

PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY

Peace News

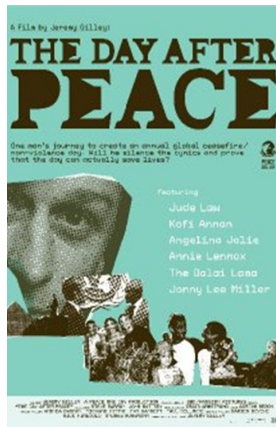
MAY 2011



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

Friday May 6, 2011 - 7:00 pm
Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association
South Social Room - 1320—5 Avenue NW



The Day After Peace (2008)

Against all the odds an individual manages to create an annual global 'Peace Day'; but can he inspire an actual ceasefire and silence the cynics by proving the day can actually save lives?

Writer and Director: Jeremy Gilley

Starring: Jeremy Gilley, Jude Law, Angelina Jolie, Annie Lennox, Kofi Annan, The Dalai Lama

Suggested donation: \$10. Snacks and drinks available.

For more info, call Project Ploughshares at 403-270-7366 or email office@ploughsharescalgary.ca

Wednesday May 11, 2011, 7:00 pm
Parkdale United Church
The Honourable Douglas Roche, O.C. - Book Launch
(This presentation will be followed by a 15 minute meeting -
Project Ploughshares Calgary AGM)



"The abolition of nuclear weapons is no longer just a lofty goal, a noble aspiration, an idealistic thought. It has become the irreducible essential for survival. It is the paramount human rights issue for our time. Peace is impossible as long as the threat of nuclear war hangs over our heads."

How We Stopped Loving the Bomb

An insider's account of the world on the brink of banning nuclear arms

by Senator Douglas Roche, OC

Published by James Lorimer & Company Ltd.

Senator Roche will discuss the people, the issues, and the ideas behind the new peace movement.

Books will be available for purchase and signing by the author, with proceeds going to support the work of Project Ploughshares.

Ploughshares Calgary News



Project Ploughshares Spring Workshop Moving from Fear to Trust: Building Compassion and Community .

May 27th 7 - 9 pm Film Night
May 28th 9 am - 3:30 pm Workshop
Bow Cliff Seniors Centre, 608 Poplar Road SW

An informative workshop exploring:

- ◆ the impact of values and open dialogue in our personal lives, our workplace, our communities and at the local level.
- ◆ the meaning of individualism and collectivism at theoretical and practical levels.
- ◆ the purposes and advantages of community building.
- ◆ how to build more effective community relationships based on building trust, compassion and wholeness.

FACILITATORS:

Janyce Konkin, M.A.

"Overcoming our fear of change opens us to the endless possibilities for creating peace in our homes, our communities and our world."



James Nguen, B.A.

"The rule of life which is good for everyone requires unselfish deeds from everyone, since experience has proven that as human beings we all want the same things for ourselves, our families, and our communities: to enjoy a pleasant existence that provides the necessities of life, happiness, security and love."

Project Ploughshares Calgary
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www.ploughsharescalgary.ca

Early Bird Registration - \$40.00
After May 15, 2011 - \$45.00
Student & Low Income - \$15.00
Facebook: Project Ploughshares

Moving from Fear to Trust: How does one traverse the gap? Former South Sudanese "Lost boy" *James Nguen*, founder of the non-profit *Bilwany Literacy and Water Project* and *Janyce Konkin*, project manager for the internationally renowned *Initiatives of Change (IofC)*, guide you through this varied terrain as they discuss how society, whether individualistic or collectivist, inhibits or promotes trust.

One would assume that the closer you live to another, the greater would be your sense of community and connection; however proximity alone does not foster trust. "We live in these communities, but our communities are (limited to our) houses. We may be living *in* a community, but we're not *of* the community", observes Janyce. "How many of our neighbours do we know?" James asks. Having fled from the South of Sudan he heavily relied on community not just as an extended support system, but his *only* living family. He explains how difficult it was for him to adapt to an environment indifferent to the wellbeing of person next door.

