

PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY

Peace News

FEBRUARY 2014



We are located:

Parkdale United
Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8

403-270-7366

Office hours:

Mon Tues & Thurs
10:00 am - 2:30pm

Wed 12 - 4 pm



Smoked Fish, Bannock and Indian Tea: An Evening of Storytelling with Richard Wagamese Friday January 24, 2014 PM St. David's United Church

There were over 450 people in attendance for this incredible evening of storytelling with **Richard Wagamese**, one of

Canada's foremost Aboriginal authors and journalists with a career spanning 30 years. Richard celebrated and explored Aboriginal identity and culture with a spell-binding one-man performance that was at times full of humour, and at other times asked the audience to look within themselves with introspection and compassion. The various stories he told served to dispel common stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination. Richard advocates telling our personal stories to connect at a deeper level with people, to truly share ourselves, and to let other's stories reside within our hearts. Additionally, he spoke of the importance of hearing peoples' stories, as opposed to passively listening without any connection to or understanding of the other person. He has written several books, including the critically acclaimed *Keeper'n Me*, *Indian Horse* and *One Native Life*, a collection of essays. Wagamese is also an advocate for the homeless and in 2010, received an honorary doctorate from Thompson Rivers University. He is an Ojibway from the Wabaseemoong First Nation in North-western Ontario and currently resides in Kamloops, BC.

8th Annual Calgary Peace Prize Dinner March 20, 2014, 5:30 - 9:00 PM Magnolia Banquet Hall, 900, 5075 Falconridge Drive NE

The Calgary Centre for Global Community and the Consortium for Peace Studies at the University of Calgary are extremely pleased to present the eighth annual Calgary Peace Prize to Dr. Samantha Nutt. The Calgary Peace Prize was established to recognize outstanding individuals from the global community, who work toward making the world a more just, safer and less violent place. Dr. Nutt will receive this honour at the Calgary Peace Prize Gala Dinner.



Samantha Nutt is an award-winning humanitarian, bestselling author and acclaimed public speaker. A medical doctor and a founder of the renowned international humanitarian organization War Child, Dr Nutt has worked with children and their families at the frontline of many of the world's major crises – from Iraq to Afghanistan, Somalia to the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sierra Leone to Darfur, Sudan. A leading authority on current affairs, war, international aid and foreign policy, Dr Nutt is one of the most intrepid and recognized voices in the humanitarian arena. With a career that has spanned more than two decades and dozens of conflict zones, her international work has benefited many thousands of war-affected children globally. www.warchild.ca

Come and join us for dinner at the Project Ploughshares tables. Purchase tickets at <http://www.calgarycgc.org/calgary-peace-prize.html>, choose 'individual' tickets, and write in a request to be seated with other Project Ploughshares people.

Upcoming Calgary Peace Events



Parkdale United Church, 2919 - 8 Avenue NW

March 14-15, 2014 Please [RSVP Here](#)

Time: Friday 7:00 pm; Saturday 8:30am

**Two Faiths - One God: Christianity and Islam
in Conversation with Dr. Amir Hussain**

Amir Hussain is a scholar of religion who specializes in the study of Islam. He is the editor of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, which is the flagship journal for the study of religion. He is also on the editorial boards of four other scholarly journals for the study of religion. In 2005, he joined the Department of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University, the Jesuit university in Los Angeles.

Born in Lahore, Pakistan, and raised in Toronto, Canada, he received a Ph.D. and M.A in the study of religion from the University of Toronto. A proponent of interfaith dialogue, Professor Hussain has published over 35 scholarly articles or book chapters on Islam and Muslims. He has lectured in academic arenas around the world, and appeared on several television programs, most notably *Politically Incorrect* with Bill Maher and *The Tavis Smiley Show*.

Dr. Amir Hussain will guide us in this interfaith exploration, scheduled as follows:

The Friday evening session will provide an overview of the teachings and practices of Islam.

