

PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY

Peace News

JULY/AUGUST 2011



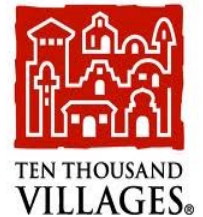
We are located:
Parkdale United
Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8
403-270-7366

Office hours:
Mon, Tue, Thurs
9:30am - 2pm
Wed 2 - 6pm

Ten Thousand Villages Thursday July 14, 2011 6 - 9 pm SUMMER & WEDDING SHOPPING FOR PEACE! FUNDRAISER!!

Come relax at the 10,000 Villages store, 220 Crowchild Trail NW.

Enjoy cake, fair trade coffee or tea, and chocolate samples! Listen to music as you shop for summer delights: garden items, bamboo furniture, bird baths, olive oil, scarves, jewellery, bangles, items made from reeds, paper, fabric, clay. Don't forget that wedding gift, and there's also a large sale section! Three floors of beautiful, socially conscious shopping. Pre-shop by viewing (Calgary may not have all items): tenthousandvillages.ca. 10% of all sales go to the work of Project Ploughshares. See you there! Thursday, July 14, 6 to 9pm.



Non-Killing Political Science - June 8th Public Meeting Discussion Leader: Abram Trosky, Visiting Scholar with the Consortium for Peace Studies at the University of Calgary.

An engaged group of approximately 25 people took part in this philosophical discussion of the work of Dr. Glenn D. Paige after viewing a short video of Dr. Paige's work.

Abram, a keen supporter of the Socratic method of learning, posed some very difficult questions for the audience regarding the ethics of killing vs. non-killing: Would you use violent force if someone was attacking your child? In the case of Hitler, should the world have stood by and watched without interfering? Is non-killing a reasonable response to nations where the leaders are committing human rights abuses—and worse—against their own citizens?

A lively discussion took place around these types of questions, with several people talking about the need for a paradigm shift in the current political culture, and the need for civil society organizations to be in the forefront of problem-solving and developing more wholistic approaches to managing diversity, social technology, and a myriad of other problems that currently face us, such as the abolishment of nuclear weapons.

The evening was very enjoyable and certainly provided a lot of food for thought. Thanks to Abram's gentle and informed guidance the audience eagerly contributed their own concepts and reflections in regards to the topic of non-killing political science.



dreamstime.com

Ploughshares Calgary News



Donations

Donations from individuals in June came to \$50. From organizations we received \$250. These low numbers may be a result of the postal strike. We encourage you to support our peace work by donating whatever you can...it costs Project Ploughshares Calgary \$3000 each month to maintain our office, staff, and the projects that we are involved with. Our thanks to those who donated...we sincerely appreciate your support and commitment to the ideals of peacemaking!

Volunteers Needed!

As you refresh yourself this summer, at some point we hope your thoughts turn to Project Ploughshares. Would you like to help in bringing peace to Calgary and the world? Here are some roles for which we would love volunteers:

