

PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY

Peace News

JANUARY 2012



We are located:

Parkdale United
Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8

403-270-7366

Office hours:

Mon & Thurs
10:30am - 3pm

Tues. - 11:30 - 4

Wed 2 - 6pm



Wednesday February 8, 2012 ~ 7:30 - 9:00 pm
Parkdale United Church Conference Room
Modelling Global Citizenship – The Oasis of Peace
Calgary Centre for Global Community

The CCGC has partnered with the Canadian Friends of Oasis for Peace to create a mobile educational exhibit that tells the story of Wahat al-Salam-Neve Shalom, the “Oasis of Peace” village which is a living example of the possibility of peaceful coexistence between Jews and Palestinians. Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam is a cooperative village of Jews and Palestinian Arabs of Israeli citizenship. The village is situated equidistant from Jerusalem and Tel Aviv-Jaffa.

Join us for a discussion about the Oasis of Peace Village and their peacebuilding and conflict transformation efforts at the monthly public meeting of Project Ploughshares Calgary on Wednesday, February 8th, at 7:30pm in the Conference Room. We look forward to seeing you there!

The exhibit will be in the foyer of Parkdale United Church, 2919 - 8 Avenue NW from January 25th - February 8th - bring your friends to see this amazing exhibit! The church is open from 9:00 AM—3:30 PM Mondays through Thursdays, and 9:00 AM—1:00 PM on Fridays.

Consortium for Peace Studies
2012 Calgary Peace Prize Recipient:

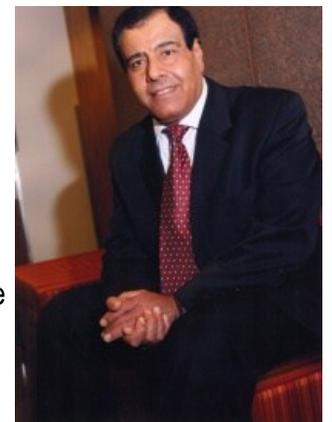
Dr Izzeldin Abuelaish

March 8, 2012, 5:30 PM, Calgary Golf & Country Club

The Consortium for Peace Studies at the University of Calgary is extremely pleased to announce its sixth annual Calgary Peace Prize recipient – **Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish**. The awards ceremony will take place at the Calgary Golf & Country Club, 50th Ave & Elbow Dr SW on Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 5:30 pm. Tickets are now available for purchase. The Early Bird deadline is February 24, 2012. Tickets will be available at the discounted rate of \$150.00. Tickets thereafter will be available at \$175.00.

To purchase tickets by credit card to the Calgary Peace Prize award dinner and fundraiser please go to <https://netcommunity.ucalgary.ca/2012peaceprize> For other questions, and to find information about a public talk Dr. Abuelaish will be giving at the University on Wednesday, March 7th, contact Saima at 403-220-2136.

Project Ploughshares is a proud partner and supporter of this event!



Ploughshares Calgary News

Ancient Goddess Cultures of Peace

Dr. Ronnie Joy Leah

Wednesday January 11, 2012

Ronnie Joy delivered an interesting and powerful presentation to a group of approximately 40 people on the ancient goddess cultures that thrived in ancient times in Old Europe. Dr. Leah recently took a trip to Malta specifically to visit the archaeological sites that have been unearthed there. These sites show evidence that there were societies where women were revered, people honoured the earth, and in which there were no signs of any instruments of war. Following her presentation, the audience broke into small groups to discuss whether or not any of the lessons learned from studying ancient cultures of peace could be applied to today's world, and in what way. Some suggestions were that we need to live more simply, without the high degree of consumerism that permeates our lives; that we need to strive to be cooperative in order to achieve an egalitarian and peaceful society; that we need to learn to do things ourselves, i.e. sewing, art, music, growing food, etc. so that we aren't so dependent on outward institutions and markets.



Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Tuesday February 7, 2012, 1– 2:30 PM

Parkdale United Church Conference Room

Attention all Project Ploughshares Calgary 2011 volunteers!