The mentality in Western individualistic societies seems to be that in order to be welcome in another's house, trust must first be earned. This implies that individuals must be treated with suspicion until they have deemed

themselves worthy of another's confidence. This is contrary to the collectivist approach of openness and transparency, which already assumes individuals as trustworthy unless their actions prove otherwise. The very social structure of these communities proves to be a useful deterrent as violators are at risk of ostracism from their support network.

Join us for this workshop as together we ponder why it is that a society that so prides itself on efficiency, is unable to derive as much satisfaction from unity and compassion? How did "modern society" come to be this way? Were we born with this fear? Or is this a sign of an evolved society? What happened to our inherent compassion and how was it drilled out of us? Are we able to shift to a paradigm that takes the best from both societies? Will we as Martin Luther King Jr. says, "live together as brothers, or perish as fools?"

...By Sarah Khan



Jean Beliveau - Walker for Peace for the World's Children

On Tuesday April 12th, Jean Beliveau did a presentation on his travels around the world. He spent the U.N. Decade for a Culture of Peace (plus a bit of another year) walking some 75,000 km all around the world to raise awareness of the importance of peace for the world's children. His message included a plea for tolerance and understanding amongst all peoples, as in his travels he discovered that all people want basically the same things in life - food, shelter, education for their children, basic human rights and a peaceful life. Project Ploughshares was very happy to host this event! Thanks to all who came and participated in the evening, and to those who gave financial contributions to Jean to complete his walk back to his home in Montreal!


Jane Lawson - Word from Africa—April's Public Meeting

At April's meeting Jane Lawson shared the findings of her thesis on the value of peacebuilding programs in refugee camps. A peacebuilding program is an umbrella term for a program which emphasizes conflict resolution techniques, empowerment, non-violence, cooperation, moral sensitivity, self-esteem, social rehabilitation and ethical thinking. Her research took her to a refugee camp in the Maca Valley in southern Uganda as well as to Liberia to interview former refugees.



Jane said that refugee camp dynamics are very complex - there were nine nationalities in the camp in addition to perpetrators and victims living side by side. There are 15 million refugees in the world, two thirds being refugees for at least 20 years but refugee camps also having an element of transience. Being a refugee is most detrimental for adults, especially single males who are left out in various ways. Jane discovered unexpected tenacity, resilience, and inventiveness among the refugees. People want to have the choice to buy things and, surprisingly, money (and bartering) circulates through the camps. Various agencies and the host government work to prepare the refugees for a durable solution to their plight.

The UNHCR (United Nations High Commission on Refugees) is now asking the refugees themselves what they need. Jane found that those who had not experienced a peace program put jobs as what they needed most and the peace program last of 6 needs. Those who had participated in a peace program placed peace programs first in importance and jobs last. They said that with peace, all of the other things (education, jobs, health, food) took care of themselves. Without peace, there was no hope. 99% of Liberian **former** refugees who were taught livelihood skills in refugee camps (eg. soap and pastry making) were not using those skills when they settled elsewhere. On the other hand 87.5% of former refugees who had participated in peace programs said they were using the skills they had learned in the program in their new life. Host governments and other government donors have a big influence on what program any particular refugee camp receives. They need to realize that conflict is so embedded in refugees' existence that refugees **do not identify dealing with conflict as a need**. Peace Programs will not be identified as important unless people understand the difference it makes to them personally. This applies to both refugees and the donors who wish to help.

 Center for Global Nonkilling **June Public Meeting, June 8th, 7:30 pm, Parkdale United Church Conference Room, Non-Killing Political Science**
Short video by Glenn D. Paige with panel discussion afterwards.



