

**PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY**

Peace News

WWW.PLOUGHSHARESCALGARY.CA

MARCH 2007



**WE ARE
LOCATED:
PARKDALE
UNITED
CHURCH**

**2919 8 AVE
NW**

270-7366

**OFFICE
@PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY.CA**

VISIT US:

MON, TUE, THURS

10:30-2:30

WED 2-6PM

March 19 6:30pm Admission by Donation Ironwood Stage & Grill: 1429 9 Ave SE POETS FOR PEACE

Poetry is an act of Peace. Peace goes into the making of a poet as flour goes into the making of bread

—Pablo Neuda

Marking the fourth anniversary of the war in Iraq, Calgary poets add their voice to call for non-military solutions to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

An evening of poetry and music.

Poets include:

Jaspreet Singh

Sheri-D Wilson

Dijla Al-Rekabi

Richard Harrison

Ismail Khurasanpoor

Please post the attached poster and spread the word about this moving and inspiring event.



On March 17th there will also be a rally to mark the fourth anniversary of the invasion. For more information see the Canadian Peace Alliance website:
<http://www.acp-cpa.ca/en/M172007Events.htm>

Global Security Threats with Dr. Paul Rogers (recorded talk)

April 11th 7:30pm Parkdale United Church

Dr. Paul Rogers, eminent peace scholar from Bradford University gave a talk at the Ploughshares National 30th anniversary on Global security threats.

His talk focuses on the inter-related global tensions of limited resources, the disparity between rich and poor and the effects of climate change and how all of this is contributing to the

conflicts around the world. If you want a big picture view of what's happening in our world, This will be it. A recorded video and audio presentation.

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Reconciliation : Its Promise and Pitfalls With Dr. Trudy Govier

March 8 12-pm University

Professional Faculties Building 4259

Trudy will be speaking as a part of the PeaceTalks Series for the Consortium for Peace studies on her work on reconciliation.



Puppets for Peace

Puppets for Peace is still seeking another puppeteer. Email puppets@ploughsharescalgary.ca for information. Our session at Teachers' Convention was full and greatly appreciated.

Art of Peace Day Camp

Day camp for kids 9-13 July 9-13th 9am noon \$50/child for the week music art and acting
For more information www.carolynpogue.ca Call Carolyn at 228-1791

Nuclear Plant Working Group

A new working group has formed to oppose the creation of a nuclear plant in the oil sands. For more information please contact Susan: susan@prairiesky.ab.ca

Ploughshares Calgary News

February Monthly Meeting

About 30 folks attended our meeting with Dr. Saul Arbess and Sandi Smith with the Working group for the Federal Department of Peace. Saul helped us to understand how the Department would work within the government. He compared the movement with the ministries of environment that did not exist in prior to 1972. He also gave an example of an expected peace department in Costa Rica as inspiration for other working groups. To join the working group in Calgary contact Sandi Smith: 603-8013

Ploughshares National News

New on the Ploughshares Website www.ploughshares.ca



*Roundtable report 17th and 18th October 2006, Juba Sudan
Building the Capacity for Sustainable Peace in Sudan*

Media Release: Chinese anti-satellite Test

Global News

Doomsday Clock Draws closer to Midnight

On Wednesday, 17 January, a group of eminent scientists warned that the world is dangerously close to nuclear and environmental destruction by pushing the hands of the symbolic Doomsday Clock closer to midnight.

A statement was released saying, “We stand at the brink of a Second Nuclear Age. Not since the first atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki has the world faced such perilous choices. North Korea’s recent test of a nuclear weapon, Iran’s nuclear ambitions, a renewed emphasis on the military utility of nuclear weapons, the failure to adequately secure nuclear materials, and the continued presence of some 26,000 nuclear weapons in the United States and Russia are symptomatic of a failure to solve the problems posed by the most destructive technology on Earth. The dangers posed by climate change are nearly as dire as those posed by nuclear weapons. The effects may be less dramatic in the short term than the destruction that could be wrought by nuclear explosions, but over the next three to four decades climate change could cause irremediable harm to the habitats upon which

King of Jordan Interested in Nuclear Program

Jordan is the latest in a growing number of Arab nations that are considering a nuclear program. Egypt and the Arab Gulf nations have already indicated that they would consider a nuclear program. There is speculation that this recent wave of states interested in peaceful nuclear programs is the result of fears that Iran will inevitably possess nuclear weapons. Development of such programs by Middle Eastern nations would increase the likelihood of nuclear weapons technologies proliferation. Efforts continue by many nations to develop both a NWFZ and a WMD free zone in the middle-east.