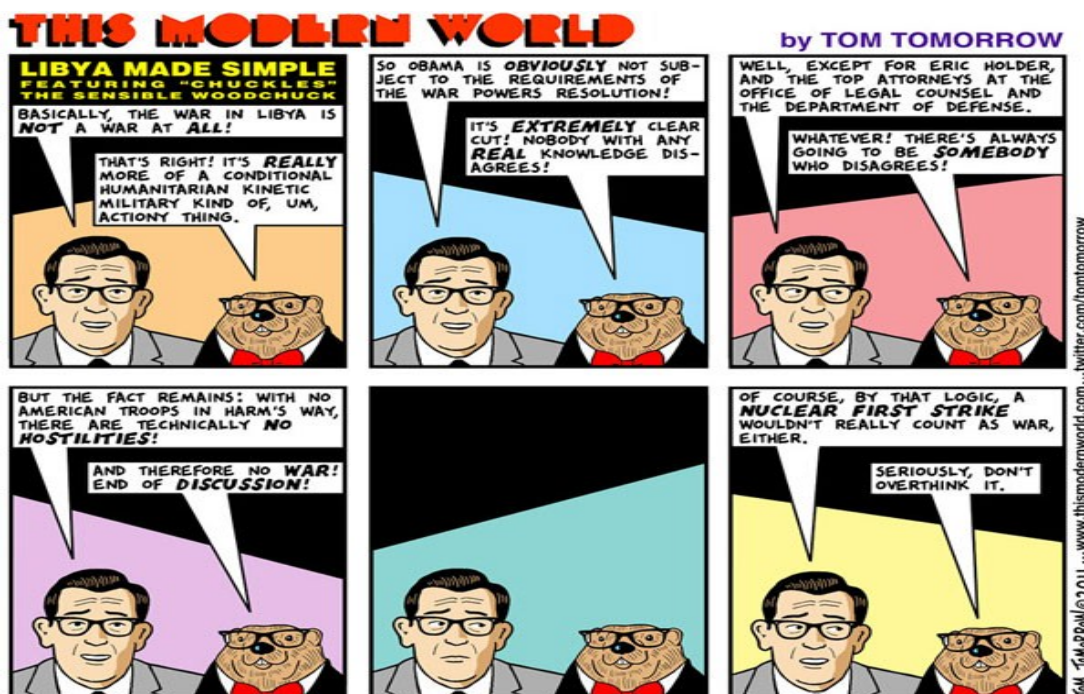
- * July 14 - greeters needed at 10,000 Villages to welcome people to the sale. Hourly stints from 6-9pm
- * entering into discussion of Ploughshares issues or events on TWITTER or FACEBOOK
- * cultivating a contact in the media
- * driving a fine elderly lady (21st Ave and 13 St NW) to and from meetings occasionally
- * writing an article for a magazine
- * cataloguing the books in our library (we are finally organized and ready to start this task)!
- * finding interesting items we can sell on the Ploughshares table at the Peace Fair!



Please email Karen at office@ploughsharescalgary.ca or phone her at [403-270-7366](tel:403-270-7366) to tell us your willingness! Together, we will create more peace.

Project Ploughshares Office Closure

As always, we are closing the Ploughshares Calgary office for approximately 6 weeks, beginning on July 1. Phone messages and emails will be checked regularly, but the office will not be open. The next newsletter will go out at the end of August, so please check it out to see what's happening during the fall with Project Ploughshares!





**SPOLUMBO SAUSAGES FOR SUMMER
ORDER NOW!!**

**Deadline for ordering: July 20
Orders ready: Week of August 8**



Spolumbos is kindly making a Project Ploughshares fundraiser possible with seven types of their delicious, renowned sausages - all natural, gluten-free with no fillers, binders or preservatives. A Calgary homegrown business and 100% prime Alberta pork and poultry. Enormous savings over store prices for you!! Trays contain 18 fresh sausage-links. A slight reduction for a case (two trays).

#	Sausage Type	Cost of 2.75 kg tray	Quantity ordered?	Cost of 5.5 kg case	Quantity ordered?	Savings for 5.5 kg (2 trays) over grocery store prices
911	Spicy Italian Sausage	32.50		64.50		20.48
909	Mild Italian Sausage	32.50		64.50		20.48
901	Bratwurst Sausage	34.50		68.50		18.95
930	Chicken Apple Sausage	39.90		79.50		18.95
938	Chicken Sundried Sausage	45.50		90.50		Not found in grocery store
200	Maple Breakfast Sausage	36.50		72.50		Not found in grocery store
932	Chicken Blueberry Sausage	44.50		88.50		Not found in grocery store
SUB-TOTALS						
GRAND TOTAL DUE						\$

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

You may pick up the sausages from Parkdale United Church, the week of **August 8 (DEADLINE FOR ORDERING: MONDAY, JULY 18)**. You will be called or emailed about the exact day of availability closer to the day in each case. Spolumbos requires more than two weeks to process the order.

To order, please send your name, email address, phone number, choice of pick up week, cheque and the details of the order to:

**Project Ploughshares
c/o- Parkdale United Church
2919 8 Ave NW
Calgary, AB T2N 1C8**

Thanks for supporting the cause of peace! May you have a peaceful summer!

