

PROJECT  
PLOUGHSHARES  
CALGARY

# Peace News

S E P T E M B E R 2017



We are located at:

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

403-270-7366

Office hours:

Mon, Tues & Thurs  
10 am - 3 pm  
Wed 2 pm - 7 pm



## International Day of Peace

### September 21, 2017

The International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") is observed around the world each year on 21 September. Established in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution, Peace Day provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace.

**The theme for 2017 is "Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All"**

The theme honours the spirit of **TOGETHER**, a global initiative that promotes respect, safety and dignity for everyone forced to flee their homes in search of a better life.. **TOGETHER** unites the organizations of the United Nations System, the 193 Member States of the United Nations, the private sector, civil society, academic institutions and individual citizens in a global partnership in support of diversity, non-discrimination and acceptance of refugees and migrants.

**TOGETHER** is a United Nations campaign that promotes respect, safety and dignity for refugees and migrants. Launched in September 2016, its aim is to counter the rise in xenophobia and discrimination.

**TOGETHER** is a growing coalition of Member States, private sector, civil society representative and individuals committed to change negative narratives on migration and to strengthen the social cohesion between host communities and refugees and migrants..

**Please join Ploughshares Calgary on  
Wednesday, September 20th at 7 pm to celebrate  
International Day of Peace  
With a Philosophical Dialogue,  
"The Problem of Offensive Speech"  
by Trudy Govier.**

## Ploughshares News

*In celebration of The International Day of Peace, Ploughshares Calgary's September meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 20th at 7 pm at Parkdale United Church in the conference room. It will feature the reading and discussion of a philosophical dialogue, "The Problem of Offensive Speech".*

*Several perspectives on offensive speech will emerge from the Interplay of the three characters, played by Janet Keeping and two other Calgary personalities. The one hour prepared interchange will be followed by a discussion of its themes among attendees, led by the dialogue author, Trudy Govier.*

*With free speech issues much in the news, a lively conversation is anticipated.*

*Don't miss this lively, intellectual, thought-provoking philosophical dialogue!*

**"THE PROBLEM OF OFFENSIVE SPEECH"**  
**Wednesday, September 20th**  
**7—9:00 pm**  
**Parkdale United Church (conference room)**  
**2919-8 Avenue NW**



### **Minute of Silence/Moment of Peace**

In 1984, in commemoration of the annual International Day of Peace and in solidarity with the United Nations, the NGO *Pathways To Peace* inaugurated the **Minute of Silence** at 12:00 Noon in each time zone, resulting in a "Peace Wave" around the world. Individuals, organizations, communities and nations are invited to participate in this shared and practical act of peacebuilding on September 21.

For more info please visit: <http://internationaldayofpeace.org/get-involved/>

The International Day of Peace "is meant to be a day of global ceasefire. I call on all countries and all people to stop all hostilities for the entire day. I also urge all people around the world to observe a minute of silence at 12 noon", the Secretary-General says in a videotaped message. (See Press Release SG/SM/10103 of 17 September.)

**Source:** <https://www.un.org/press/en/2005/obv506.doc.htm>

**Why Canada should sign the Treaty Banning Nuclear Arms**—Doug Roche, The Globe and Mail

Printed July 29, 2017

*Douglas Roche is a former senator and a former Canadian ambassador for disarmament and honorary citizen of Hiroshima.*

*Excerpts of article:*

“The majority of countries now agree that the faulty doctrine of nuclear deterrence must be replaced with a sincere desire to build a global security architecture without nuclear weapons. This is a struggle of titanic proportions. “

“It is dismaying that the Government of Canada, the first country in the world to declare it would not develop nuclear weapons, took a stand in Parliament opposing the new treaty as "premature." How can it be "premature" to ban nuclear weapons after seven decades of their existence? “

“The real reason for Canada's opposition is because the U.S. government instructed its partners in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to resist on the grounds that the treaty "delegitimizes the concept of nuclear deterrence." That is exactly the aim of the treaty advocates, who maintain that the measure is a head-on rejection of nuclear hegemony. “

