

PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY

Peace News

APRIL 2017



PROJECT PLOUGHSHARES CALGARY MOVIE NIGHT BRINGING DOWN A DICTATOR

Bringing Down A Dictator is a 56-minute documentary film by Steve York about the nonviolent defeat of Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic. It focuses on the contributions of the student-led Otpor! movement.

Discussion facilitated by Professor Pablo Policzer after viewing.

Wednesday, April 12, 2017
Parkdale United Church (Conference Room—Basement)
2919—8 Avenue NW
7:00—8:30 pm

Donations according to ability gratefully accepted

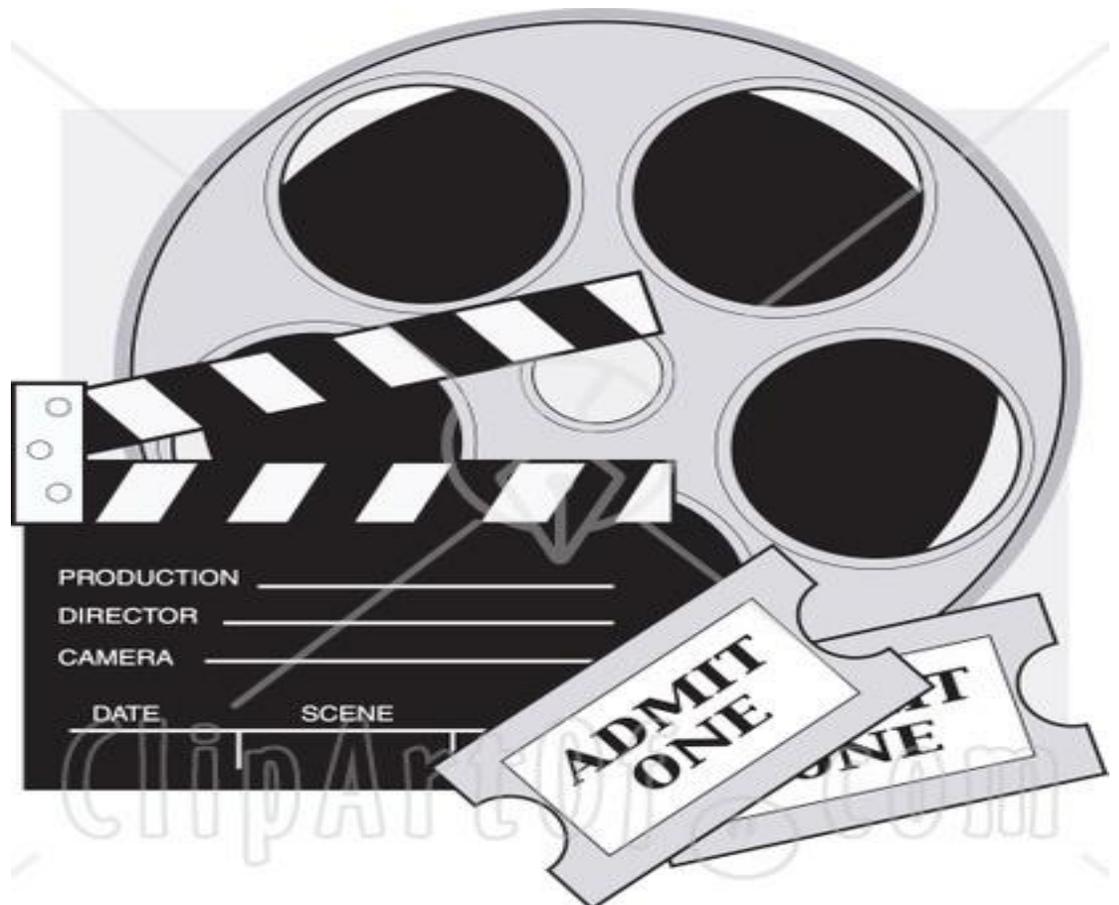
We are located:

Parkdale United
Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8

403- 270-7366

Office hours:

M, T, Th 10 - 3 pm
W 2 - 7 pm



CHANGES AT PROJECT PLOUGHSHARES CALGARY

As informed on March 20th, after a review of Canada Revenue Agency's rules and regulations, Project Ploughshares National will no longer be able to issue tax receipts for donations made to local groups. The CRA requirement that Project Ploughshares National stop issuing receipts for local groups was mainly due to the lack of clear, demonstrable direction and control—this would have to be real direction and control from the Canadian Council of Churches, which they do not have the capacity to implement.