The Saturday session provides presentations on:

- Jesus and Mohammed
- The Qu'ran and the Bible
- How Shall We Live

The Saturday session includes a continental breakfast and a lunch

Costs:

- Friday evening only \$20
- Friday evening, Saturday morning and afternoon \$50
- Deadline for registration is February 28, 2014
- To register or for further information please contact: Ruth Jacques at parkdaleuc@telus.net or [\(403\) 283-3301](tel:4032833301)

Future Events with our Community Partners

Mark your calendars now for these upcoming events. Details will be forthcoming in future newsletters.



April 10th - Vandana Shiva will speak about **"Reasserting the public good in a corporatized world"** She is being brought in by Public Interest Alberta, who is partnering with Project Ploughshares, the Calgary Centre for Global Community, Arusha, CommunityWise, and other community organizations. There will be a related event prior to Vandana Shiva's public presentation, as well as a World Café that will be scheduled approximately one week post-event in order to discuss and develop actions on some of the things Ms. Shiva covers in her talk, in addition to other issues of interest.

May - (exact date TBA) **The Human Voice Project** with the Calgary Centre for Global Community. The purpose of the Human Voice Project is to learn from the lives, experience and wisdom of people willing to share what they have discovered about the human condition on life's journey. This year the theme is **'Lives Touched by War'**.



CALGARY CENTRE FOR GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Ploughshares News

MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Donations



We received **\$240** during the month of January from individual donors. We understand that the busy holiday season has just passed and that bank accounts may have taken a bit of a downturn during this time - but please do think of Project Ploughshares when you're planning your charitable donations, and give generously! We value each and every contribution. We can't continue to do the important and meaningful work of peacebuilding without you!

MP VISITS

Members and staff of Project Ploughshares Calgary have requested to visit Calgary Members of Parliament regarding Canada's policies on nuclear disarmament and the progress towards nuclear weapons elimination. To date, we have not received even one positive response. We will continue to contact them in the hopes of having a friendly and open dialogue about nuclear weapons and disarmament.



Volunteerism. A Way of Life.

Volunteers Needed!

Calgary Peace Run Festival - would you like to sit on a genuinely fun committee that is dedicated to advancing peace in Calgary? **The Calgary Peace Run Festival Committee** is for you! We are looking for people who have a knack for finding sponsorships, grants and other funding options that will help keep the Calgary Peace Run Festival a viable, engaging and sustainable community event. **The Calgary Peace Run Festival** is a great way to meet new people and to help out in a very worthy cause—the cause of peace! So whether you would simply like to power through a grant proposal, help in finding draw prizes for the runners and walkers, contact specific sponsors for this event or create a complete funding plan, please contact us! We need you on board! This year's event takes place on Saturday September 20, 2014 at Festival Square (just outside of Eau Claire Market).

Len Johnson: A General for Peace - by Ernie Regehr

The late Major-General Leonard V. Johnson served in the Canadian armed forces from 1950 to 1984. Upon his retirement he wrote a well-received memoir, *A General for Peace* (Lorimer 1987), and became a committed advocate for disarmament and new approaches to national defence. He served as Chair of the Board of Project Ploughshares from 1989 to 1994.

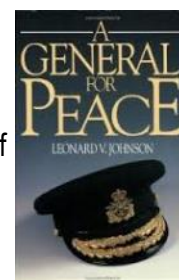
In his final military posting, Len Johnson was Commandant of the National Defence College. There he urged his students to access as much critical research and analysis as possible and to openly challenge the well-worn security dogmas of the day. He was a voracious consumer of all NDC course materials, lectures, and debates.

Upon his retirement, Len didn't let the first-class education he gained at the NDC go to waste. He made sure his critical voice would be heard as a writer and speaker, and actively engaged with peace and disarmament organizations such as the international Pugwash movement and Project Ploughshares.