*To read the full article, please visit:*

<https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/why-canada-should-sign-the-treaty-banning-nuclear-arms/article35827028>

Ploughshares Calgary and 2020 Vision for Humanity are very grateful for the tremendous support they received from everyone for the Floating Lantern event held on August 5th in memory of all affected by the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki 72 years ago and in solidarity for a peaceful world without nuclear weapons. Approximately 2,000 people attended, released the beautiful lanterns to float on the Olympic Pool. They enjoyed music, children's choirs and plays. We look forward to continued support as we work towards a Nuclear Weapons free World and a Peaceful and Just World..



A little over 50 years ago, U.S. President Kennedy gave a “Peace Speech” that would be worth listening to again. This was a speech which was courageous and inspiring to hear from a politician. When President Kennedy made this speech in 1963, there were three nations with nuclear weapons—now nine nations have these weapons.



*Excerpts of President Kennedy’s Peace Speech made in 1963:*

“Total war makes no sense in an age when great powers can maintain large and relatively invulnerable nuclear forces and refuse to surrender without resort to those forces. It makes no sense in an age when a single nuclear weapon contains almost ten times the explosive force delivered by all the allied air forces in the Second World War. It makes no sense in an age when the deadly poisons produced by a nuclear exchange would be carried by wind and water and soil and seed to the far corners of the globe and to generations yet unborn.”

“the expenditure of billions of dollars every year on weapons acquired for the purpose of making sure we never need to use them is essential to keeping the peace. But surely the acquisition of such idle stockpiles—which can only destroy and never create—is not the only, much less the most efficient, means of assuring peace.”

“I speak of peace, therefore, as the necessary rational end of rational men. I realize that the pursuit of peace is not as dramatic as the pursuit of war—and frequently the words of the pursuer fall on deaf ears. But we have no more urgent task. Some say that it is useless to speak of world peace or world law or world disarmament—and that it will be useless until the leaders of the Soviet Union adopt a more enlightened attitude. I hope they do. I believe we can help them do it. But I also believe that we must re-examine our own attitude—as individuals and as a Nation—for our attitude is as essential as theirs. And every graduate of this school, every thoughtful citizen who despairs of war and wishes to bring peace, should begin by looking inward—by examining his own attitude toward the possibilities of peace, toward the Soviet Union, toward the course of the cold war and toward freedom and peace here at home.”

“Today, should total war ever break out again—no matter how—our two countries would become the primary targets. It is an ironic but accurate fact that the two strongest powers are the two in the most danger of devastation. All we have built, all we have worked for, would be destroyed in the first 24 hours. And even in the cold war, which brings burdens and dangers to so many nations, including this Nation’s closest allies—our two countries bear the heaviest burdens. For we are both devoting massive sums of money to weapons that could be better devoted to combating ignorance, poverty, and disease. We are both caught up in a vicious and dangerous cycle in which suspicion on one side breeds suspicion on the other, and new weapons beget counter weapons. In short, both the United States and its allies, and the Soviet Union and its allies, have a mutually deep interest in a just and genuine peace and in halting the arms race. Agreements to this end are in the interests of the Soviet Union as well as ours—and even the most hostile nations can be relied upon to accept and keep those treaty obligations, and only those treaty obligations, which are in their own interest.”

To hear the full speech, please visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fkKnfk4k40>

## What Books Are You Reading?

We would like to add to our readers' knowledge on peace and nonviolence and ask you to share with us what book (s) you are reading and why. What impact has it had on you?

*Book Review by Janet Keeping, Soon-to-be former leader of the Green Party of Alberta*

### **Climbing the empathy wall: trying to understand the emotions at work in right-wing American politics**

A review of Arlie Russell Hochschild's *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right*

As stunning as it was, the election of Donald Trump did not spring out of nowhere. American political life had been deteriorating for quite some time prior to the 2016 election. We have only to recall that Sarah Palin, Republican VP candidate in 2008, was like Trump radically unqualified. If John McCain had been elected president, she would have been, as they say, a heart-beat away from the Oval Office.

