@ploughsharescalgary.ca

Ploughshares Calgary News

Reflections from Ottawa—Part One

From February 15 to 17, Ploughshares Calgary Program Coordinator Diane Janzen was one of 60 from across Canada who attended a conference on “Women Building Peace” in Ottawa. Below is an excerpt from her presentation at Ploughshares’ February monthly meeting.

The “Women Building Peace” conference grew out of a desire that two organizations, Civilian Peace Service Canada, and the Canadian Department of Peace Initiative, had to include more women peace workers in the visioning and implementing of their organizations, and learn from women what they feel needs to be addressed by peace organizations.



The Canadian Department of Peace, once established, would develop, across government departments, a coordinated and coherent paradigm for a sustainable peace. The Department would work towards building a new architecture of peace by establishing and supporting a culture of peace and assertive nonviolence in Canada and the world.

The goal of the Civilian Peace Service Canada (CPSC) is to build a sustainable peace, at home and abroad, in partnership with local communities, through the establishment of an organization which would facilitate the recruitment, training and deployment of qualified civilians to promote and assist in the nonviolent resolution of conflict.



Currently CPSC is addressing the need for the accreditation of peace professionals. CPSC has identified core values that underlie and motivate effective performance – they are: empathy, humility, personal maturity, sound judgment, a desire for social justice and a willingness to learn.

In addition, key competencies (skills/abilities) that enable effective performance have also been identified – they are: communications, conciliation, conflict analysis/transformation, facilitation, mediation, negotiation, operational planning, peace building, personal security, strategic thinking and teamwork. The difference between core values and key competencies is that core values are usually formed early on in an individual’s life whereas key competencies can be obtained through training.

CPSC has drafted a pilot accreditation process that they hope to test out with several individuals to learn from the experience and get feedback from the participants.

In addition to presentations and discussion around the CPSC and the DPI, there were presentations from a variety of experienced women peace practitioners:

Peggy Mason’s career highlights diplomatic and specialist expertise in the field of international peace and security, with particular emphasis on the UN, where she served as Canada’s Ambassador for Disarmament from 1989 through 1994. She had been a faculty member of the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre since 1996.

Jean Augustine was the first African-Canadian woman to be elected to the House of Commons, serving as MP from 1993 to 2006. During this time she served as parliamentary secretary to the PM, secretary of state and minister of the state for multiculturalism and the status of women.

Susan Brown has held senior positions in conflict emergency response and peacebuilding, as well as in strategic planning and management. She has also served as Director of Peacebuilding Program at the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre, and teaches for the European Union REACT Program.

Lauryn Oates work concentrates on international development, gender equity and education in conflict zones. She is current Project Director with Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan's Excel-erate Teacher Training Program.

Violeta Manoukian is a specialist in participatory approaches to development and poverty reduction. She recently finalized a case study for UNICEF/DRC entitled “Realities of Women and Children in DR Congo”.

Monia Mazigh’s husband, Maher Arar, was deported to Syria in 2002 where he was tortured and held without charge for over a year. She is the author of “Hope and Despair”, and speaks of the effect the “war or terror” has on innocent victims and their families.

Kristine St. Pierre is a Research Analyst at the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre, assisting with the development of the Centre’s sexual and gender based violence course (which was recently delivered in Kenya to female officers serving with the African Union – UN’s Mission in Darfur).

Deborah Chansonneuve has over 25 years experience in gender equality and human rights issues. She has focused her work on Aboriginal women and children, and has developed conflict resolution training programs that approach relationships constructively and creatively.

Ploughshares National News

NATO's Strategic Concept and the Emerging Nuclear Abolition Imperative

Introduction from a February 2009 briefing by Ernie Regehr www.ploughshares.ca

Even as NATO's official strategic doctrine continues to describe nuclear weapons as "essential to peace," the world is undergoing an extraordinary reawakening to the unique threats posed by nuclear weapons and the need to finally eliminate them.

For some in the growing gallery of nuclear abolitionists, the focus is on the 20,000-plus nuclear warheads, several thousand of them poised on missiles ready for firing at a moment's notice, that remain in the arsenals of the nine states with nuclear weapons. Sixty-four years into the nuclear age, the destructive power of these arsenals remains well beyond imagining. For others, including many of those more recently converted to the pursuit of zero nuclear weapons, the focus is on the growing fears that these weapons, as well as weapons-friendly technologies and nuclear materials, will spread to more and more states, and even to non-state groups.

These concerns have produced a series of public appeals by a broad range of world figures, all insisting anew that our collective well-being, and that of our fragile planet, requires that nuclear arsenals be eliminated and permanently banned.

At the same time, of course, the security community remains divided. While demands for an unambiguous commitment to nuclear abolition are growing, retentionist doctrines remain entrenched in core institutions, not least in NATO and its Strategic Concept. But all that could begin to change. The 60th-Anniversary NATO Summit, scheduled for April in Strasbourg, France and Baden-Baden and Kehl, Germany, is expected to launch a process to review the Alliance's current Strategic Concept with a view to adopting a new strategy at a future Summit. That review will be an important opportunity for NATO to rethink its nuclear doctrine in the light of the growing fears that the indefinite retention of nuclear weapons by some will lead inevitably to their spread and use.

Copies of this full briefing and a petition to sign, prepared by the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, will be available from Ploughshares Calgary at the March 8th screening of *The Strangest Dream*.



