

PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY

Peace News

JUNE 2014



**Beyond the WW1 Centenary Celebrations
& Ploughshares Calgary AGM**
June 4th 7 - 9 PM, Parkdale United Church
2919 - 8 Avenue NW

We invite you to consider submitting a letter (or any creative expression - art, music, etc.) written to or created for a WW I soldier from the perspective of a conscientious objector. What would you like to say to a grandfather, brother, uncle, or son who was fighting in the war? We will share your letters and other expressions of objection to war at this interactive meeting. We are striving to create a peaceful world without having our identities as Canadians defined by the glorification of a war.

We are located:
Parkdale United
Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8
403-270-7366

Office hours:
Mon Tues & Wed
10:00 am - 4:00 pm



Special Workshop - Local and Global Justice Education
Wednesday June 18th, 4 - 9 PM
Parkdale United Church Auditorium, 2919 - 9 Avenue NW

Facilitated by **Toh Swee-Hin**, Ph.D., (U of A), Distinguished Professor, University for Peace, Costa Rica & Laureate, UNESCO Prize for Peace Education and **Virginia Cawagas**, Ed.D. (Notre Dame), Professor and Head, Dept. of Peace & Conflict Studies, University for Peace, Costa Rica

Join us in welcoming two of the **superstars** in the field of peace and justice education! This workshop will provide a critical understanding of key concepts and issues in building a world where all nations, communities and peoples can live and Inter-relate based on principles of local and global justice. Through creative and participatory pedagogical strategies, participants will be facilitated in:

- ~ integrating social and economic justice themes and issues in the high school social studies and English curriculum, such as the urgent need to reduce the gaps between rich and poor;
- ~ transforming over-consumption and consumerism that fuel unsustainable use of resources toward a culture of voluntary simplicity and equitable sharing of global resources;
- ~ and the role of global North nations, including Canada, in promoting people-centred aid and just and sustainable international economic policies and globalization for the common good.

This workshop is intended for teachers (formal and informal education), peace and social justice activists, and anyone who is interested in creating a more just and peaceful world!

Light dinner provided. Cost: \$25; Students, Seniors & Low Income: \$15

To register, go to: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/705733>

For more information, contact Karen at 403-270-7366;

office@ploughsharescalgary.ca; www.ploughsharescalgary.ca



Ploughshares News



Donations

Spring is our time for annual giving to Ploughshares! When did you last donate? We need your help! Thank you very much if you give annually. We count on

your regular support to continue our important work for peace education and peacebuilding in Calgary. We value each and every contribution. We received \$370 during the month of May from individuals and sincerely thank them.

CALGARY PEACE RUN & WALK FESTIVAL

August 6th - 8:30 -10:30 PM, **Hiroshima/Nagasaki**

Memorial Lantern Event, Olympic Plaza

August 23rd - 12 - 1:30 PM, **Yoga for Peace**, Calgary Community Peace Pole

September 20th - 10:00 AM Race Start, **Calgary Peace Run & Walk**, Festival Square Market, Eau Claire.

The 2014 update of calgarypeacerun.ca is coming soon! Check out how to register and see the schedule of events for the Calgary Peace Run and Walk Festival within the next couple of weeks!



AGM Report by Ploughshares' Chair, Sally Hodges - (Excerpted)

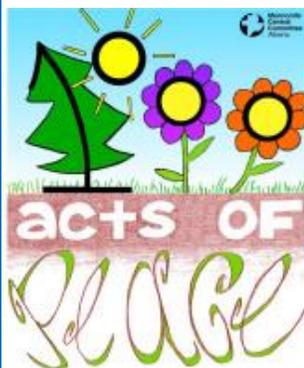
This year's Calgary Peace Prize winner, Dr. Samantha Nutt jolted those in the large audience with her insights about conflicts happening in the world today and their relevance to us. She says in her book, 'If the untold loss of life (of present wars) and the threat of planetary obliteration (by nuclear weapons) cannot rouse us from our domestic bunkers, consider this: war is never as far away as we believe it to be. It is in our pockets (as electronic devices), it is generating annual returns for our pension funds, encircling our ring fingers and filling up our cars, among other luxuries. This means that we have a far more direct influence over armed conflicts....than we might otherwise believe.'

On the international scene the very first global Arms Trade Treaty was signed in May. According to the UN website on this treaty, it will foster peace by "thwarting uncontrolled destabilizing arms flow to conflict regions" to "prevent human rights abusers and violators of the laws of war from being supplied with arms." Significantly, the United States signed it. Even more significantly for us, Canada has not.