Peace Poetry

Poem

by Muriel Rukeyser 1913—1980

I lived in the first century of world wars.
 Most mornings I would be more or less insane.
 The news would pour out of various devices
 The newspapers would arrive with their careless stories,
 Interrupted by attempts to sell products to the unseen.
 I would call my friends on other devices;
 They would be more or less mad for similar reasons.
 Slowly I would get to pen and paper,
 Make my poems for others unseen and unborn.
 In the day I would be reminded of those men and women,
 Brave, setting up signals across vast distances,
 considering a nameless way of living, of almost unimaginable values.
 As the lights darkened, as the lights of night brightened,
 We would try to imagine them, try to find each other,
 To construct peace, to make love, to reconcile
 Waking with sleeping, ourselves with each other,
 Ourselves with ourselves. We would try by any means
 To reach the limits of ourselves, to reach beyond ourselves,
 To let go the means, to wake.

I lived in the first century of these wars.

Making Peace

By Denise Levertov 1923 –1997

A voice from the dark called out,
 “The poets must give us
 imagination of peace, to oust the intense, familiar
 imagination of disaster. Peace, not only
 the absence of war.”

But peace, like a poem,
 is not there ahead of itself,
 can't be imagined before it is made,
 can't be known except
 in the words of its making,
 grammar of justice,
 syntax of mutual aid.

A feeling towards it,
 dimly sensing a rhythm, is all we have
 until we begin to utter its metaphors,
 learning them as we speak.

A line of peace might appear
 if we restructured the sentence our lives are making,
 revoked its reaffirmation of profit and power,
 questioned our needs, allowed
 long pauses. . . .

A cadence of peace might balance its weight
 on that different fulcrum; peace, a presence,
 an energy field more intense than war,
 might pulse then,
 stanza by stanza into the world,
 each act of living
 one of its words, each word
 a vibration of light—facets
 of the forming crystal.

peace.

it does not mean to be in a place
 where there is no noise, trouble
 or hard work. it means to be in
 the midst of those things and still
 be calm in your heart.

(unknown)



Our salvation requires that we grasp the danger of nuclear weapons

June 02, 2011 02:22 AM By [Gareth Evans](#) The Daily Star

One of the most dispiriting features of today's international debates is that the threat to humanity posed by the world's 23,000 nuclear weapons – and by those who would build more of them, or be only too willing to use them – has been consigned to the margin of politics.

U.S. President Barack Obama did capture global attention with his Prague speech in 2009, which made a compelling case for a nuclear weapon-free world. And he did deliver on a major new arms-reduction treaty with Russia, and hosted a summit aimed at reducing the vulnerability of nuclear weapons and materials to theft or diversion.

But nuclear issues still struggle for public resonance and political traction. It would take a brave gambler to bet on ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty by the U.S. Senate any time soon.

The film “An Inconvenient Truth” won an Academy Award, led to a Nobel Prize for Al Gore, and attracted huge international attention to the disastrous impact of climate change. But “Countdown to Zero,” an equally compelling documentary, made by the same production team and making shockingly clear how close and how often the world has come to nuclear catastrophe, has come and gone almost without trace.

Complacency trumps anxiety almost everywhere. Japan's Fukushima disaster has generated a massive debate about the safety of nuclear power, but not about nuclear weapons. Fear of a nuclear holocaust seems to have ended with the Cold War.

Indeed, Hiroshima and Nagasaki seem an eternity ago; new nuclear-weapons states have emerged without the world ending; no terrorist nuclear device has threatened a major city; and possession of nuclear weapons, for the states that have them, seems to be a source of comfort and pride rather than concern or embarrassment. With only a handful of exceptions, the current generation of political leaders shows little interest in disarmament, and not much more in non-proliferation. And their publics are not pressuring them to behave otherwise.

Few have worked harder to shake the world out of its complacency than four of the hardest-nosed realists ever to hold public office: former U.S. Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and George Shultz, former U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry, and former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn. In a series of opinion articles over the last five years, they have repeatedly sounded the alarm that the risks of nuclear weapons outweigh any possible usefulness in today's security environment. Moreover, they have called for a complete rethinking of deterrence strategy, in order to minimize, and ultimately eliminate, reliance on the most indiscriminately destructive weapons ever invented. Last week in London, the “gang of four” convened a private meeting with leading think-tank researchers and a worldwide cast of some 30 former foreign and defense ministers, generals, and ambassadors who share their concern and commitment. But our average age was over 65, and the limits of our effectiveness were neatly described by former British Defense Minister Des Browne: “People who used to be something really want to tackle this issue. The trouble is that those who are something don't.”