Education for Peace at the World Peace Forum

By Sally Hodges

A fascinating project with Serbs, Croats and Bosnians which lead to one community's reconciliation in Sarajevo is just one of the successes of a Vancouver based group named The International Education for Peace Institute. Founded and directed by Dr H. B. Danesh, a psychiatrist of 30 years, this work is founded on six principles which reflect the integrative nature of peace. They are: a universal world-view, a universal code of ethics, an integrative perspective on human rights, an integrative concept of freedom, an integrative concept of democracy, an effective method of conflict resolution and violence prevention.

One of Dr Danesh's focuses was to lead the schools, parents and staff in Sarajevo to shift their world-view to a more universal one. Dr Danesh says that one of humankind's major challenges is the search for a framework (or world-view) that is both scientific and spiritual. The psychological development of humanity could be compared to the stages of childhood, adolescence and adulthood.

1. In the childhood stage people have a survival-based world-view. In this worldview, the world is a dangerous place, full of evil. Human nature is fundamentally flawed in one way or another eg. weak or selfish or aggressive. Therefore, because we are flawed, a strong authority is needed to be in charge. This world-view is still very common. All of Africa, poor countries, the Middle East and even some of North America have become involved with this view. It gives birth to authoritarian modes of religion, governance and pits male and female against each other.
2. The adolescence world-view is an identity based one. In the last 50 years colonialism and old views of religion have begun to collapse. Nationalism, race, gender, human rights and individualism revolve around identity. This is the most sought after world-view at present. Multi-party democracy is an expression of it. The most predominant characteristic of it is competition: the purpose of life is to WIN. In this world-view human nature is aggressive so human relationships don't matter as much as the individual.
3. Both the childhood and adolescent worldviews are conflict based. With such world-views peace is not possible. A third world-view is emerging in spite of us, not because of us. Calamities are making it necessary for us to change our world-view. Europe, for instance, since the two world wars, has slowly come to realize that the only chance for peace is unity among themselves. Unity, actually, says Dr Danesh, is a fundamental law of existence. Love unites people and magnetism unites things. Equally importantly, unity is not uniformity but invariably demands diversity. Atoms and our very bodies demonstrate unity in diversity. War creates a limited and dangerous unity.

So the universal world-view is based on the twin principles of the oneness of humanity and unity in diversity.



Project Ploughshares Calgary

2919 8 Ave NW Calgary AB T2N 1C8
(403) 270-7366
E-mail: office@ploughsharescalgary.ca
www.ploughsharescalgary.ca

Special thanks to Tracey Pickup and Sally Hodges for proof-reading and editing this issue!

**Yes! I want to become a Project Ploughshares
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Here is my one time donation

\$25 ___ (includes 1 yr to newsletter)

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And give a monthly donation

(include void cheque)

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Relieving Global Tensions: Iran & Sudan

Our Spring Workshop
Saturday May 5th

9am-4pm

With Mike Wallace
and Grant Birks

Dr. Mike Wallace is a political science professor at UBC with many publications on the origins of war. He will answer our burning questions about Iran.

Is Iran a real nuclear threat?

Will the US attack Iran?

What can be done to change the tensions in the region?

Grant Birks is a program associate from Ploughshares National and will be speaking about our Peace-building initiatives in South Sudan with the African Peace Forum.

Register Today with Tracey 270-7366

\$35 (includes lunch) or mail cheques to the Ploughshares office.



Photo from the roundtable in Juba Sudan