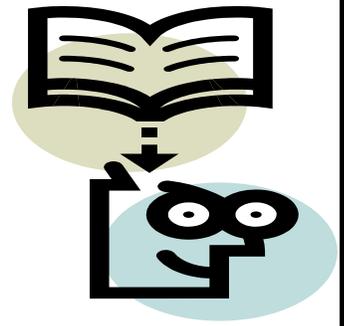
So how did it come to this, that Trump, who as candidate, amongst so many other outrages, explicitly urged supporters to beat up protesters at his rallies now holds his country's highest political office? The good news is there are many fine thinkers trying to explain the very dangerous turn American politics has taken.

One is Arlie Russell Hochschild. Her book *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right* went to print before Trump was elected, but it is helpful in understanding how that outcome was possible.

Hochschild's goal is to explain the paradox between what many American voters seem obviously to need from government and the choices they make come election time. She chose to study Tea Party supporters (people who espouse very small government) in Louisiana because the paradox in that state is so stark. The US Social Science Research Council ranks the human development of each state "based on life expectancy, school enrollment, educational degree attainment, and median personal earnings. Out of the 50 states, Louisiana ranked 49<sup>th</sup> and in overall health ranked last." (P. 9) Some of the very serious health problems in the state, cancers, for example, are clearly linked to industrial pollution.

The need for much better government in Louisiana seems profound – from poverty alleviation to improved public education and healthcare to serious environmental regulation of industry. But Louisiana voters consistently support politicians who advocate policies clearly at odds with those interests. The question is, why?

As a self-professed "liberal" from California, sociologist Hochschild admits she has to climb an "empathy wall" to even begin this task. "An empathy wall is an obstacle to deep understanding of another person." (P. 5) She argues, I think rightly, that overcoming the empathy wall is critical to the future of democracy in the US. Hochschild notes of her country:



[W]hen people move today, it is more often to live near others who share their views. People are segregating themselves into emotionally toned enclaves – anger here, hopefulness and trust there. ... And the more that people confine themselves to like-minded company, the more extreme their views become. (P. 6)

“[I]n the end, a healthy democracy depends on a collective capacity to hash things out” (p.8), and that will not obtain where empathy walls remain standing.

To overcome the empathy wall between Louisiana voters and her own politics, Hochschild spent 5 years (2011 – 2016) getting to know many individual Louisianans and how they think about government. Her study documents that, while the Louisianans she got to know often do vote against their economic self-interest and against other obvious interests – such as protecting their health – they are nevertheless voting in their *emotional* self-interest.

And what emotions might those otherwise perverse votes serve? It is often said those on the American right are acting out of anger. That’s true for some, but it’s not the whole story. Hochschild identifies other dimensions of the emotionality at work in these people:

- Bewilderment and confusion: The American Dream has “stalled,” especially for people like you who are without higher education. How did that happen?
- Paranoia: How did that happen? One appealing answer, because you believe you’ve lived in a way you thought would get you the American Dream, is that there must be a conspiracy against people like you.
- A mourning for the past (nostalgia) when solutions to problems seemed simpler, when local community seemed to provide all that was needed and distant governments were less intrusive. One form this takes is an overriding religiosity that delivers apparent certainty but denies a significant role to other institutions – solutions are found within one’s faith community (and pretty much everyone has one), not in government.
- Resentment, growing from the bewilderment, confusion and paranoia: This is the sense that others are advancing faster towards the American Dream because they are getting unfair breaks from government. P. 137: “Your [tax] money is running through a liberal sympathy sieve you don’t control or agree with.” P. 139: “You’ve suffered a good deal yourself, but you aren’t complaining about it.”
- Wounded pride and humiliation at the situation you are in.