You are cordially invited to attend a celebratory luncheon thanking you for all your volunteer efforts on behalf of Project Ploughshares Calgary. Please RSVP to Karen by February 3rd: 403-270-7366 or Email: office@ploughsharescalgary.ca

Dennis Gruending - Profiles in Courage:

Peace Witness in Canadian Churches

Thursday January 19, Professional Faculties 4259

Consortium of Peace Studies, PeaceTalk series

Dennis spoke eloquently about some of our Canadian peace heroes and what they have done to help make Canada a more peaceful society, as well as how the Canadian government is undermining these efforts in a push to make Canada a more militarized society.

The three peace heroes mentioned in his talk were Dr. Abuelaish, who is currently teaching at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. Dr. Abuelaish firmly believes that the field of health can be used as an engine to create peace, and his own life as a doctor from Gaza who worked at an Israeli hospital is a testament to his beliefs.

Murray Thomson was also mentioned. Mr. Thomson is a member of the Order of Canada and has worked tirelessly over the years for nuclear disarmament and the end to militarism. He became a pacifist when the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, and believes that militarism is bad for the global economy and for the environment.

The third peacemaker to be profiled was Sen. Douglas Roche, who was Canada's ambassador to the U.N. for nuclear disarmament. Sen. Roche is still campaigning for nuclear disarmament, and last year published his 20th book, '**How We Stopped Loving the Bomb**'. In an interview that Mr. Gruending did with Sen. Roche in 2008, Sen. Roche is quoted as saying, "There is this idea that anyone who works in these areas is a fuzzy-headed idealist and the other people are realists, and you are marginalized for your ostensible idealism. I would argue that the realists are actually those people who recognize that the status quo is not sustainable and are looking for answers to the overarching issues of our time. These are the nuclear arms race and climate change."



Donations

There have been no donations during the month of January from individuals. From organizations, we have received \$1,250. Please consider Project Ploughshares Calgary when you are planning your charitable giving for 2012, and help us develop a true Culture of Peace! Our heartfelt thanks to all those who continue to give to Project Ploughshares on a regular basis. Your support is appreciated!



Volunteers Needed!

- ◆ We are still looking for a volunteer who would be interested in sitting on the committee for the Calgary Peace Run & Walk, which will take place next summer. If you are enthusiastic and have a knack for identifying and talking with potential sponsors for this event, we'd love to have you on board!
- ◆ If you don't have time to sit on a committee, we would love to hear from you if you have any ideas regarding businesses, companies, or organizations that you think might be willing to help sponsor the Calgary Peace Run.

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



Doomsday Clock ticks one minute closer to midnight.

guardian.co.uk, Tuesday 10 January 2012
The symbolic clock face, maintained since 1947 by the board of directors of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists at the University of Chicago, counts down to nuclear Armageddon. The symbolic clock now stands at five minutes to midnight, the scientists said, because of a collective failure to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, act on climate change, or find safe and sustainable sources of energy – as exemplified by the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

Jerusalem

by Naomi Shihab Nye

I'm not interested in
who suffered the most.
I'm interested in
people getting over it.



Once when my father was a boy
a stone hit him on the head.
Hair would never grow there.
Our fingers found the tender spot
and its riddles: the boy who has fallen
stands up. A bucket of pears
in his mother's doorway welcomes him home.
The pears are not crying.
Lately his friend who threw the stone
says he was aiming at a bird.
And my father starts growing wings.

Each carries a tender spot:
something our lives forgot to give us.
A man builds a house and says,
"I am native now."
A woman speaks to a tree in place
of her son. And olives come.
A child's poem says,
"I don't like wars,
they end up with monuments."
He's painting a bird with wings
wide enough to cover two roofs at once.

Why are we so monumentally slow?
Soldiers stalk a pharmacy:
big guns, little pills.
If you tilt your head just slightly
it's ridiculous.

There's a place in this brain
where hate won't grow.
I touch its riddles: wind and seeds.
Something pokes us as we sleep.

It's late but everything comes next.