In 1996 he joined a particularly esteemed international group of Generals and Admirals, some still in service, to sign on to a highly regarded and widely circulated *Statement by Generals and Admirals of the World Against Nuclear Weapons* (1996). It declared that "the existence of nuclear weapons...constitutes a peril to global peace and security and to the safety and survival of people we are dedicated to protect." It concluded that there is no alternative to the "complete and irrevocable elimination of nuclear weapons."

On the Ploughshares Board he guided us through the early years of the post-Cold War period, encouraging us to draft credible and practical proposals for a new Canadian defence policy that would respond to the new realities and the twin objectives of the abolition of nuclear weapons and of war itself.

Leonard Verne Johnson was born in Ridgedale, Saskatchewan and died in Kingston, Ontario in November 2013. He is remembered with deep appreciation and affection.





Conference on Disarmament

The Conference on Disarmament (CD) is the world's only permanent multilateral disarmament treaty negotiating body.

While the CD is independent of the United Nations, its secretary is appointed by the UN Secretary-General; it is required to consider recommendations from the General Assembly; and it submits reports annually or more often to the UN General Assembly.

The CD started out as the Eighteen Nations Disarmament Committee (ENDC) in March 1962 and then became the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD) in 1969, expanding to 30 members. Both of these bodies were jointly chaired by the USA and the USSR. In 1983 the institution became the Conference on Disarmament and had 38 members until June of 1996 when the conference expanded to a membership of 61. In 1999, the membership expanded once again to a membership of 65 countries.

Groupings among the members include the Western Group, the Non-Aligned Movement (also known as the G21), the Group of Eastern European States and Others, the P5 (the 5 permanent members of the Security Council, the 5 declared nuclear weapons states) the P4 (the five minus China) and China often refers to itself as the Group of One.

The CD has three sessions each year, the first begins in the penultimate week of January and lasts for 10 weeks; the second begins in May and lasts 7 weeks and the third in July and lasts 7 weeks. The CD hold one public plenary per week, usually on a Thursday, although can have more, if appropriate. The chair of the Conference rotates every four working weeks following the English alphabetical list of membership. Decisions are made by consensus.

The CD has a permanent agenda, also known as the Decalogue which is the following

- Nuclear weapons in all aspects;
- Chemical weapons [removed from agenda in 1993 after the CD completed the Chemical Weapons Convention on 3 September 1992]
- Other weapons of mass destruction;
- Conventional weapons;
- Reduction of military budgets;
- Reduction of armed forces;
- Disarmament and development;
- Disarmament and international security
- Collateral measures; confidence building measures; effective verification methods in relation to appropriate disarmament measures, acceptable to all parties;
- Comprehensive programme of disarmament leading to general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

For further information on the work of Reaching Critical Will, please see their website at <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/>

BAN KI-MOON URGES CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TO DEVELOP TREATY FRAMEWORKS AND PROPOSALS THROUGH STRUCTURED DISCUSSIONS

21 January 2014

Following is the statement read out today by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the opening plenary of the 2014 session of the Conference on Disarmament:

“Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen - Let me begin by wishing you all the best for the happy new year. In my part of the world, 2014, this year has been designated the “year of the blue horse”. A horse represents of course vigour and speed – and a blue horse of course is an animal of imagination.

I hope this august forum -- as the sole standing body on disarmament negotiations – will take inspiration and make 2014 a year of creativity and action. I will be very frank ladies and gentlemen. This is my fourth appearance before the CD, but the first in my second term. When I considered addressing you once again today, some of our senior advisors counselled against it. They said there are little prospects for progress this year. They wondered about the point of taking time out of a very busy schedule and an already full schedule on the eve of the Geneva Conference on Syria.

But I decided to come and meet you. Why? Because I am a strong believer in multilateralism. I want you to know that I have not given up hope for this noble body. I want to encourage you to live up to the international community’s expectations. Even though your mandate is to disarm, today, I say, “Arm yourself, arm yourself with the spirit of blue horse and run. Run fast and run far.”