Ten Thousand Villages

July 14, 2011—Save the Date! 6—9 pm

Come shop at 10,000 Villages during this time, and help support Project Ploughshares! 10% of all sales will be given to Project Ploughshares. Entertainment provided. Delicious desserts by donation

On-going Fundraising

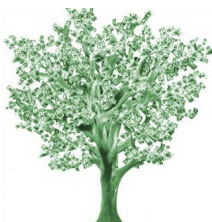
It's Spring! As we tackle our spring clean-ups outside, please help Project Ploughshares start a new year cycle starting in May with a healthily refreshed bank account. The year is long and our need high.

We traditionally count on \$15,000 from individual donors. How important are you?

- ◆ You will be encouraging practical action for peace
- ◆ It is you who ensure that we can continue to contribute to new policy ideas and the public discussion of important peace and security issues.
- ◆ It is you who help pay for staff time to organize the Spring Workshop, considered a 'not-to-be-missed' event by dozens of people. This year's topic of community building and trust-building will be energizing!
- ◆ Thanks to your generosity, projects such as the Calgary Community Peace Pole are being carried out.
- ◆ You will contribute, indirectly, to Calgary having a Remembrance Day event which focuses on peace, interfaith perspectives and all victims of war.
- ◆ Donations make possible our ten annual newsletters, eight public meetings, website, petitions, networking with other groups and much more.



Project Ploughshares Calgary, www.ploughsharescalgary.ca, is a local chapter of Project Ploughshares, which is an operating agency of the Canadian Council of Churches, a registered Canadian Charity. The purpose of the local group is to advance the mandate of Project Ploughshares national www.ploughshares.ca.



Project Ploughshares Calgary thanks you very sincerely for your past support. We all wish that money would grow on trees! We need to start growing our own spring time money tree! It is now time to do your part for peace. We look forward to you joining us again in this adventure of bringing a peace perspective to Calgary.

Sally Hodges, Chairperson Project Ploughshares Calgary

Donations

Donations from individuals in April were a bit down at \$603.75! From organizations we received \$1150.

Volunteers

Thanks to Monica Rose and Sarah Khan for their work this month in preparations for the Spring Workshop. Monica produced a stunning brochure and poster, while Sarah focused on interviewing the workshop facilitators and writing an article about them. Many thanks as well to Joye Brown and Lena Osman for their help with the workshop. We would also like to acknowledge the work of the Peace Pole committee for their assistance in making the film night on May 6th a reality. We appreciate all our volunteers!



Experts urge Canadian leadership to ban nuclear weapons April 18, 2011

(Ottawa) The Canadian government should join a new international effort to construct a global legal ban on all nuclear weapons, concluded disarmament experts meeting in Ottawa.

“Canada should host a meeting of governments and civil society experts to prepare for negotiations for universal, verifiable and irreversible nuclear disarmament as called for by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon,” said former Senator Douglas Roche, Canada’s former UN Ambassador for Disarmament.

Five Canadian civil society organizations urged the Canadian government to act on motions already adopted by both the Senate and the House of Commons calling on the government “to deploy a major worldwide Canadian diplomatic initiative” for nuclear disarmament.

The expert seminar, held April 11th and 12th, was attended by diplomats from 20 embassies, parliamentarians, and government officials to consider the threat posed to Canadians and all global citizens by the 22,000 nuclear weapons still in existence.

Calling for negotiations to start on a legal ban on all nuclear weapons, Sergio Duarte, High Representative for Disarmament at the U.N., said use of any nuclear weapon would be “an egregious violation of the most fundamental tenets of international humanitarian law and the laws of war.”

Amb. Richard Butler, Middle Powers Initiative chairman, said Canada has a special role to play because it has the standing to stimulate informal discussions on the legal, technical and political requisites for a nuclear weapons free world that can set the stage for major international negotiations later on. He said the Middle Powers Organization would be prepared to work with Canada in going forward.

Diplomats from the UK, Switzerland, Mexico and Austria responded to H.R. Duarte. Nicolas Brühl, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Switzerland stated: “[Nuclear weapons] are fundamentally immoral because they cause massive and indiscriminate destruction in terms of human lives, material resources and consequences for the environment. They are illegal by their very nature with regard to international humanitarian law.”