And the implications for politics? “You feel stuck between a strong desire to be recognized for who you really are and all you’ve really done, and dread at joining the parade of ‘poor mes.’ You want to rise up against these downward forces. There is a political movement made up of people such as yourself who share your deep story. It’s called the Tea Party.” (P. 145.)

With appendices and notes relegated to the end of the book, this is a highly readable attempt at explaining one of the great political puzzles of our time. You can buy it, of course, but it is also available from the Calgary Public Library and no doubt from other publicly accessible libraries as well.

## WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE PEACE FAIR ON NOVEMBER 4th



One of our regular vendors at the Peace Fair is **People for Progress Foundation**.

People for Progress Foundation (PFPF) was started in 2010 by Mary-Ann Stushnoff to address the lack of opportunity for students in Kenya living in impoverished situations to receive quality education or continue their educations. PFPF programs are designed to meet the needs of the community through dialogue with community leaders and families.

PFPF's main program is Raven Education Centre, an early childhood development school in the impoverished Dandora area near Nairobi Kenya. Raven provides quality education to children between 3 and 6 years old who would otherwise not have access to preschool in preparation for public schooling. This not only equips the children with skills necessary for continuing education, it allows families to save money to pay fees for their children to attend public school. Operating in a building owned by PFPF, Raven Education Centre is a sustainable and trusted member of the Dandora community. Raven currently has three classes totalling over 65 students and is a hub where the children of the community frequently come for after school activities. Many of the students who have graduated from Raven and are enrolled in public schools continue to be involved by volunteering their time.

PFPF also provides student sponsorships to children in public schools in impoverished areas of Tanzania enabling students to attend higher quality schools which enriches their opportunities to continue their education through successive grades and prepare them for post-secondary education.

Shamsi is PFPF's most recent sponsorship student. Living in an impoverished village, at ten, he had had no opportunity to attend school but displayed an enthusiasm and drive for learning. We have seen the transformation that the boarding school has had on Shamsi himself academically, health wise and behavior wise and the great increase in his confidence and bearing. PFPF has been close to Shamsi's family (his mother, father, 3 siblings, aunt and uncle) for over a year now and we have witnessed through the sponsorship of Shamsi how the family is being empowered and that now they are taking Shamsi's little sister Shamini to kindergarten.

PFPF is currently developing its Canadian Program to support Canadian children whose families may not have the financial means to provide adequate nutrition for their children, which decreases their ability to focus and learn. The Canadian Program will also provide scholarship funding for selected students to continue their post-secondary education or to attend leadership development and special education programs such as SHAD.

To learn more about PFPF programs; volunteer opportunities or other ways to help please visit the PFPF website [www.peopleforprogressfoundation.com](http://www.peopleforprogressfoundation.com) or our Facebook page Facebook.com/pfpfc or contact us at [admin@peopleforprogress.net](mailto:admin@peopleforprogress.net).

**SAVE THESE DATES****PLOUGHSHARES CALGARY EVENTS:**

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

A Philosophical Dialogue, “The Problem of Offensive Speech”

Parkdale United Church in the Conference Room (in the basement)

7 pm—8:30 pm

Admission: Free (Donations gratefully accepted)

September 21, 2017—Observe a Minute of Silence/Moment of Peace at 12 noon and be part of the “Peace Wave” around the World

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Divestment of Shares in nuclear weapons contractors

Parkdale United Church

7 pm—8:30 pm

Admission: Free (Donations gratefully accepted)

Saturday, November 4, 2017

HOLIDAY PEACE FAIR

Parkdale United Church

9:30 am—4:00 pm

**OTHER EVENTS AROUND TOWN:**

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

Basic Income Calgary & Vibrant Communities Calgary

A conversation about basic income & food insecurity

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Lynn McIntyre

For more info please contact [calgary@basicincomealberta.ca](mailto:calgary@basicincomealberta.ca)

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Marda Loop Justice Film Festival