"Peace is not something you wish for; it is
something you make, something you do,
something you are,
and something you give away!"



Robert Fulghum

Civilian or military firearms? The Canadian Criminal Code makes no distinction, but Canada has proposed one for the ATT

Kenneth Epps , Mon, 12/26/2011, Winter 2011 Volume 32 Issue 4 (excerpt)

At the July 2011 Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Preparatory Committee meeting in New York, the Canadian delegation caused a stir when it called for additional language in the chair's draft paper to recognize that "there is a legal trade in small arms for civilian uses, including for sporting, hunting and collecting purposes" (Canada 2011). The Canadian statement continued, "with regard to the inclusion of small arms and light weapons, Canada supports the proposal made by Japan and Italy in March to exclude sporting and hunting firearms for recreational use from the treaty." This was the first occasion when Canada called for weapons exemptions within the scope of the treaty. It marked a significant change from earlier statements in which Canada supported the inclusion of all small arms and light weapons (SALW) in the treaty scope without exceptions.¹



Many states raised objections to Canada's statement. Mexico quickly responded by noting that "different interpretations for military and recreational use of firearms open gaps for subjective interpretation" of the treaty. Mexico was worried that the proposed Canadian exemptions would create transfer loopholes for many of the weapons that are contributing to the current criminal carnage in that state. Mexico's concerns are justified. There are no internationally accepted definitions to differentiate civilian from military firearms, nor is there agreement on what defines shooting and hunting firearms and their recreational use. Different national interpretations of what constitutes a hunting rifle, for example, could facilitate breaches of UN arms embargoes and lead to other illicit or irresponsible weapons transfers.

International and national law

Multilateral agreements to reduce and prevent illicit transfers of firearms and small arms contain inclusive definitions in recognition of the inherent danger posed by all illicit arms. For example, the UN Firearms Protocol² defines a firearm as: any portable barrelled weapon that expels, is designed to expel or may be readily converted to expel a shot, bullet or projectile by the action of an explosive. Other multilateral treaties use even broader definitions.³ Many national laws define firearms similarly. Canada's Criminal Code, for example, states that a firearm is: a barrelled weapon from which any shot, bullet or other projectile can be discharged and that is capable of causing serious bodily injury or death to a person, and includes any frame or receiver of such a barrelled weapon and anything that can be adapted for use as a firearm.

The Canadian Criminal Code classifies firearms as automatic, imitation, prohibited, restricted, or replica, and defines a handgun as "a firearm that is designed, altered or intended to be aimed and fired by the action of one hand." Automatic firearms designed for military use and many handguns are prohibited, while many hunting rifles and shotguns used by civilians are non-restricted, that is, they fall outside the definitions of the Criminal Code. Some handguns that may be used in international sporting competitions are restricted, not prohibited. Criminal Code classifications are based on physical characteristics of firearms, such as barrel length, cartridge calibre, or operating aspects. Definitions and classifications of firearms in Canadian law, as in international conventions, do not reference the use of firearms or their users, whether civilian, police, or military.

Although the SALW of "main concern" in the panel's report were those "manufactured to military specifications for use as lethal instruments of war," the panel proposed definitions based on inclusive subcategories. For small arms these are: revolvers and self-loading pistols, rifles and carbines, submachine guns, assault rifles, and light machine guns. The subcategories of light weapons are: heavy machine guns, hand-held under-barrel and mounted grenade launchers, portable anti-aircraft guns, portable anti-tank guns and recoilless rifles, portable launchers of anti-aircraft missile systems, and mortars of a calibre less than 100 mm (UNGA 1997, para 25). The small arms subcategories are the weapons of greatest concern to many states, especially those in the Global South that suffer from endemic armed violence.

Proposal could block negotiations

The proposal by Canada to exclude sporting and hunting firearms for recreational use from the scope of an Arms Trade Treaty flies in the face of Canada's commitments to international treaties and agreements. It even contradicts existing Canadian laws and regulations, especially the Export and Imports Permit Act, which governs all firearms transfers from and to Canada. Canada is calling for weapons category exemptions that are not recognized by international or Canadian law and, as a result, stand little to no chance of being adopted.

