

**PROJECT  
PLOUGHSHARES  
CALGARY**

# Peace News

MAY 2015



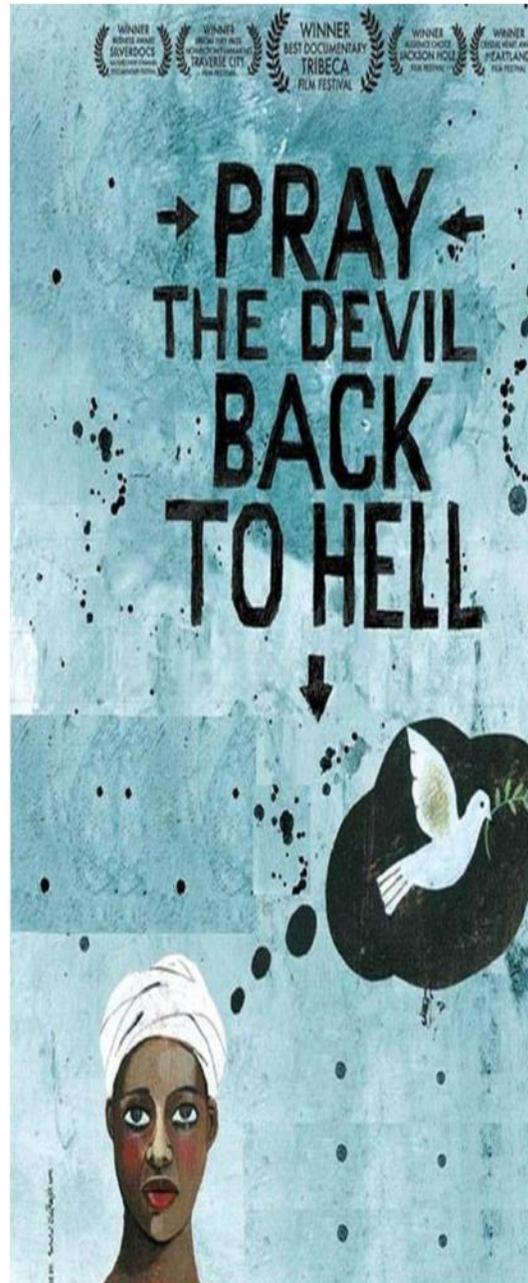
We are located:

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

403-270-7366

Office hours:

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



## **PROJECT PLOUGHSHARES CALGARY**

### **PEACE EDUCATION PRESENTATION**

Parkdale United Church  
Conference Room  
2919 - 8 Avenue NW  
Wednesday May 13, 2015  
7:00 PM

This film chronicles the civil war in Liberia, which left hundreds of thousands dead or displaced. The film reconstructs the way this tragedy galvanized a coalition of Christian and Muslim women to rise up and, through nonviolent tactics, put pressure on their government to pursue peace talks. Director Gini Reticker follows their grassroots movement as it leads to democratic elections and Liberia's first female president.

# Ploughshares News



Peacing It Together: Calgary Youth Speak Up.  
**Saturday, April 25, 2015 at St. David's United Church**  
**A Collaborative Workshop with Project Ploughshares Calgary and Initiatives of Change**

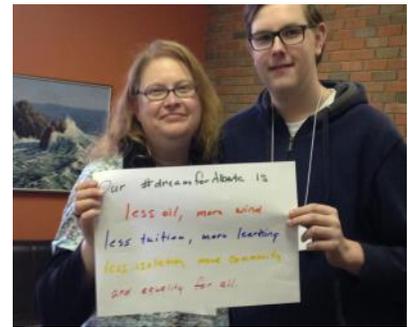
At our "Peacing It Together: Calgary Youth Speak Up" workshop, we heard some pretty powerful insights from our Youth Panel members about what social justice means to them. Truth, equity, the oneness of all humanity, happiness were just some of the responses to that question.

Youth go beyond "political correctness" and like to call things what they are. We need to overcome the power of fear. Youth need to have the dreams of how we can change the world. When asked "how do you include these ideas into your life?" we heard: by following my dreams, not necessarily just following orders of the status quo; will always question the present realities; by being inclusive and following my passion for the environment which is my connection to the world; by being aware of how what I am doing is going to impact others in the rest of the world; by building good relationships; I will humanize everyone around me; by being creative, writing poetry; by being true to myself; I will not allow myself to be categorized; promoting justice begins with me and seeing how I can be better myself. When I change myself I am able to see others as family and understand them better; helping others to tell their own truths.

Our facilitators for the day, Ronnie Joy Leah doing Image Theatre, and Erwin Blanco, who facilitated the Conversations with Youth panel, did an amazing job at keeping everyone engaged and focused. Thank you so much!