Excellencies, since my last visit to you in 2011, the Conference on Disarmament has remained unable to begin substantive negotiations. But the world has not waited. Last year, the international community reacted in horror to the atrocious use of chemical weapons in Syria. In one voice, we condemned these acts as an outrageous violation of international humanitarian law and a war crime. The Chemical Weapons Convention is your legacy. The CD brought it to life. The presentation of the Nobel Peace Prize to the OPCW is a recognition of the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation for world peace. I hope you will be inspired by this.

My message is clear. Do not wait for others to move. Be the first mover. Do not hide behind utopian logic which says that until we have the perfect security environment, nuclear disarmament cannot proceed. This is old-think. This is the mentality of the Cold War era. We must face the realities of the 21st century. The Conference on Disarmament can be a driving force for building a safer world and a better future. That is its very mission.

As you all know, I have placed disarmament and non-proliferation as a leading priority on the United Nations agenda. A functional machinery can and must contribute substantially to international peace and security. Savings in weaponry can contribute to development and improve global well-being. Your work can make a significant contribution as the international community strives hard to achieve Millennium Development Goals and craft a solid post-2015 development agenda.

There is progress on which to build. The open-ended working group convened last year in Geneva generated some new thinking on the way forward. The High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament demonstrated that this issue remains a major international priority and deserves attention at the highest levels. There is growing understanding of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons. I recognize and welcome the serious efforts you have made to end the impasse.

While there was no breakthrough, a constructive spirit prevailed last year. The various Presidencies engaged in active consultations. The Informal Working Group represented an innovative attempt to take modest steps forward. Yet the pervasive cycle of pessimism in this body must still be overcome or else the CD will be overtaken by events.

I have also come to share with you my thoughts on a possible way forward: While you continue to seek the path towards renewed disarmament negotiations, it is important that you develop treaty frameworks and proposals through structured discussions. Laying such a foundation for future negotiations would be a concrete first step towards revalidating the relevance of the Conference.

I hope the CD can make good progress before this spring’s third preparatory meeting for the 2015 NPT Review Conference. This will significantly boost the morale for this important event. I am committed to doing all I can to assist you to launch negotiations on the important items on the agenda of the Conference.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I leave you today with the hope that the progress of the past session, your previous successes and a renewed sense of commitment will serve as a stepping stone towards resuming substantive work. I wish you success in your proceedings and in keeping pace with the blue horse. Thank you very much.”



Project Ploughshares Calgary
 2919 8th Ave. NW
 Calgary AB T2N 1C8
 (403) 270-7366
 office@ploughsharescalgary.ca



“Because we all share this planet earth, we have to learn to live in harmony and peace with each other and with nature. That is not just a dream, but a necessity.

We are dependent on each other in so many ways that we can no longer live in isolated communities and ignore what is happening outside those communities.” ~ Dalai Lama

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

Calgary Events



Project Ploughshares Calgary

Yes...I am interested in supporting the peace work of Project Ploughshares!

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to make a
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/>	monthly donation
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/>	of \$_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to volunteer
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1000		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Amount (Specify)	\$_____	

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Donation Options: Cheque PayPal Cash

Make cheque payable to Project Ploughshares Calgary or go to www.ploughsharescalgary.ca to make your payment via PayPal.

Please mail completed form with donation to:

Project Ploughshares Calgary, 2919 - 8 Ave. NW, Calgary, AB T2N 1C8



OPEN STREETS CALGARY

Open Streets Calgary began in 2012, and is a program of the Arusha Centre. It derives its name from the dozens of other [Open Streets](#) initiatives popping up across North America.

Our goal is to promote:

- awareness for pedestrian, cycling, and other alternative transportation options.
- participatory urban art, innovative fitness, and emerging cultural experiences that encourage a re-imagining of how public spaces such as streets are regarded and used.
- expanded dialogue around our energy use.

For more info on this and other programs of the Arusha Centre, please go to <http://arusha.org/our-work/>, or call Gerald at 403-270-3200.