Indeed, Canada's proposal could condemn ATT negotiations to lengthy exchanges about firearms categories and consume precious time required for more substantive issues. The four-week period for treaty negotiations in July 2012 will attend to all aspects of a major global convention. A great deal of work must be done quickly to create a robust and meaningful treaty. Those states that want a weak ATT—or no treaty at all—will seek such opportunities as that presented by the Canadian proposal to block or disrupt negotiations. If Canada is to remain aligned with the majority of states that support a strong Arms Trade Treaty, it must withdraw its proposed weapons exclusions.

2011's Big Wins - Brought to You by Women (excerpted)

2011 was a year of transformations. It began with thousands of people in the Middle East rising up to demand an end to repressive government and a say in their futures. That spirit of transformation continued throughout the year. The world welcomed the new country of South Sudan, the culmination of a years-long peace process. A global network of activists sprang into action to thwart a policy that threatened Afghan women. The United Nations launched a new agency dedicated to guaranteeing women's human rights worldwide. What do all these things have in common? These successes, and others, were made possible by women—in their local communities and in global centers of power—who came together to demand change.



Women Grow the Seeds of the Arab Spring

The protests of the Arab Spring took the world by storm. They upended regimes that had reigned for decades, and women were at the center of it all. Western stereotypes of Arab women portray them as one dimensional victims of oppression. But it was women, often young women, who sounded the call that brought people to the streets. In Egypt, Asmaa Mahfouz posted a video calling on people to demonstrate on January 25—and it went viral. It started a wave that could not be stopped. And that wave continued, day after day, spreading through the region, because women kept its momentum going.

Women know that their work is not over when an old regime crumbles.

Working for the Peaceful Creation of South Sudan

A generation of Sudanese people grew up in war. Women bore the brunt, struggling to sustain their families through violence. But through it all, they organized to demand peace. The years-long peace process peaked with the creation of the world's newest nation in July—South Sudan. With communities still recovering from decades of conflict, many worried that the split would trigger a slide back into war. But women's organizations refused to let that happen. Leaders like Fatima Ahmed, founder of the human rights organization Zenab for Women in Development, educated voters, trained women as election monitors and spoke out for peace. People are still at risk, and continued violent attacks have wracked communities. But peace is more than just a one-time win—it must be nurtured and lived.

Protecting Women's Shelters in Afghanistan

Naseema knew that her abusive husband was going to kill her if she didn't escape. Thanks to an activist-run network of women's shelters, she and her children were able to flee the country—and save their lives. But under a law proposed by the Afghan government earlier this year, Naseema could have been forced to return to her husband from the shelter.

The new law would have shifted control of women's shelters from the courageous women's organizations that now run them to government officials who could determine entry based on virginity tests and choose to send women back to abusive husbands. Women's rights activists, in Afghanistan and beyond, mobilized to prevent this terrible move. And we won: the bill was scrapped.

Launch of UN Women

For decades, advocates fought for the full recognition of women's human rights. The United Nations was a key site of this struggle. Yet women's human rights endeavors at the UN were chronically underfunded. UN bodies set up to address women's issues were small, disjointed and lacked authority. All of that began to change in 2011 with the launch of UN Women, an agency dedicated to guaranteeing women's human rights. For years, leaders like Charlotte Bunch, the founder of the Center for Women's Global Leadership, organized a concerted campaign, strategized with activists worldwide and lobbied with UN representatives—all to make UN Women a reality. Despite this milestone, many challenges lie ahead. Countries have been slow to direct funding to the fledgling agency. This is a serious blow to an agency mandated to improve conditions for half of the world's people. But just as we fought to create UN Women, we must stand by the agency to keep it strong—for the sake of women worldwide counting on it.

