



NOVEMBER 2018

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Attention Donors

Please remember our name: PLOUGHSHARES CALGARY SOCIETY.

If you write a cheque to the name of Project Ploughshares, the bank will not honour it for us.

So, please write it to the PLOUGHSHARES CALGARY SOCIETY.

We don't want to miss your support;
we are very grateful for it.

Meet us at the Peace Village: November 16-18, 2018

Supporting peace, fair trade, and the environment

By Kathleen McWilliams

Please join us at the Peace Village, part of the Marda Loop Justice Film Festival, November 16 to 18, 2018, at River Park Church, 3818 14A Street, S.W., Calgary. The Peace Village is an international marketplace offering unique items from artisans around the world and close to home. Vendors selling items include *Ploughshares Calgary* (peace related books, games, local honey); *Ten Thousand Villages* (Fair Trade home decor, jewelry, collectibles, Christmas items); *JFP* (embroidered pieces by Palestinian women, ceramics); *PAACET* (art items, fabric); *Fair Winds Importing* (Tibetan Yak Down Yarn, handknitted hats, scarves, mittens, yak milk soap); *AmdoCraft*; *Sauyunan Handicrafts* (hand-beaded Christmas ornaments by Indonesian artisans); and *Sasha Designs* (hand-crafted jewelry by deaf artisans from Kenya). You can also purchase a light lunch and snacks. Best of all, admission is free for the Film Festival and Peace Village. We look forward to seeing you there!

We also need **donations of gently used books about peace that we can resell as a fundraiser** at the Peace Village. If you have books to donate, please contact our office at 403-270-7366. We are also gratefully accepting **donations of silent auction items** for the Peace Village. If you'd like to donate any items, (e.g., tickets, spa days, outdoor activities, sporting events, theme parks, cooking classes, gift baskets, and so on), please call our office.

PEACE VILLAGE

River Park Church,

3818 14A St. S.W., Calgary

November 16 - 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

November 17 - 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

November 18 - 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Free admission and free films at the Marda Loop Film Festival and the Peace Village.

(Film Festival dates: Nov 13-18. Visit [Marda Loop Justice Film Festival](#))

SELECTIONS FROM THE NEWS

1. **“U.S. General Considered Nuclear Response in Viet Nam War, Cables Show.”** New York Times. October 6, 2018. By David E. Sanger. In 1968, General Westmoreland had a plan to move nuclear weapons to Viet Nam, in case US forces there should be near defeat. The plan was over-ruled by US President Lyndon Johnson.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/06/world/asia/vietnam-war-nuclear-weapons.html>
 2. **“Nobel Peace Prize 2018: Denis Mukwege, Nadia Murad win award.”** He is a gynecologist and surgeon who has treated, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, thousands of girls and women seriously affected by sexual violence. She is a Yazidi woman who was held by ISIS as a sexual slave, escaped, and is now a UN goodwill ambassador for the dignity of survivors of human trafficking. These two hard-working heroes won the award jointly.
<https://www.cnn.com/2018/10/05/europe/nobel-peace-prize-intl/index.html>
 3. A thorough article on issues pertaining to **Canadian peacekeeping efforts in Mali** has been published by Chris Roberts, who spoke to us about that topic in May of this year. The article is called **“Mali: Continuity over Change in Canada’s Return to Peacekeeping.”** It was published as a policy paper for the Canadian Global Affairs Institute. (October 2018). https://www.cgai.ca/op_presence_mali_continuity_over_change_in_canadas_return_to_peacekeeping_in_africa
 4. An October 21 editorial in the Globe and Mail entitled **“Don’t forget about Yemen, Saudi Arabia’s other atrocity”** set concerns about the murder in Turkey of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the context of the war between Yemen and Saudi Arabia and its allies, expressing doubt about Canada’s arms sales to Saudi Arabia. The Saudis have repeatedly bombed hospitals and refugee camps in Yemen, killing far more persons than one.
<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/editorials/article-dont-forget-about-yemen-saudi-arabias-other-atrocity/>
 5. **“Trump says US will withdraw from nuclear arms treaty with Russia.”**
An article by Julian Borger and Martin Pengelly in the Guardian International Edition (October 20, 2018) reports that President Donald Trump has stated that the US will leave the treaty because it needs to develop its nuclear weapons. The US has accused Russia of violating the 1987 agreement on intermediate range nuclear forces in Europe. According to experts, there is a “crisis in nuclear arms control.” <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/oct/20/trump-us-nuclear-arms-treaty-russia>
- And, the last story of great interest:**
6. On the matter of nuclear arms control, of **great interest** is a recent essay by Mikhail Gorbachev, which appeared in the New York Times for October 25, 2018: **“Mikhail Gorbachev: A New Nuclear Arms Race Has Begun.”** Gorbachev recalls his meeting with US President Ronald Reagan, in which influential and lasting nuclear accords were reached. He states that Russia and the US destroyed or decommissioned 85% of their nuclear arsenals and that this was a proud achievement of the two countries. He expresses regret that world affairs is becoming increasingly militarized and that the US is destroying treaties and accords. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/25/opinion/mikhail-gorbachev-inf-treaty-trump-nuclear-arms.html>

