

**PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY**

Peace News

DECEMBER 2012/JANUARY 2013



We are located:

**Parkdale United
Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8**

403-270-7366

Office hours:

**Mon Tues & Thurs
10:30 am - 3 pm**

Wed 2 - 6 pm

Ploughshares Monthly Presentation

Wednesday January 9, 2013, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Parkdale United Church Conference Room, 2919 - 8 Avenue NW

The Harmonious Spirit of Cooperative Board Games - An Interactive Evening

(Suggested Donation: \$3 adults/\$2 children)



Project Ploughshares presents the first in a series of public presentations about cooperation, conflict resolution, and nonviolence. The first presentation promises to be a fun-filled evening with pizza and cooperative board games - bring your kids and enjoy the evening together!

Family Pastimes, a company in Ontario that makes cooperative board games, has the following to say about non-competitive play:

"Play as friends, not as enemies! Our games foster the spirit of co-operation. Players help each other climb a mountain, make a community, bring in the harvest, complete a space exploration... They are never against each other.

After all, the initial impulse to play a game is social; that is, we bring out a game because we want to do something together. How ironic then that in most games, we spend all our efforts trying to bankrupt someone, destroy their armies — in other words, to get rid of one another! We soon learn how to pick on the other person's weaknesses in order to win the game.

Let's take an example. A simple, common party game for socializing youngsters illustrates our point. Musical Chairs fosters aggression and elimination. Played co-operatively (see our [Games Manual](#)), you will see how hugging replaces pushing, how ability and strength are used to help rather than push out of the way.

People of different ages and abilities should be able to play side by side, each making their best contribution. In a co-operative game, someone young and little can play with others older and bigger and not worry about being wiped out. We are all there at the end of it.

Some cautions. We don't protect children from not making it to the summit or completing the space voyage. Our games are designed to offer realistic challenges. But the cultural habit of competing and confronting adversaries runs deep. Some players end up fighting the game itself. We suggest that you'll get better results learning how to get along with Time, Winter, Gravity, and Mountains rather than fighting them.

The challenge. In sum, games are used in various settings and for various reasons, Socialization, entertainment, academic learning, character growth, etc. Whatever your objective, we invite you to realize them by co-operative means. Parents and teachers trying to teach children to share, be kind to living things, and help others out often are troubled by games and recreation programs which undermine these values. Our games provide the opportunity to experience sharing and caring behavior. We simply don't have enough of such experiences."



Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta Presentation
“Refusing to be Enemies: Palestinian and Israeli Nonviolent Resistance to the Israeli Occupation”
Wednesday November 14, 2012, 7:30 - 9 pm
Parkdale United Church Conference Room

On November 14 Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta, a Canadian-Israeli and a Quaker raised as a Jew, addressed the topic of nonviolent activism in regard to the Palestinian/Israeli conflict. Project Ploughshares' purpose for the evening was to become more aware of what is going on, to respond to suffering on both sides and to hear about nonviolent solutions.

Maxine's premise was that the settlements in the West Bank are illegal by United Nations law, some by Israeli law, and that key issues exacerbating the friction between the two sides are this occupation of the land, land confiscation, house demolition and the lack of rights for Palestinians to move around. She said that nonviolence is not new to Palestinians as a technique for handling conflict. They have used it off and on since 1902, carrying out boycotts, wearing the Palestinian flag colours, refusing to collect or pay taxes, planting illegal victory gardens and creating illegal institutions to serve the people, among many other methods. There have been weekly demonstrations along the wall since 2005. Nonviolence has even spread to Hamas leaders on occasion. "The Gaza Flotilla drew far more attention to the Gaza Strip than armed violence has", she said. An organization called the Action Committee for the Jahalin Tribe which comprises both Palestinians and Israelis, have conducted demonstrations and had a presence at housing displacements.

There has been recent growth in non-cooperation inside Israel. There are Israeli women's organizations helping, including a group of Raging Grannies in Tel Aviv. 250 to 300 Israeli women have brought Palestinian women and children into Israel illegally since May 2010 to give them a day at the beach. There has been a 'refusenik' movement in Israel since 2002 – soldiers who refuse to serve in the occupied territories. They are imprisoned for this, but for every one who takes this step there are 10 who would like to but don't. Maxine praised their courage and contribution.

Maxine suggested that solidarity is no longer enough, that we need to join in common cause in combatting discriminatory laws in Israel. According to Maxine, BDS – the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign – is *the* most useful tool for bringing about change. Companies that Calgarians might find are: Motorola, Ahava skin products, L'Oreal / The Body Shop, Estee Lauder, Intel, Victoria's Secret.