Women Stand Up for Peace

Time and again, we see that peace cannot be won without the voices and leadership of women. In war, women are often specifically targeted with violence, including rape and sexual assault. Yet, too often, women are denied a seat at the peace negotiating table. But in 2011, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to three women. It was a rare recognition of the integral role women play in demanding peace and rebuilding their communities. In Liberia, [Leymah Gbowee](#) led a protest movement of women who held years of vigils for peace. They refused to be silent and demanded that militants lay down their arms. [Ellen Johnson Sirleaf](#) became Liberia's first female president, paving the way to recovery. Another winner, [Tawakul Karman](#), is a Yemeni peace activist. Her demands for greater press freedoms, the release of political prisoners and the removal of Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh finally led to his resignation.

A Global Call for Justice

2011 began with popular uprising in the Arab world. And as 2011 comes to a close, the uprisings have circled the globe. The Occupy Wall Street movement, in New York City and around the world, reveals a growing refusal to go along with business as usual. Its demands resonate in communities worldwide that are all too familiar with the destructiveness of economic policies that treat basic necessities as tradable commodities instead of as human rights. There are viable alternatives to neoliberal policies. They have already been articulated by women who confront daily the heaviest burdens of economic injustice. These women are Guatemalan women factory workers who organize for fair labor practices and Iraqi women who take a stand against the takeover of their government by oil companies. We enter 2012 into a changed world, one that has been remade by the committed work of women activists. With each win, the forward momentum continues. We'll remember 2011 for its uprisings and revolutions. Let it be also a forerunner to new possibilities in 2012.

By Yifat Susskind, MADRE Executive Director

<http://www.madre.org/index/resources-12/madre-articles-35/news/2011s-big-wins---brought-to-you-by-women-736.html>



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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



Initiatives of Change - Calgary Women's Peace Circles

**Upcoming: January 17, 24, 31st &
February 7, 14, 21** (one day a week for 6
weeks) **February 10-12, 2012** (weekend)

What is your understanding of peace? Can anyone create peace? Whose job is it anyway?

These workshops provide a space for women of different cultures, faiths and backgrounds to discover their own ability, as individuals and as a group, to create peace at home, at work, and in their communities. At the end of this program, women will have a deeper understanding of their roles as creators of peace and will have the opportunity to make a commitment to take tangible action to meet a need identified in their local community. Please contact Janyce Konkin at 403-270-0975 or iofc.calgary@ca.iofc.org for further information and other future dates.

Occupation 101: Voices of the Silent Majority

Thursday Feb. 16, 7:00pm

Old Y Common Room, 223 12 Avenue S.W.

"A thought-provoking and powerful documentary on the current and historical causes of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict ... this 2006 film directed by Sufyan Omeish and Abdallah Omeish, includes interviews with scholars, religious leaders, humanitarian workers, and NGO representatives ... more than half of whom are Jewish ... and dispels many long standing myths and misconceptions".

Admission Free Donations Welcome

For more information email us at calgary.justiceforpalestinians@gmail.com and/or look for our Facebook page



Project Ploughshares Spring Workshop

Can Peace Be Green?

Please watch for next month's newsletter with more details about this timely workshop on peace and environmental issues, and how these intertwined issues are and can be dealt with in a nonviolent manner.

Calgary Peace Run & Walk, September 2012

Organized by Project Ploughshares Calgary, the Consortium for Peace Studies, and cdpeace (Sierra Leone)

Watch future editions of the Ploughshares Newsletter for details on this upcoming race!

Project Ploughshares Calgary is the lead organization for this unique running and walking event, designed to promote healthy lifestyles and to highlight the importance of peaceful relationships—locally, nationally, and globally. As such, both Project Ploughshares and the Consortium for Peace Studies are pleased to have cdpeace, an organization based in Sierra Leone, as an additional partner. The Calgary Peace Run is comprised of 5 k runs and walks, as well as 10 k runs and walks—all timed events. We welcome all Calgary runners and walkers, and encourage you to find sponsors for your walks and runs. All money raised will be used to fund the programs of Project Ploughshares, the Consortium for Peace Studies, and cdpeace in Sierra Leone.



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)