No quick fix will turn all this around. Getting the kind of messages that emerged from the London meeting embedded in public and political consciousness is going to be slow boring through hard boards. But the messages demand attention, and we simply have to keep drilling. The first message is that the threat of a nuclear weapons catastrophe remains alarmingly real. Existing global stockpiles have a destructive capacity equal to 150,000 Hiroshima bombs, and in handling them there is an omnipresent potential for human error, system error, or misjudgment under stress.

Pakistan versus India is a devastating conflict-in-waiting, and North Korea and Iran remain volatile sources of concern. We know that terrorist groups have the capacity to engineer nuclear devices and would explode them anywhere they could; we simply cannot be confident that we can forever deny them access to the fissile material they need to fuel them.

The second message is that Cold War nuclear-deterrence doctrine is irrelevant to today's world. So long as nuclear weapons remain, states can justify maintaining a minimum nuclear-deterrent capability. But that can be done without weapons on high alert, and with drastically reduced arsenals in the case of the U.S. and Russia, and, at worst, at current levels for the other nuclear-armed states.

The third message is that if the existing nuclear powers sincerely want to prevent others from joining their club, they cannot keep justifying the possession of nuclear weapons as a means of protection for themselves or their allies against other weapons of mass destruction, especially biological weapons, or conventional weapons. Indeed, the single most difficult issue inhibiting serious movement toward disarmament – certainly in the case of Pakistan versus India, and Russia and China versus the United States – are conventional arms imbalances, and ways of addressing them must rise to the top of the policy agenda.

The final message is that neither piecemeal change nor sloganeering will do the job. Nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, counter-terrorism, and civil nuclear-energy risk reduction are inextricably connected, and they call for sustained commitment around a comprehensive agenda, and detailed argument. Sound bites and tweets are an unlikely route to nuclear salvation.

Kissinger is no idealist icon. But he's always worth listening to, and never more so than with respect to the question that he has been asking for years: When the next nuclear-weapons catastrophe happens, as it surely will, the world will have to respond dramatically. Why can't we start right now?

Gareth Evans, a former Australian foreign minister, was co-chair of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (www.icnnd.org), and is convener of the Asia Pacific Leadership Network (www.a-pln.org).



God Bless America. And its Bombs.

By William Blum



When they bombed Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, El Salvador and Nicaragua I said nothing because I wasn't a communist.

When they bombed China, Guatemala, Indonesia, Cuba, and the Congo I said nothing because I didn't know about it.

When they bombed Lebanon and Grenada I said nothing because I didn't understand it.

When they bombed Panama I said nothing because I wasn't a drug dealer.

When they bombed Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, and Yemen I said nothing because I wasn't a terrorist.

When they bombed Yugoslavia and Libya for "humanitarian" reasons I said nothing because it sounded so honorable.

Then they bombed my house and there was no one left to speak out for me. But it didn't really matter. I was dead.

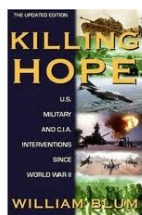
William Blum is the author of:

Killing Hope: US Military and CIA Interventions Since World War 2

Rogue State: A Guide to the World's Only Superpower West-Bloc

Dissident: A Cold War Memoir Freeing the World to Death: Essays on the American Empire

Portions of the books can be read, and signed copies purchased, at www.killinghope.org



Elizabeth May, speaking in Parliament on June 15th about Canada's role in Libya (excerpted)



Mr. Speaker, it is my honour to rise in this House today to discuss Canada's role in the responsibility to protect civilian life in Libya. The United Nations Security Council resolution 1973 gave us that mandate.

There is no greater obligation or moral responsibility falling to elected representatives in the course of any train of human events than the decision to send its fellow citizens into harm's way in a war zone and to risk their lives and the lives of others in pursuit of a cause in which it has been determined that only military action will suffice. In that sense, the Green Party acknowledges that there is such a thing as a just war, although the party, not just in Canada but also globally, subscribes as a fundamental principle to the pursuit of non-violence and peace.

In order to meet the goals of UN resolution 1973, our primary goal should be ceasefires, negotiated solutions and diplomacy. However, when the African Union came forward with a proposal through South African President Zuma, its peace proposal was rejected. Now there may have been other flaws, but the only peace proposal on the table that was accepted by the government of Gadhafi was rejected by key NATO partners, because we suddenly said that a precondition to any ceasefire must be the removal of Colonel Gadhafi. I deeply desire the removal of Colonel Gadhafi, but not by military means in what appears to be a civil war in which Canada has taken sides.