Ploughshares has one spare copy (\$20.00) of Maxine's book 'Refusing to be Enemies'. It contains 100 in-depth interviews with groups and individuals who are using nonviolent means to counteract the aggression on both sides.

'Refusing to be Enemies' also has a Foreword by Ursula Franklin, Canadian physicist and educator. In it Ursula speaks of assigning the designation of enemy to another group.

"Not only can the presence of 'enemies' serve as social glue, their presumed evil intent and unbending hostility can become justification for otherwise unacceptable actions against them. For individual citizens, refusing to be enemies is a profoundly political act. ... (This act) entails the crucial paradigm shift that can break the stranglehold of violence and open the option of nonviolent action... (Nonviolence calls) on the human potential of victim and perpetrator alike and opens ways to oppose violence and oppression that are different in kind from the blind tit-for-tat of organized violence".

And elsewhere:

Chomsky backs tactics opposing Israeli policies

Posted on [December 15, 2012](#) by Noam Chomsky; From: [The Australian](#)

December 15, 2012 12:00AM

I WAS surprised to read a letter to the editor of The Australian claiming that I regard the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement's tactics targeting Israel as "pure anti-Semitism, aimed at the destruction of Israel" and that I said BDS efforts are "inimical to the interests of and lacking any genuine support from the Palestinian people" (Letters, 14/12).

These tactics have enormous support among Palestinians, and the charge of anti-Semitism should be dismissed with disdain.

When Human Rights Watch "calls on the US and European Union member states and on businesses with operations in settlement areas to avoid supporting Israeli settlement policies that are inherently discriminatory and that violate international law", it is advocating BDS tactics, rightly, and there is no hint of anti-Semitism.

I have personally been involved in such forms of opposition to the Israeli occupation for years, long before there was a BDS movement.

Any tactics, however legitimate, can of course be misused. But they can also be used quite properly and effectively against state crimes, and in this case regularly have been.

Noam Chomsky, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA

Ploughshares Calgary News



We'd Love to Have YOU on Board!

Specifically, we need a couple of people to sit on committees for a new group, 2020 Vision for Humanity. This group is working towards nuclear abolition and building a healthy global society, among other things. One of the committees needing people will be working on organizing an **academic symposium to take place in the fall of 2013**, in partnership with the Consortium for Peace Studies and the Calgary Centre for Global Community. The other committee for which we would like a volunteer is one that is organizing a **Hiroshima/Nagasaki Memorial Event during early August 2013**. We are planning to have paper lanterns floating on the lagoon at Prince's Island, with Japanese flute music playing in the background - plus other attractions to be decided!

Additionally, we are looking to fill the following positions for the **2013 Calgary Peace Run**: We would like someone who could cheerfully take on the task of **Volunteer Coordinator** for the Peace Run, as well as the job of **Food and Beverage Coordinator**. The bulk of the work related to these two jobs would take place in August and September of 2013, although there would be some organizing to do prior to that time. We would also like to put out the call now for anyone who might be interested in helping out on any of the committees for the Peace Run, which include: **Volunteers, Fundraising, Draw Prizes, Food & Beverage, and Marketing & Promotions**.

If you are interested in any of these positions,
please call Karen at: 403-270-7366
or email her at: office@ploughsharescalgary.ca



Donations Needed!

Monthly donations in November & December from individuals totalled \$1,420.⁰⁰, while organizations contributed \$800.⁰⁰. Please remember your local peace education organization when you are considering giving money to a worthwhile cause. 2013 promises to be as busy as 2012 was for us, so we are deeply appreciative of your help with our programming needs!



"We who lived in concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread. They may have been few in number, but they offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of human freedoms - to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances - to choose one's own way." ~ Victor Frankl

"I am proud and happy to do what I did ... You didn't succeed to break me, you didn't succeed to make me crazy ... All those who are standing behind me, supporting me ... all are heroes ... I am a symbol of the will of freedom ... you cannot break the human spirit." ---

Mordechai Vanunu, a nuclear weapons whistleblower after release from 18 years in Israeli prison, April 21, 2004.



"Humanity should question itself, once more, about the absurd and always unfair phenomenon of war, on whose stage of death and pain only remains standing the negotiating table that could and should have prevented it."

~ Pope John Paul II



Peacemaking

by Debbie Grisdale, Ottawa Diocesan Centre for Peacemaking

Ninety years ago, a Canadian peace activist was born in Honan China. Murray Thomson was a 'mishkid', a child of Canadian missionaries.

Throughout most of his adult life, Murray has been on a mission himself to oppose militarism and war. At the age of 90, he is still tirelessly coming up with ways to promote peace, including at his own 90th birthday party later this month.