Dr. John Burroughs of Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy noted the recent Vancouver Declaration that clarifies that both the use, and threat of use, of nuclear weapons breach international humanitarian law.

“A practical and single-focused process leading to a global legal ban on nuclear weapons provides the way to safely rid the world of all nuclear weapons in a secure manner.” said Beverley Delong of Lawyers for Social Responsibility. “And Canada has a unique opportunity to lead the way.”

This seminar was sponsored by the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Canadian Pugwash, Physicians for Global Survival, Project Ploughshares, and World Federalist Movement - Canada.

For more information contact:

Ernie Regehr
Phone: 519-591-4421

Douglas Roche
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Cesar Jaramillo
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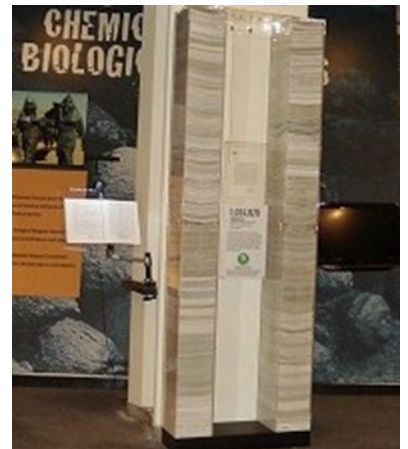




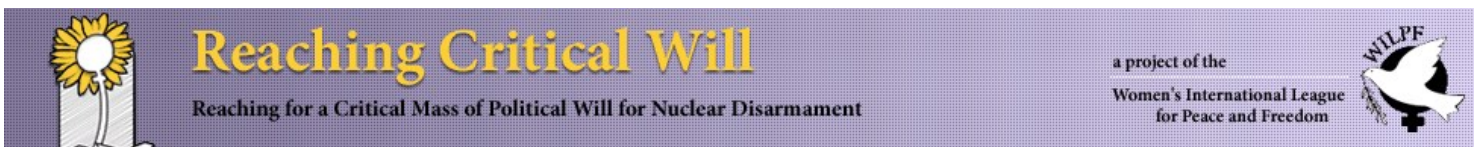
Cities Are Not Targets! (CANT) Petition Forms on Permanent Display at UN Headquarters

The 1.02 million signature(*1) petition forms collected for the Mayors for Peace “Cities Are Not Targets! (CANT)”(*2) initiative are now on permanent display at the UN Headquarters in New York. The petition forms were submitted to the UN in May 2010, on the occasion of the NPT Review Conference, by the Mayors for Peace delegation led by President Tadatoshi Akiba, Mayor of Hiroshima and Vice-President Tomihisa Taue, Mayor of Nagasaki.

The exhibit, consisting of two three-meter-high towers of petition forms, was inaugurated by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Sergio Duarte, and US Messenger of Peace, actor Michael Douglas, at a formal ceremony on March 24. The CANT monument is the first-ever permanent civil society exhibit (i.e. not donated by a government) to be installed at UN Headquarters. Three *hibakusha* from Japan, including a Korean *hibakusha*, attended the ceremony.



Mayors for Peace expects that a lot of diplomats and UN visitors from around the world will see this permanent exhibition at the UN Headquarters, feel the magnitude of this global grassroots wish for a peaceful world without nuclear weapons, and enhance momentum for the abolition of nuclear weapons.



On 11 April 2011, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) announced that known world military expenditure in 2010 was more than \$1.6 billion, which is an increase of 1.3 percent from 2009. This year, a Global Day of Action on Military Spending was held on 12 April, to coincide with the release of SIPRI's figures. People held events around the world to mark the day (reports are being collected at www.demilitarize.org).

When one considers the excessive, extremely disproportionate spending that goes to funding weapons and war, it's easier to understand why our world constantly seems mired in military conflict and why there seem to be so few options for nonviolent conflict resolution let alone conflict prevention.