Our readers, members and supporters know that Project Ploughshares Calgary was formed in 1982 and has done excellent work in the areas of peacebuilding, nuclear disarmament, conflict transformation and social justice issues. We have impacted the Calgary community through programs such as Puppets for Peace, two separate social studies curriculum modules (on Anti-Bullying and nuclear weapons abolition), 31 annual Holiday Peace Fairs, and scores of educational meetings and events. None of these would have been possible without your donations, support and good-will. For this we are sincerely grateful.

As you were advised, the Board has met and we will be forming a new non-profit society. We will keep you informed of the status of our application as time progresses. We do realize that the process to receive the charitable status is difficult for groups engaging with the government in seeking political change and respectfully urge you to continue supporting us personally and financially as we go thru the process of applying for non-profit and charitable status.

We are very grateful to all who have contacted us and have sent in donations following this notice. Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated and your donations will help to keep our doors open as we apply for and await the status of our application. For those who have not yet decided, we urge you to donate whatever you can so that we may continue to work towards educating and informing the public about working toward a world free from nuclear weapons.

We continue to look forward to seeing you at our future educational events.

Excerpts from Globe and Mail's article on Nuclear Talks—Monday, March 27, 2017

THAKUR and JARAMILLO

Canada's absence betrays its history on Nuclear Talks

Ramesh Thakur is a professor at the Australian National University and co-convenor of the [Asia-Pacific Leadership Network for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament](#). Cesar Jaramillo is executive director of Project Ploughshares in Waterloo, Ont.

Negotiations begin Monday at the United Nations in New York on a “legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading toward their total elimination.” These talks flow from resolutions adopted late last year by the General Assembly in landslide votes. These negotiations could be the most significant multilateral development on nuclear-arms control since the indefinite extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1995 and the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty in 1996.

The impetus behind the talks is growing consciousness of nuclear dangers, frustration at the glacial pace of nuclear-disarmament efforts, and exasperation at the nuclear-weapon states' disregard of their legal disarmament obligations. Most of them – and most U.S. allies that shelter under its nuclear umbrella, including Canada and Australia – won't be at the UN talks.

Last October, Washington called on allies to vote against ban treaty negotiations and not to join ensuing negotiations. States heeding the U.S. request are on the wrong side of history and humanity. Their refusal to participate is flawed on substance and probably in breach of their NPT obligation to promote nuclear disarmament. It is also a self-defeating tactic as they are rejecting the opportunity to influence the debate and shape the text of the eventual treaty.

Canada's proud record of leadership in nuclear-arms-control initiatives makes its submission to U.S. obstructionism especially egregious.

... More than 15,000 nuclear warheads continue to threaten Earth. Even a limited nuclear exchange would bring incalculable loss of life to humans, animals, plants and ecosystems. Yet, while every other category of weapon of mass destruction has been specifically prohibited under international law, nuclear weapons have not.

... Negotiations signal a recognition that a ban treaty can be useful in creating the structures necessary to support a world free of nuclear weapons. Of course, only nuclear-weapon states can take practical steps to reduce and eliminate these weapons. But a ban treaty will reinforce the boundary between conventional and nuclear weapons, strengthen the norm of non-use of nuclear weapons and make nuclear planning more problematic, and reaffirm non-proliferation and disarmament norms.

... The nuclear-weapon policy goals can be summarized as: cap and contain; de-legitimize; reduce; prohibit; and eliminate. Only those possessing nuclear weapons can undertake the first, third and fifth tasks. But non-nuclear-weapon states can pursue the other two goals – stigmatization and prohibition – as an affirmation of global norms. In this way, they exert pressure on possessor states to pursue the other three goals.

Despite the nuclear powers' endless excuses, the international community considers a ban treaty urgent, essential and – absent any arms control negotiations today – the only practical way to achieve real disarmament.