When the Second World War broke out Murray was playing numerous inter-varsity sports while a student at the University of Toronto. Like many other young men at that time, he left school and signed up with the air force. By 1944, he had earned his wings, but he never went overseas.

The dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima had a profound effect on him. In later years, he would say, "Hiroshima made me a pacifist." Somewhere along the way he became a Quaker.

In his earlier years, Murray's interests and work took him to southeast Asia where he worked in international development and adult education. It is through his passion for in peace education that he has made his greatest contributions.

Murray is an ideas man, an optimist, a believer that anything is possible if we just organize and have some fun and some music along the way. (He and his fiddle are rarely parted). He always has an idea (or two) of how to engage people all for the cause of peace and disarmament. In the 1970s, having witnessed the growth of post-colonial militarism, he co-founded Project Ploughshares, now an agency of the Canadian Council of Churches. In ensuing years, he founded or co-founded Peace Brigades International, Peacefund Canada, and Canadian Friends of Burma, among other organizations that have played important roles in speaking truth to power.

Murray's sense of humour and playfulness has carried him, and many others, through dark times. His office was just down the hall from mine for a number of years, and his tireless optimism was an antidote to flagging energies. Inch by bloody inch, he'd say we'll beat 'em yet kid! - referring to powerful forces, like the military-industrial-complex that lurk out there.

In 1990 Murray was awarded the Pearson Peace Medal by the United Nations Association of Canada and in 2001 he received the Order of Canada. His Order of Canada citation starts "He has devoted a lifetime to world peace." And his work has continued, nonstop.

The latest initiative, that Murray founded when he turned 85, is Canadians for a Nuclear Weapons Convention? (CNWC) which, at last count, brings together more than 600 recipients of the Order of Canada, from all walks of life, in the cause of nuclear disarmament. Canadians for a Nuclear Weapons Convention (CNWC) is about informing and educating Canadians on the increasing danger of nuclear proliferation and nuclear war. The signatories support and endorse the United Nations Secretary-General's five-point plan for nuclear disarmament, including the endorsement of a nuclear weapons convention. CNWC seeks to engender political will by educational means, resulting in the adoption of a nuclear weapons convention as a component of Canadian foreign policy. For details visit <http://www.nuclearweaponsconvention.ca>

As good ideas do, this one caught on and a similar initiative has been started with prominent Australians. To date more than 700 recipients of the Order of Australia have called on their government to show leadership on outlawing nuclear weapons, saying the need is urgent.

Murray has always been focused and tireless. When commenting on the eight sports teams he played on at university, he told me. "I was neither very fast nor very tall, but I knew where I was going." The story goes that when some of his team mates complained about the decisions of the referee, Murray said "get over it; its not him we have to beat, it's the other team!". He still has his eye on the ball, which at this point is the achievement of an international convention to ban nuclear weapons.



Outlawing Nuclear Weapons: Time for a New International Treaty?

David Krieger, Truthout Op-Ed - 28 November 2012 <http://truth-out.org/opinion/item/13020-outlawing-nuclear-weapons-time-for-a-new-international-treaty>

Is it time for a new international treaty that would outlaw nuclear weapons? The short answer to this question is, Yes, it is time. Actually, it is past time. The critical question, however, is not whether we need a new international treaty. We do. The critical question is: How do we achieve the political will among the nuclear weapon states to begin negotiations for a new international treaty to outlaw and eliminate all nuclear weapons?

The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Is Failing - The NPT has reciprocal obligations. The nuclear weapon states seek to hold the line against proliferation of nuclear weapons to other countries. In return, the non-nuclear weapon states rely upon Article VI of the NPT to level the playing field. Article VI contains three obligations: "Each of the Parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control."

None of these obligations have been fulfilled. Negotiations in good faith have not been pursued on any of the three obligations. It has been 42 years since the treaty entered into force, and the nuclear arms race continues.

Nor have the NPT nuclear weapon states negotiated in good faith to achieve nuclear disarmament. They have not acted with a sense of urgency to achieve the goal of nuclear disarmament in all its aspects. They have not made a commitment to zero nuclear weapons.

Finally, the NPT nuclear weapon states have not negotiated in good faith on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. Since the NPT entered into force in 1970, there have been no negotiations on general and complete disarmament.