Nuclear weapons are the ultimate violence—from mining for their materials to dropping on our cities, nuclear weapons are nothing but destructive for our lives, our politics, our economies, and our planet.

So let's get rid of them.

In peace, Ray Acheson, RCW Project Director





Project Ploughshares Calgary

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Special thanks to Karen Huggins, Larry Kennard and Sally Hodges and Sarah Khan for their work writing and editing this issue of the newsletter.

Calgary Peace Events

**Modeling Global Citizenship:
 Canadian Friends of Oasis of Peace
 Wednesday May 18, 7:30 - 9 pm
 Eau Claire Market Community Space**

The **Calgary Centre for Global Community** invites you to the launch of our first ever **Model Global Citizenship** exhibit showcasing the achievements and on-going work of outstanding civil society organizations.

The CCGC has partnered with the **Canadian Friends of Oasis for Peace**, a not for profit organization based in Calgary dedicated to dialogue, cooperation, and a genuine and durable peace between Arabs and Jews, Palestinians and Israelis by encouraging, supporting, and publicizing the projects of Wahat al-Salam-Neve Shalom (WASNS), the "Oasis of Peace."

Wahat al Salam-Neve Shalom means Oasis of Peace in Arabic and Hebrew. It is a village in Israel of Jews and Palestinian Arabs of Israeli citizenship. Situated between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv-Jaffa, WASNS was founded in the early 1970s to demonstrate the possibility of peaceful coexistence between Jews and Palestinians by developing a community based on mutual acceptance, respect and cooperation.

Democratically governed and owned by its members, the community is not affiliated with any political party or movement. WASNS gives practical expression to its vision through various activities and programs. Some of what this village includes are a bilingual/bi-national school system, a Pluralistic Spiritual Centre, a Humanitarian Aid Program and a School for Peace that offers encounter programs.

Join us on **Wednesday, May 18 from 7:30-9:00** learn more about the village of Wahat al-Salam-Neve Shalom and how you can become involved in Canadian Friends of WASNS.

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 2010 of:

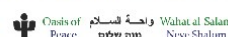
\$35 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$_____

(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)



**Consortium for Peace Studies
2011 Summer Institute in
Peacebuilding and
Social Justice
July 18—22, 2011
University of Calgary**



The **Summer Institute** will be offered as a block week course (35-40 classroom hours), housed in the Faculty of Social Work and open to students from any faculty registered in Graduate and Undergraduate degree programs, **as well as members of the general public.**

The SI will focus on understanding and analyzing selected theories and practice methods of peacebuilding / conflict resolution as seen through a social justice lens. 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.

The instructor, Dr. Thomas Mark Turay, has been brought back this year by popular demand. Dr. Turay has over twenty-five years' professional experience as a community-based development practitioner, educator and training consultant, as well as over 30 years experience as a peace activist.

For more information, please call Saima at (403) 220-2136, or email peaceuc@ucalgary.ca At the time of this writing, **there were still 8 spaces available for the general public.**

**Marda Loop Justice Film Festival
Tuesday May 10, 2011, 7 pm
River Park Church Auditorium
3818—14A Street SW
Strange Things: Children of Haiti**



In the midst of Haiti's lush mountains and historical relics, hundreds of thousands of orphaned and abandoned children wander the streets day and night. Known as the Sanguine ("Soulless") and forgotten by their own people, they have struggled for survival since long before the devastating 2010 earthquake. *Children of Haiti* follows three teenage street boys, who reflect on their country and their lives, sharing a common dream of education, government assistance and social acceptance.

Following the evolution and transformation of these boys into young men, this cinematic documentary provides direct insight into Haiti's ongoing abandoned youth problem. In the voices of the street boys themselves, the film examines a complicated issue which has not only plagued the country for decades, but grows more severe every day.

Discussion leader: Liette Wilson, Literacy Educator, Calgary Immigrant Women's Association