To read full article visit:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/canadas-absence-betrays-its-history-on-nuclear-talks/article34427081/>

Pod cast (MP3) Cesar's talk starts from after 02:00 followed by the interview with David Welch, a professor of Political science, University of Waterloo, who highly praised Project Ploughshares' work as raising consciousness for nuclear disarmament and keeping moral pressure for that (starting from 12:25).

http://podcast.cbc.ca/mp3/podcasts/current_20170328_17038.mp3

For more readings on Nuclear Disarmament and the UN negotiations the week of March 27, 2017 please visit:

http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/helene-laverdiere/trudeau-nuclear-disarmament_b_15625872.html

Throughout history, it has been the inaction of those who could have acted; the indifference of those who should have known better; the silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most; that has made it possible for evil to triumph.....Haile Selassie

In February we viewed the documentary by Gene Sharp, “How to Start a Revolution”

In the documentary, Gene Sharp talks of the lessons to learn and the 198 methods of non-violent actions. Last month, we provided you with the 198 methods of non-violent actions. This month, we provide you with the 6 lessons Mr. Sharp talks about in the documentary.

How to Start a Revolution:

Lesson 1: Plan a strategy

Lesson 2: Overcome “Atomisation”

Lesson 3: Pillars of Support

Lesson 4: Resist Violence

Lesson 5: Political Ju-Jitsu

Lesson 6: Don’t Give Up

To read the full transcript of the documentary please visit:

<http://www.mediaed.org/transcripts/How-to-Start-a-Revolution-Transcript.pdf>

Last month we provided you with stats on military spending and nuclear weapons. This month we provide you with stats on space security, armed conflicts and conventional weapons— reprinted from Project Ploughshares Report leaflet.

SPACE SECURITY:

263 dedicated military satellites (excluding dual or multipurpose)	21,000 approx. number of pieces of catalogued space debris larger than 10 cm in diameter as of December 2015	1,381 operational satellite as of December 2015
3 states to demonstrate ground-based anti-satellite capabilities (ASAT)		

ARMED CONFLICTS:

29 Armed conflicts worldwide	43% of world’s armed conflicts In Africa	armed conflicts that ranked Low on Human Development Index 2015
55,219 people killed in Syrian Armed conflict 2015	42% of countries hosting world’s	

CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS:

130 number of signatories to Arms Trade Treaty as of Dec. 2015	88% increase in Chinese arms exports from 2006-2010 To 2011-2015	\$94.5 billion global arms trade 2014
74% of global arms exported by five countries - China, Russia, United States, Germany and France 2011-2015.		

We continue to spotlight our Peace Fair Vendors who are making a difference. By supporting our Peace Fair, you are supporting them too.

High River United Church One World Market

This loosely structured project is an attempt to support social justice groups around the world. There are six separate segments:

- 1) Fair Trade coffee, tea, and spice. Fair Trade ensures that a reasonable profit is paid to growers in the south. Our UCW sells enough Fair Trade products to pay for all the coffee used in our busy church kitchen.
- 2) Stephen Lewis Foundation Grandmother's Project. Items made by our ladies craft group are sold to support grannies in Africa raising children because the parents have died of AIDS.
- 3) Zatoun Olive Oil Products. Last year, United Churches across Canada were challenged to sell these products in a show of solidarity with Palestinians losing their land to Israeli occupation.
- 4) Hola Mexico. For 10 years now, HR United Church has supported a Catholic orphanage in Ceurnavaca, Mexico by selling Mexican vanilla and holding a Mexican Sunday lunch each October.



5) Melia Art and Training Centre, Jerusalem. This is a self-help workshop where Palestinian women create their traditional embroidery in order to support their families. Our sales provide a market for their work.

6) Servants Anonymous. This group is a world-wide rescue programme for women attempting to leave the sex trade. We sell jewellery made in Nepal by women in the SA workshop in Kathmandu again, creating a market for this beautiful work.

Approximately \$1000.00 is raised every year for each of these projects. High River United Church is proud of its legacy of compassion and we would welcome enquiries about any part of our One World Market.

Submitted by Joy Duncan. E-mail duncanjj@telus.net.