The day a socket wrench caused the explosion of an armed nuclear missile

By Sally Hodges and Kathleen McWilliams



The audience at October's Ploughshares Calgary Society public meeting were figuratively gripping their seats while watching the documentary "Command and Control." The film is a cautionary tale of accidents, near misses, and everyday heroes interwoven into the background of the U.S. nuclear weapons' program. The film mainly recounts the real life events of the 1980 Damascus Titan missile explosion at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, on September 18, 1980. The missile launch facility was located approximately 80 km north of Little Rock, and the incident took place as the number of nuclear accidents worldwide was increasing. That day, two airmen were checking the pressure on the oxidizer tank of the Titan II intercontinental ballistic missile when one of them accidentally dropped a small metal socket 24 metres down into the nuclear silo that stored the missile. Instead of hitting the wall or landing at the bottom harmlessly, the socket pierced the fuel tank of the missile, which was loaded with a 9 megaton W-53 nuclear warhead. The incident began with a fuel leak at 6:30 p.m. on September 18, and ended with the explosion at around 3:00 a.m. on September 19.

A oft-repeated phrase throughout the movie was "They didn't know what to do,"—meaning that the silo's missile launch control crew did not know what to do about the leak, nor the Strategic Air Command centre (SAC) near Washington D.C. The vapours from 14,000 gallons of fuel began to spread through the silo, causing a potentially explosive atmosphere. No-one knew either what would happen to the small warhead on top of the missile that contained about 1.36 kg. of radioactive material. If detonated, the warhead would destroy a 2,500 sq. km area, and the radioactive fallout would stretch northeast across the United States, all the way up to New Hampshire.

Many hours into the crisis, the silo's missile launch control team was ordered to leave. Sometime later, the PTS arrived—specialists in the most dangerous situations. Two airmen volunteers from PTS entered the silo to gather critical information for the command staff. Sadly, it was at this point, 3 a.m., that the missile exploded, destroying the launch complex and blowing the nuclear warhead out of the silo. One PTS crew member lost his life, and 21 people were injured either in the explosion or in the rescue efforts afterwards. The next day, U.S. airforce personnel were seen combing the area. It was assumed that they were looking for a small black box—the warhead—which was finally spotted in a ditch. The warhead had not detonated.

The worst fatality with Titan II missiles occurred on August 9, 1965, when 53 men died in a blaze in one of the missiles near Searcy, Arkansas. The last Titan II was deactivated in 1987. The U.S. still has 7,000 nuclear weapons with many on high alert, and nuclear accidents continue occurring worldwide every year.

We are very grateful for your loyal moral and financial support. over the years that has allowed us to continue working for and educating about peace. Please consider donating for 2018 soon if you haven't already done so. If you have already sent in your donation for 2018, we thank you.

Please make your cheque payable to Ploughshares Calgary Society.

If you write the cheque to the name of Project Ploughshares, the bank *will not* honour it for us, so please write it to Calgary Ploughshares Society.

Yes, I am interested in supporting the peace work of the Ploughshares Calgary Society. I'd like to make a donation in the following amount:

\$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ or an amount of _____

or a monthly donation of _____ or I am interested in volunteering _____

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov _____ Postal Code _____ Email: _____

Payment Options

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Make cheques payable to **Ploughshares Calgary Society** or go to www.ploughsharescalgary.ca to make your payment via PayPal. Please mail completed form with donation to the Ploughshares Calgary Society, 2919 - 8 Ave. N.W., Calgary, AB, T2N 1C8. Please note that we are unable to provide tax receipts at this time.



Ploughshares Calgary Society
Ph: 403 270 7366
2919 - 8th Avenue N.W.
Calgary, AB
T2N 1C8

Email: office@ploughsharescalgary.ca

Web: <http://ploughsharescalgary.ca>