Given this lack of political will to achieve any of the three Article VI obligations, the prospects for a new international treaty are dim if states continue with business as usual. That is why the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation called for bold action by the non-nuclear weapon states in its briefing paper for the 2012 Preparatory Committee Meeting for the 2015 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

The Premises of Bold Action - Bold action by the non-nuclear-weapon states would be based upon the following premises:

1. The NPT nuclear weapon states have failed to fulfill their obligations under Article VI; this failure poses serious risks of future proliferation.
2. The understanding that even a regional nuclear war would have global consequences (e.g., nuclear famine modeling).
3. The risks of nuclear war, by accident or design, have not gone away.
Stanford Professor Emeritus Martin Hellman, an expert in risk analysis, estimates that a child born today has a one-in-six chance of dying due to a nuclear weapon in his or her 80-year expected lifetime.
4. The understanding that humans and their systems are not infallible (e.g. Chernobyl and Fukushima).
5. The understanding that deterrence is only a theory that could fail catastrophically (see the Santa Barbara Declaration).
6. Continued reliance upon nuclear weapons is a threat to civilization and the future of complex life on the planet.
7. There needs to be a sense of urgency to eliminate the risks posed by nuclear weapons, nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism.

What Would Constitute Bold Action? - The non-nuclear-weapon states need to demonstrate to the nuclear weapon states that they are serious about the need for a new international treaty.

Bold action by non-nuclear-weapon states, in descending order of severity, could include these options:

1. Announcing a boycott of the 2015 NPT Review Conference if the nuclear weapon states have not commenced negotiations for a Nuclear Weapons Convention or Framework Agreement prior to 2015.
2. Commencing legal action against the NPT nuclear weapon states, individually and/or collectively, for breach of their NPT Article VI obligations.
3. Withdrawal from the NPT as a protest against its continuing two-tier structure of nuclear haves and have-nots.
4. Declaring the NPT null and void as a result of the failure of the nuclear weapon states to act in good faith in fulfilling their Article VI obligations.

Conclusion - Fifty years after the Cuban missile crisis and more than 20 years after the end of the cold war, we are approaching a critical time in the Nuclear Age. Our technological genius threatens our human future.

I favor the first two actions listed above: a boycott and legal action. I fear that, unless such actions are taken soon by non-nuclear-weapon states to pressure the nuclear weapon states to act in good faith, the likelihood is that business as usual will continue, and states will end up choosing the more extreme remedies of the third and fourth actions listed above: withdrawal from the NPT or deeming the NPT null and void. Should this be the case, we will lose the only existing treaty that obligates its members to nuclear disarmament, and also, the likelihood of achieving a new international treaty to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons.



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

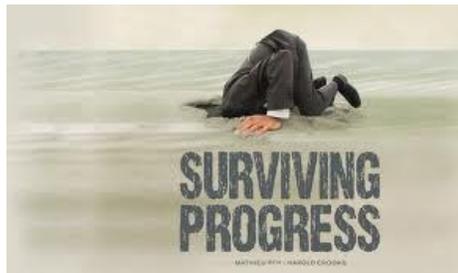
Calgary Peace Events

Marda Loop Justice Film Festival

Tuesday January 15th, 7:00 PM

River Park Church, 3818 - 14A St. SW, Calgary

Surviving Progress



Surviving Progress presents the story of human advancement as awe-inspiring and double-edged. It reveals the grave risk of running the 21st century's software — our know-how — on the ancient hardware of our primate brain which hasn't been upgraded in 50,000 years.

Ronald Wright, whose best-seller, "A Short History Of Progress" inspired this film, reveals how civilizations are repeatedly destroyed by "progress traps" — alluring technologies serve immediate needs, but ransom the future. With intersecting stories from a Chinese car-driving club, a Wall Street insider who exposes an out-of-control, environmentally rapacious financial elite, and eco-cops defending a scorched Amazon, the film lays stark evidence before us. In the past, we could use up a region's resources and move on. But if today's global civilization collapses from over-consumption, that's it. We have no back-up planet.

Distinguished Professor of Environment Vaclav Smil notes that five billion "have-nots" aspire to our affluent lifestyle and, without limits on the energy and resource-consumption of the "haves", we face certain catastrophe. Others — including primatologist Jane Goodall, author Margaret Atwood, and activists from the Congo, Canada, and USA — place their hope in our ingenuity and moral evolution.

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Consortium for Peace Studies

2013 Calgary Peace Prize Gala Dinner

March 2, 2013 - 5:30 PM

Red & White Club, McMahon Stadium

The Consortium for Peace Studies (CPS) at the University of Calgary is extremely pleased to bestow its **7th Annual Calgary Peace Prize** to child soldier turned music rock star **Emmanuel Jal**. The awards ceremony & dinner gala will take place at the Red & White Club, McMahon Stadium, Calgary on Saturday, March 2, 2013 at 5:30 pm. To purchase tickets, [click here](#). For event details, [click here](#)



Arusha Centre and CJSW

Thursday mornings on CJSW from 7—10 AM

Listen to Soap Box Derby/Cold Smoke every Thursday from 7-10 AM for activism, conscious music and BBC news. Sponsored by The Arusha Centre.

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 2012 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)