Our cornerstone topic, nuclear weapon abolition, has seen some movement this year. An amazing lawsuit was commenced on April 24. The citizens of the Marshall Islands are victims of massive nuclear testing in the 40's and 50's. Their Government is now suing all nine nuclear-armed states over the horrors they faced and continue to face. This is truly a David and Goliath case. Project Ploughshares Co-founder Murray Thomson's group, Canadians for a Nuclear Weapons Convention, now comprises more than 760 Canadians who have received the Order of Canada. They are organizing annual Parliamentary Fora to keep the call for a Nuclear Weapons Convention in front of Senators and MPs. About 70 Canadian Members of Parliament belong to the global group Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND). Our very own resource person, Bev DeLong, continues to faithfully chair the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons which aims primarily to communicate with the public and the government our deep concern over the need for a Nuclear Weapons Convention (Treaty). Project Ploughshares Calgary is usually the group in Calgary that brings the nuclear weapon issue to the public but we partner with 2020 Vision for Humanity on the Hiroshima Day Lantern Event. Also here in Calgary we are encouraging Mayor Nenshi to call on the other 102 Canadian Mayors for Peace to join him in a letter requesting the Prime Minister to implement the unanimous motion of Parliament in 2010. That motion called on the "Government of Canada to engage in negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention.." and "to deploy a major world-wide Canadian diplomatic initiative in support of preventing nuclear proliferation and increasing the rate of nuclear disarmament."

And the last word is a wry challenge from George Bernard Shaw: 'Peace is not only better than war, but infinitely more arduous'.

Upcoming Calgary Peace Events



1000 Acts of Peace - How Did I Act for Peace Today?

This is a peace blog. A place to stop and talk with others about peace making. 1000 Acts of Peace is about that. Acting for peace. Writing about Peace. Thinking about Peace. And “talking” with each other, across the boundaries that separate us, about how to live peacefully with each other.

MCC Alberta invites you, everyone, from around the world, of all ages, to help us raise the profile of being Peace Makers in this lovely, mysterious world that we share with each other. Please [participate with us](#) in “1000 Acts of Peace” by sending your stories, comments, thoughts, pictures, ... so all who visit “1000 Acts of Peace” will be motivated, and encouraged to take our place as the peace makers that God has called us all to be.

PARTICIPATE WITH US: “Say your peace” by sharing your stories on our [acts of peace forum](#).



2015 Calgary Peace Prize Nominations

Nomination Procedure:

- The nomination process is open to the public.
- A nominee cannot self-nominate.
- All nominations will be put forward to a committee and narrowed down by means of consensus.
- Final nominees will be put forward to the Consortium Membership for approval in principle of a prioritized list of no more than ten nominees.
- Once approved, the committee will contact each potential recipient according to the prioritized order.
- The final recipient will be named based on availability, and acceptance.

Selection Criteria:

- Nominees will have a proven track record of a sustained effort towards peace, social justice; human security and the integrity of the environment;
- Nominees will be alive and able to attend the award ceremony in person where they will give an acceptance address;
- Although the committee will entertain all nominations, none will move forward without considering potential sensitivities;
- The award is intended for one person, however the selection committee in its sole discretion could determine that exceptional circumstances merit joint nominations, or nominations of organizations;

A nominee unwilling or unable to receive the prize will not be announced. The Calgary Peace Prize organizing committee will announce the successful recipient no earlier than 12 months prior to the event.

You can download the nomination form [here](#).



“Implanting spiritual ideas in children is very important. Many people live their entire lives according to the concepts that are implanted in them in childhood. When children learn they will get the most attention and love through doing constructive things, they will tend to stop doing destructive things. Most important of all, remember that children learn through example. No matter what you say it is what you *do* that will have an influence on them.”

~ (Peace Pilgrim Quote of the Month, May 2011).



Project Ploughshares Calgary

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



The Four Principles of Peace on Earth

- Community** - Let the world into your life; decide to personally be part of the solution to world problems.
- Cooperation** - Work with others to provide support and solidarity for those who are hurt by war and other disasters.
- Nonviolence** - Respect the dignity of those who are vulnerable; prepare yourself so that your actions will do no harm.
- Witness** - Open your heart to the suffering of the world, and pour love into the wounds.

~ Louise Diamond, *Celebrate Peace*

Recent Articles of Interest

May 27, 2014 - by Alice Slater

**Nine Nuclear Nations, 17,000 Bombs—16,000 of which are in Russia and the US:
 New Campaign for a Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons Gains Momentum**

<http://www.counterpunch.org/2014/05/27/new-campaign-for-a-treaty-to-ban-nuclear-weapons-gains-momentum/>

Too close for comfort: cases of near nuclear use and options for nuclear policy

Chatham House Report

Patricia Lewis, Heather Williams, Benoît Pelopidas and Sasan Aghlani

http://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/home/chatham/public_html/sites/default/files/20140428TooCloseforComfortNuclearUseLewisWilliamsPelopidasAghlani.pdf

MAY 26, 2014—By Winslow Myers

Global Climate Change and Nuclear Abolition

<http://www.counterpunch.org/2014/05/26/global-climate-change-and-nuclear-abolition/>



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)