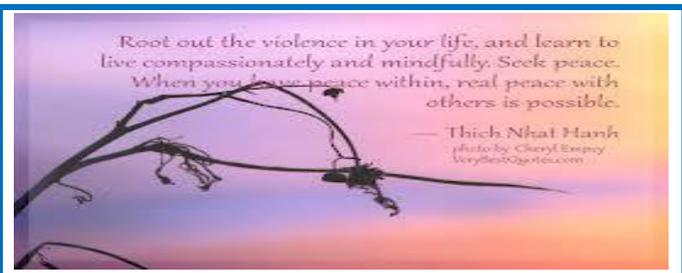
The final activity: creating a means to impact the community today -- developing a twitter feed called [#DreamforAlberta](https://twitter.com/DreamforAlberta) and everyone made a message to share. Join the feed!

A truly remarkable and inspiring group of youths. We can learn a lot by listening to what is on their minds and in their hearts. Thanks everyone for your participation!! ...*(by Janyce Konkin)*



**Upcoming Peace Education Presentations**  
**Parkdale United Church, 2919 - 8 Avenue NW. 7 - 8:30 PM**

**Wednesday June 10, 2015 - Topic TBA - followed by Ploughshares AGM**



Please remember Project Ploughshares in planning your yearly giving. We are so appreciative of your donations that help us keep the doors open of your local Peace Education Organization!

The month of April saw \$475 in donations. We need your help to maintain some of the best peace education programs and activities in the city! Thanks so much for your consideration of Project Ploughshares.

**Young Women's Peace Camp**  
**August 25 - 29, 2015 near Nelson, B.C.**

Young women 13 - 35 years old Meet women working for peace in different ways in their communities and the world! Build confidence in powerful and clear communication skills. Make friends, plan peacemaking events and express and enjoy yourself in a beautiful natural environment.

Info: 250-505-4122, [peacecampnelson@gmail.com](mailto:peacecampnelson@gmail.com)  
 Early bird registration to May 30th. Email for application.

**Hue: A Matter of Colour**  
**Riverpark Church Auditorium**  
**3818 - 14A St SW**  
**May 12, 2015 - 7:00 PM**  
 Vic Sarin, Director - 85 min.

A personal, yet global, investigation into the history and current state of colourism: the discrimination within one ethnicity based on differences in skin tone. Sarin travels the globe to discuss this complex cross-cultural social issue with individuals whose lives it affects, including a Filipina entrepreneur whose business has flourished within the billion-dollar skin-whitening industry. Hue leads viewers on a thoughtful and surprising journey to the heart of a painful and pervasive social issue that not only polices appearance, but also class, gender, and geography.

Post-film discussion with Sinela Jurkova

**Calgary Centre for Global Community and the Consortium for Peace Studies**  
 at the **University of Calgary** are offering these seminars with the goal of introducing participants to basic principles of peace and global citizenship.

**Seminar Topics & Dates:**

- Building a Community Response to Climate Change - Thursday April 30, 2015
- Social Activism Across Borders - Thursday May 28, 2015
- Social Entrepreneurship to Transform Culture, Economy and the Environment - Thursday June 25, 2015

For more info and to register, please go to <http://www.calgarycgc.org/seminars-in-peace--global-citizenship.html>

## Upcoming Calgary Peace Events

### NEW PROJECT PLOUGHSHARES INITIATIVE - WRITING FOR PEACE

Attention all you literary and artistic people! We would love for you to submit your work for inclusion in a booklet that we would like to have ready for next fall - in time for you to give a copy to a loved one as a holiday, birthday or anniversary gift. We're accepting essays, poetry, art, short stories...if you would like to be a part of this new initiative, please send your work to

**Karen at Project Ploughshares Calgary, 2919 - 8 Ave. NW, Calgary T2N 1C8,  
or email it to: [office@ploughsharescalgary.ca](mailto:office@ploughsharescalgary.ca)**



**We would love to hear from you and put together a meaningful and locally-developed booklet based on your own feelings about war and peace.**



Initiatives of Change

*Building trust across the world's divides*



### THE HUMAN SIDE OF WASTE

**Guest speaker: Kathy Cottee**  
Manager, Quality One Training and Support Inc.

No one dreams of growing up to sort household waste – yet it is providing a unique employment opportunity in Edmonton.

Working in partnership with the City of Edmonton, Quality One Training & Support Inc. (Q1), a not-for profit organization, has turned a sometimes unpleasant task into a door to the future for individuals with employment barriers.

The start-up of the Integrated Processing and Transfer facility in March 2010 provided an ideal opportunity to build a diverse team to deliver on the City's commitment to Diversity and Inclusion in its workplaces.

Join Kathy as she shares her inspiring journey where dealing with waste opens doors and brings hope to people marginalized in the work force.

**Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2015**

**Time: 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.**

**Place: Conference Room Downstairs  
Parkdale United Church  
2919 – 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.W.  
Calgary, AB T2N 1C8**

Light refreshments will be served.

Please sign up as soon as possible as spaces are limited. Maximum 20 participants per session.

To help defray costs a charge of \$10 is requested. Some bursaries are available for those experiencing financial challenges. Please speak to the coordinator.