CASA COROZON

Our mission at Casa Corazon is to help develop and increase markets for Indigenous Mayan artisan family businesses and cooperatives. Anyone in business will tell you that this can be the hardest task!... Mary Lyn

Maria ESPERANZA Hernandez Lopez is a 37 year old owner and manager of the Mayan Boutique www.mayanboutique.com in Antigua, Guatemala.

Esperanza comes from the indigenous town of San Antonio Aguas Caliente near to Antigua. She is one of 10 children-7 girls and 3 boys in a very poor family. In Guatemala only the first 6 grades are free and in theory, mandatory. Esperanza left school after the third grade because she didn't like it and she saw that there was never enough of anything in her home and wanted to help. When she was twelve years old she became a street vendor like many others from her town in Antigua where there are many national and foreign tourists. Street vendors sell 'tipicas', that is hand woven scarves, table runners, bead jewelry made by indigenous craftsmen. They often carry up to fifty pounds of goods wrapped in a bundle over their backs and on top of their heads. Their days are long, 8-12 hours and they can go for days without selling anything. This is the work that Esperanza did until she was 25 years old. During this time she got an education. When she was 15, she attended night classes for two years to complete her primary school to Grade 6. Then she studied weekends for five years to complete secretarial school. Next was a college business degree which took three years attending part time from 6-10 p.m. two evenings a week. Along the way, she picked up enough English to work with foreigners and as a hotel receptionist.



Her goal was to set up a shop in Antigua where the rents are high and the competition is fierce. Her husband, Martin, who she met in 2000, was like minded. Together, step by step, they built a business that actually makes goods made from repurposed hand woven fabric. They produce bags, clothing, jewelry and boots. They have foreign wholesale clients, like Casa Corazon, who they work with to make custom designed goods. The business now employs seven family members in production, sewing and design. Esperanza is a wonderful example to her Mayan community of what hard work and education can accomplish.

For more info please visit: www.casacorazon.ca



SAVE THESE DATES

Project Ploughshares Calgary invites you to join us for these Events:

March 30 to April 1, 2017—Vision 2020 Symposium on Human Security—Calgary Model

Tickets prices: 2-day conference: \$20; 1-day conference \$15; 1 session only \$10.

Please find here the link for registration for the Key Note on the 30th:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/2020-vision-for-humanity-symposium-keynote-panel-building-a-culture-of-peace-in-our-community-tickets-30710649379>

And for the remaining conference days:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/2020-vision-for-humanity-symposium-building-a-culture-of-peace-in-our-community-conference-tickets-32706815967>

April 12, 2017 - “Bringing Down A Dictator” 7—9 pm

At Parkdale United Church,
Conference Room in the basement.
2919—8 Avenue NW

Discussion facilitated by Professor Pablo Policzer after viewing.

Admission free—donations welcomed

Other Events Around Town:

2017 Environmental Film Series

April 7, 2017—”A New Economy”

6:30 - 9 pm

Unitarian Church of Calgary, 1703 1st Street NW

Donations accepted at the door

Bring a dessert to share

For more information, contact the Green Sanctuary Committee at greensanctuary@unitarianscalgary.org or visit our website: <http://unitarianscalgary.org/>



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Bringing Down A Dictator (56 min) documents the spectacular defeat of Slobodan Milosevic in October, 2000, not by force of arms, as many had predicted, but by an ingenious nonviolent strategy of honest elections and massive civil disobedience.

To read the interview of,

How We Brought Down a Dictator

10 years later: A conversation with Srdja Popovic, a leader in the the nonviolent overthrow of Slobodan Milosevic.

Please visit: <http://www.yesmagazine.org/peace-justice/how-we-brought-down-a-dictator>

A New Economy is about people making a fresh start towards building a new economy. Watch as several organizations move towards a more cooperative future by experimenting with open and non-traditional business models. By rewarding human effort fairly and proportionately instead of obsessing about the bottom line, these revolutionary businesses are creating a more people-friendly future, creating new ways to make money and make it sustainably.



Project Ploughshares Calgary

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Special thanks to all who submitted articles & Tracey Braun for editing this issue of the newsletter.



We are very grateful to all our supporters and donors for their continued support of the important peace work that we do here at Project Ploughshares Calgary.

During the month of March we received \$420.00 in donations and our volunteers contributed approximately 97 hours to support our organization.

Thank you!