The Grizzly Truth

River Park Auditorium

7:00 pm

Admission: Free

For more info please contact: [communications@justicefilmfestival.ca](mailto:communications@justicefilmfestival.ca)

September 6—September 15, 2017

Aga Khan Foundation Canada’s *Together* exhibition

Walk through a custom-built truck with 1,000 square feet of interactive exhibition space and explore how

Canadians, like you, are driving positive change around the world.. The exhibition includes powerful photography, unique objects, a global citizen quiz, and an interactive world map. For information on what location the truck will be on what date, please contact [exhibit@akfc.ca](mailto:exhibit@akfc.ca)

September 29 & 30 2017

Soul of the Next Economy Forum 2017

Ambrose University, together with the FigTree Foundation and Vibrant Communities Calgary, is proud to host this year’s Soul of the Next Economy Forum on September 29 & 30, where the non-profit sector, government, business and educational institutions converge. Fueled through innovation, collaboration and corporate social responsibility, we come together to LEARN about local & global social and development issues; CONNECT with peers, industry experts and other sectors addressing these issues; and ENGAGE in sustainable business oriented solutions to these issues.

For more info please visit: <https://nexteconomyforum.com/>

*“Awareness of Peace Day creates Action, And  
That Action Saves lives.”*  
*Jude Law, Peace One Day Ambassador*

**These are some of the events and activities happening around the World to promote Peace**

Oslo, Norway

September 21, 2017

The students and families of Oslo Rock School will join together to perform John Lennon’s Imagine.

Brussels

Jan 26, 2017

The European Union (EU) and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) organized Jointly a one-day symposium on Hate Speech Against Migrants and Refugees in the Media on January 26, 2017 in Brussels.

Vienna

June 20, 2017

UNHCR Spokesperson and author Melissa Fleming read from her new book Doaa—A Hope More Powerful than the Sea. The reading was followed by an audience discussion with Melissa Fleming and the book’s protagonist, Doaa al Zamel.

Dhaka

March 8, 2017

UNIC Dhaka and Manikgonj Government Mohila College jointly organized an interactive discussion seminar on TOGETHER.

Geneva

March 25, 2017

The UN Orchestra played in support of International Organization for Migration ‘s (IOM) music therapy project in Greece and Italy.

With over 80 musicians coming from 20 different countries, the UN Orchestra symbolizes the diversity of migration and the universality of music.

On Friday, August 25, 2017, over 50 Leadnow members converged on the front steps of Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland’s office for a snap petition delivery action calling for the cancellation of Canada’s Saudi Arabia arms deal. 12,424 signatures were directly delivered to the Minister’s staff and she was called on to uphold her commitments and immediately cancel weapons export permits to Saudi Arabia in light of new evidence that weapons we made here in Canada are being used against civilians. They drove home a clear message that human rights are more important than corporate profits..



**Project Ploughshares Calgary**

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Special thanks to all who submitted articles & Trudy Govier & Sally Hodges for editing this issue of the newsletter.



**If you haven't already, please inform us whether you wish to continue receiving emails from us.**

**You may unsubscribe at any time by just emailing us your request. Thanks to all who have already responded.**



We are very grateful to all our donors for their continued support of the important peace work that we do here at Project Ploughshares Calgary. During the month of August, we received \$470 in donations from individuals, This is the lifeblood of our organization!

We would like to encourage you to continue your support by signing up for a monthly donation plan. This type of sustained donation is very beneficial for the day-to-day running of Project Ploughshares, as we know more clearly from month-to-month exactly what is coming in. This helps us immensely in planning

our programs for the year! If you are interested in this option, please contact the office: 403-270-7366, or email: office@ploughsharescalgary.ca. You may also bring a VOID cheque to the AGM and fill the monthly donation form.

We look forward to providing you with top-quality seminars and workshops on various peace topics, and would greatly appreciate your on-going support! Many, many thanks for your consideration.



**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](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**  
**Please note that we are unable to provide tax receipts at this time.**