...other governments have their turned guns on their own peoples, whether in Myanmar or, as I prefer to call it, Burma, or in Syria or other places around the world, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where we are not engaged. So when we do choose to engage, we must keep our eye on the mission. The mission is the protection of civilians.

We need to recognize that collateral damage is not just the lives of innocents that we inevitably lose in aerial bombardment. Collateral damage is damage to our very souls. Collateral damage damages our legitimacy. Collateral damage is something that, while inevitable in war, should be deeply avoided when our mission is to protect innocent lives and we are not a nation at war.

On behalf of the Green Party and my constituents of Saanich, Gulf Islands, I must say no, but I see we have a role as peacekeepers. I believe passionately that we return to our role as peacekeepers as a nation that is so well known around the world for peacekeeping. We have a role within NATO to be the nation that stands and says, enough of the aerial bombardment, now is the time to send in the diplomats. Let us work with colleagues who have some chance of reaching the illegitimate government of Mr. Gadhafi. Let us work with colleagues in the African Union, the Arab League and the United Nations, and be the country that says we do not continue to give a blank cheque to a mission that has no exit strategy.



Project Ploughshares Calgary

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

Calgary Peace Events

Looking Ahead...

International Day of Peace September 21st, 2011

Please check back with us in late August, and be sure to read your September newsletter to learn how we are celebrating this important day!



What IS Peace Education Anyway?

October 12, 2011—7:30 pm

Parkdale United Church

Our Program Director, Karen Huggins, will lead an interactive meeting on the many facets of Peace Education. Mark your calendars now for an interesting evening of exploration!

Singing for Peace Fundraiser

October 15, 2011, 7:30 pm, Parkdale United Church

Featuring *Barry Luft*

Barry Luft's singing has woven rich, colourful threads into the fabric of folk-style music in Alberta for more than thirty years. Join us for our annual **Singing for Peace** concert for a very enjoyable evening!



Annual Peace Fair St. David's United Church November 26th, 2011

Save the date for this annual crowd-pleaser! More info to follow in the fall.

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 2011 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 (with \$35 donation)



July 16 - 17, 2011, 10 am - 4 pm

Old YMCA Commons Room, 223 – 12 Avenue SW

Conflict Transformation Workshop with Dr. Thomas Turay



The Calgary Centre for Global Community is pleased to offer a two-day workshop on theories and practice methods of peacebuilding and conflict transformation as seen through a social justice lens.

This workshop will provide diverse perspectives and will include a mix of case studies, role-plays, and small group activities. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in creative activities in conflict transformation, mediation, and identifying points of unity.

The workshop will be led by Dr. Thomas Mark Turay, Managing Director of the Centre for Development and Peace Education in Sierra Leone and Assistant Professor in the Department of Adult Education at the Coady International Institute at St. Francis Xavier University. Dr. Turay has over 25 years experience as a community-based development practitioner, educator and training consultant, as well as 30 years experience as a peace activist.

We would like to thank the Consortium for Peace Studies at the University of Calgary for bringing Thomas to Calgary, and allowing us the opportunity to share his gifts with Calgarians.

**July 15th, 4pm Location TBA
Peace Talk with Dr. Thomas Turay**

Dr. Turay will discuss his peacebuilding initiative in Sierra Leone. Call Saima at (403) 220-2136 for info.



**July 21st 5:30 pm, Professional Faculties 120
Peace Talk with Abram Trosky**

“A *Freegan's* thoughts on D-I-Y culture, consumption choices, and social justice”

**2011 Summer Institute in Peacebuilding and Social Justice
July 18 - 22, 2011, University of Calgary**

There are still a few spaces left for the general public to attend this thought-provoking week-long session at the University of Calgary. Participants will be given a cross-disciplinary perspective on processes that lead toward progressive, non-violent change as it relates to the individual, society (local / global) and the environment. Call Saima at (403) 220-2136 for more info.

**August Peace Talk - Date, Location and Title TBA
Dr. Sanem Sahin**

Dr. Sahin is the new visiting scholar at the Consortium for Peace Studies. She will be giving a Peace Talk on her research. For details, please contact Saima at the Consortium office at (403) 220-2136 or send her an email at peaceuc@ucalgary.ca