Canadians unite to ensure promises to landmine & cluster bomb victims not forgotten

Excerpts from Mines Action Canada February 23rd, 2009 Press Release www.minesactioncanada.org

Ten years after the historic treaty banning antipersonnel mines became binding international law, concerned citizens in Canada and 50 other countries around the globe are taking action this week to once again draw the world's attention to the horrific consequences of landmines and cluster bombs and to call for renewed efforts toward a mine-free world. "**Clearing the Path – Removing Lethal Barriers**" is the theme of the 10th annual **Canadian Landmine Action Week (CLAW)** taking place from **February 23rd-March 1st, 2009**

"We would like Canada to take this special anniversary to publicly reconfirm its political and financial commitment to seeing the goals of the Ottawa Convention banning landmines fully realized. These are solvable problems and Canadians were at the forefront of creating the solution - but they require sustained political will and reliable funding from Canada and other member countries" [Paul Hannon, Executive Director of Mines Action Canada—MAC]. MAC renewed its call that Canada commit to being a top five donor to mine action by annually spending at least \$1 per Canadian per year.

To date, 156 states have joined the treaty and, as reported by the annual Landmine Monitor reports coordinated by MAC, the stigma attached to the use of antipersonnel mines means that only two governments – Burma (Myanmar) and Russia – and a handful of non-state armed groups employed these weapons in the past few years. Some 42 million antipersonnel mines have been destroyed from stockpiles since 1997; only 13 of the more than 50 countries that manufactured antipersonnel mines in the early '90s still have a production capacity; trade in antipersonnel mines has virtually stopped; and large tracts of land have been cleared and returned to productive use.

Thirty-nine countries – two of which originally signed the treaty but have not ratified it – have not yet formally joined the treaty and thus remain at odds with the widespread international rejection of the weapon.

"Over the past decade we have seen elements of the new diplomacy that created the Ottawa Convention applied to tackle other issues, particularly cluster bombs," said Hannon. "We strongly support the new Convention on Cluster Munitions. Canada was one of the first countries in the world to sign the clusters treaty and we urge the government to continue this leadership by ratifying it quickly."



Project Ploughshares Calgary

2919 8th Ave. NW
Calgary AB T2N 1C8
(403) 270-7366

office@ploughsharescalgary.ca
www.ploughsharescalgary.ca

Special thanks to Diane Janzen, Sally Hodges and Larry Kennard for their work writing and editing this issue of the newsletter.

MARCH FOR PEACE

A number of groups both in the community and at the University of Calgary are planning peace-related activities in March, and thus the idea of a "March for Peace" was born. These are a selection of the events, more information is available on the Consortium for Peace Studies website: www.ucalgary.ca/~peaceuc

March 4th, 12 – 1pm - Dr. Anne White: The Earth Charter, A Blueprint for Peace & Social Justice

U of C – MacEwan Hall, Bianca Conference Room (2nd Floor)
Presented by the Peaceful Solutions Student Club

Conflict, hatred, destruction, suffering and injustice have long been part of the human cultural footprint. After centuries of recorded mayhem is it possible in the 21st Century to even hope for peace? Dr. White argues that there are definite practical ways to contain the levels of unchecked violence and cruelty that our species creates.

March 5th 7pm - Women of Courage Building Peace

A celebration of International Women's Day.
Carpenter's Hall, 301 - 10 Street NW

March 10th, 7pm - View from a Grain of Sand

Amnesty International Film Night
Plaza Theatre, 1133 Kensington Road NW Admission by donation

Three remarkable Afghan women lead us through the maze of Afghanistan's complex history, describing how international interventions, war and the rise of political Islam have stripped Afghan women of their freedom over the last thirty years.

March 10th, 7pm - The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo

Marda Loop Justice Film Festival, Film Night
River Park Church Auditorium, 3818 14A St. SW

Winner of the Sundance Special Jury Prize in Documentary and the inspiration for a 2008 U.N. Resolution classifying rape as a weapon of war, this extraordinary film, shot in the war zones of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), shatters the silence that surrounds the use of sexual violence as a weapon of conflict. Many tens of thousands of women and girls have been systematically kidnapped, raped, mutilated and tortured by soldiers from both foreign militias and the Congolese army. A survivor of gang rape herself, Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Lisa F. Jackson travels through the DRC to understand what is happening and why.

March 11th, 1pm – April 11th, 1pm - March for Peace Art show

Mezzanine Gallery, University of Calgary
Exhibition of artworks by local artists around the theme "(Inter)personal peace as the foundation for (inter)national peace."

March 18th - Drums for Diversity, Voices for Change

University of Calgary, 11:30am—1:30pm

This musical event, commemorating the UN's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (March 21st), will begin at various venues across campus at 11:30am. It will converge and continue at MacEwan Student Centre's North Courtyard at 12:30pm with a powerful musical finale led by social activist and musician Gary Martin.

March 30 - 3rd Annual Calgary Peace Prize Dinner

Consortium for Peace Studies at the U of C
Calgary Zoo—Safari Lodge Cocktails 6pm, Dinner & Presentation 7pm Tickets: \$150 (\$100 is tax receipt)

Ms. Louise Arbour, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights is the recipient of the third Calgary Peace Prize. Ms. Arbour also served as justice of the Supreme Court of Canada and Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

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 2009 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 (requires \$35 donation)