**For further information and/or to register please contact:**

Ameeta Cordell  
[iofcprograms2015@gmail.com](mailto:iofcprograms2015@gmail.com)  
(403) 270-0975

## Nuclear Disarmament: Bombs and More Bombs by Jonathan Power

Date: April 28<sup>th</sup> 2015.

Link: [http://www.internationalpeaceandconflict.org/forum/topic/show?id=780588%3ATopic%3A1013001&xqs=1&xg\\_source=msg\\_share\\_topic#.VUJ4GpM65-w](http://www.internationalpeaceandconflict.org/forum/topic/show?id=780588%3ATopic%3A1013001&xqs=1&xg_source=msg_share_topic#.VUJ4GpM65-w)



Just for five minutes while you read this column forget the supposed intention of Iran to build a nuclear bomb. Dwell on the less reported fact that there are already 16,000 nuclear weapons in the world of which 90% are held by the US and Russia.

During the Cold War barely a week went by without some reportage or debate on nuclear weapons. Not today. Yet most of the nuclear weapons around then are still around.

It would be alright if they were left to quietly rust in their silos. But they are not. When in 2010 President Barack Obama made a deal with Russian President Dimitri Medvedev to cut their respective arsenals of strategic missiles by one third the US Congress, as the price for its ratification of the deal, decreed that Obama and future presidents be held to spending 355 billion dollars on updating and modernizing America's massive arsenal.

There is an organization called Global Zero that boasts among its supporters former US secretaries of state and a deputy chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, with- off in the wings- support from Henry Kissinger. It has pushed to fast cut the level of nuclear weapons down to zero. But the rock won't budge.

As soon as a deal is made over Iran's nuclear industry, which could happen quite soon, let us return to putting things into perspective. Forget Iran's supposed effort to build one bomb and focus on the other 16,000.

Recently, we have had wild talk from some Russian generals and diplomats about using nuclear weapons. We have Russian nuclear bombers showing off their capabilities as they fly close to European air space. At the same time sensible Russian strategists are trying to warn the country's leadership to be careful- that the craft of nuclear brinkmanship has been lost as the people who knew about nuclear politics have retired or died.

In the US, since his deal with Medvedev 3 years ago and despite all his promises to strive for a nuclear-free world, Obama seems to be stuck in place. Nuclear weapon reductions have now become hostage to the Ukrainian imbroglio. Even before Ukraine became an issue, President Vladimir Putin was dragging his feet because of his antagonism to the US plan to build missile defences on European soil.

Is Obama going to leave office with this part of his agenda forgotten? Is Putin going to highlight Russia's nuclear potential at every future crisis?

Much of the Russian scaremongering is talk. During NATO enlargement Russia talked of mushroom clouds over the territories of new members. Dmitri Trenin, director of the Carnegie Center in Moscow, observes that Russian threats are aimed at "waking the European publics to nuclear dangers".

That is a useful service, even though the method chosen is not a welcome one. Europe does need a wake up call. Look at the British government's announced intention to modernize its missile-carrying submarine fleet, long before they become too old for use.

Two American strategists, Barry Blechman and Russell Rumbaugh, have suggested one thing that Europe could do right now: Ask the US to get rid of B-61 gravity nuclear bombs that are located in many European countries. When President George H.W. Bush decided unilaterally to retire almost all tactical battlefield weapons based in Europe- except the B-61s- President Mikhail Gorbachev followed the example with his own unilateral cuts.

Soviet plans for the massive use of nuclear weapons at the very onset of a conflict made tactical weapons irrelevant. They are even more so today.

The reason the US deployed them was a mistaken. In Cold War days it was believed that the Warsaw Pact armies had a ten-to-one advantage in army divisions. They could quickly overwhelm NATO forces in a surprise attack. Hence the need for battlefield nuclear weapons. After the Cold War ended NATO discovered that they had wildly overestimated Warsaw Pact forces.

In the 1990s, Colin Powell, when he was the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, favoured abandoning all of them but was overruled. The US should unilaterally get rid of them. Russia would hopefully follow. They are useless to Russia too.

Obama will now never get a major nuclear disarmament deal ratified by Congress. Some unilateral disarmament in both battlefield - and, come to that, strategic weapons too - would serve the world well.



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



**Articles of Interest:**

**Proliferation concerns secondary in nuclear deal with India** by Cesar Jaramillo, Waterloo Region Record, April 29, 2015. <http://www.therecord.com/opinion-story/5590284-proliferation-concerns-secondary-in-nuclear-deal-with-india/>

**Public Opinion In and About the North.** <http://gordonfoundation.ca/north/munk-gordon-arctic-security-program/public-opinion-and-about-north>

**Iran calls for Nuclear Disarmament by U.S., Israel, World.** By Juan Cole, Informed Consent, April 29, 2015. <http://www.juancole.com/2015/04/nuclear-disarmament-israel.html>



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

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Donation Options:     Cheque                       PayPal                       Cash

**Make cheque payable to Project Ploughshares Calgary or go to**  
[www.ploughsharescalgary.ca](http://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)