

**PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY
SOCIETY**

Peace News

JUNE 2018



We are located at:

Parkdale United Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8

403-270-7366

Office hours:
By Appointment

*Encouraging informed dialogue on peace and
social justice issues since 1982*

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of
PLOUGHSHARES CALGARY SOCIETY (PCS)
Invite you to attend
PCS's 2017-2018**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13TH 2018
7—9 pm, Parkdale United Church,
Conference Room (in the basement)

*Rev. John Pentland will present on "Leaving
Things Better Than We Found Them"*

Rev. Pentland is a forward thinking minister,
highly regarded in Calgary for his leadership,
inspiration and community building.

**Do not miss his inspiring and enlightening
presentation!**

See you there.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

PLOUGHSHARES CALGARY SOCIETY

WOULD LIKE TO INFORM YOU THAT

CONSUL GENERAL GUNN KIM

OF SOUTH KOREA

WILL BE SPEAKING TO US ON

NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM IN THE
NORTH and PEACE ISSUES
FACING THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH KOREA

ON MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2018

AT 7:00 PM

At Parkdale United Church
2919—8 Avenue NW
In the auditorium

We hope to see you for this important talk

SUMMARY OF PAST EVENTS:

The conference **Challenges of Peace and War** was held at Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church in Calgary on May 5. This event was helpfully and effectively co-organized by Ploughshares Calgary along with the Calgary Association for Lifelong Learners (CALL). Some seventy participants came to the event, which was also attended by resource persons, several volunteers from CALL and Ploughshares, and representatives of Amnesty International. The conference featured a keynote address by Prof. Robert Huebert (Political Science and Strategic Studies, University of Calgary); panel presentations by Abe Jantzen, Mark Ayyash, Trudy Govier, and Captain John Vintar; lunch; presentation of the film 'In Pursuit of Peace' (NFB); and several discussion sessions.

In his keynote address Rob Huebert offered a commentary and analysis of struggles for political power in the global context, beginning with an analysis of the competitive positions of Russia, China, and the United States. He commented on the current situation regarding North Korea, with its nuclear weapons and harsh rhetoric against the United States, mentioning recent malfunctioning at a key test site. Huebert described the West and, through alliances, Canada, as continuing to rely for security on nuclear deterrence. Several members of the audience questioned his apparent complacency about this situation, arguing that it was unstable and dangerous. In response, he admitted that with volatile leadership and ever-shortening time frames for decision-making, the nuclear situation was 'scary'.

Following morning coffee, panel member Abe Jantzen (Mennonite Central Committee) described his visits to Israel and Palestine, including moving encounters with persons whose children had been killed in the conflict and who had shifted their efforts to engagement with the other side, making efforts for better relationships. Mark Ayyash (Sociology and Peace Studies, MRU) described the lasting effects of colonialism on the peoples of the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. He urged the importance of cultural and historical understanding. Responding to a question about Islamic extremism in Nigeria, Ayyash said that many persons were engaged with extremist groups because the state was unable to deliver to them the stability and resources needed for life. Trudy Govier (Ploughshares, *Emerita* University of Lethbridge) bemoaned rudeness and hostility undermining civil discourse, urging that even harsh military conflicts will end with people talking to each other, and they have to be able to do that, while attending to relevant facts and refraining from insulting each other. A culminating presentation by Captain John Vintar (Canadian Armed Forces, Kingston) described the work of the Canadian military in South Sudan and its coordination with humanitarian work done in the area.

After lunch, the film 'In Pursuit of Peace' was introduced by Madelyn McKay, who came from Nelson, B.C. to facilitate the discussion. Nonviolent conflict resolution efforts and training were illustrated and explained, with examples from a variety of contexts: Kurds in Iraq, trainees in Turkey, and activists in the South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. A lively discussion followed. Madelyn, who has been active in civilian peacemaking, knew several of the persons whose conflict resolution efforts were featured in the film.

The conference was appreciated and stimulated interest on the part of many, including participants who were relatively new to the topics explored.



Ploughshares Monthly Educational Meeting, May 16

Professor Chris Roberts (Political Science, University of Calgary) presented a detailed and careful analysis of the recently announced Canadian initiative to participate in United Nations peacekeeping efforts in Mali. Opinion is divided on this mission. Persons supportive of Canadian peacekeeping – and this would include many if not all Ploughshares members – welcome Canada's return to UN efforts. Our participation is welcomed by allies such as France and by the UN itself. Most peacekeeping needed of late is in Africa, and Mali in that context is suitable as the "least worst" situation, according to Roberts. On the other hand, Canadian armed forces will enter a complex situation that will be dangerous and is not well understood.

Effectively employing power point material with maps, graphs, and relevant historical information, Roberts explained that the southern part of Mali is comparatively stable, while the northern part is contested both by rival political and tribal groups and by extremists loyal to ISIS and al Qaeda. Canada has been involved in development assistance to Mali for some years, and there is a government to support with some credibility and meriting support, in the southern part of the country. In the north, conditions are poor; this is where peacekeeping efforts are going on and where our participation will be needed. The mission will be complex and dangerous. Alarmingly, there is evidence that there are few efforts to understand the cultural context and complexity of the situation.

Through the work of Lester B. Pearson, Canada was an initiator of U.N. peacekeeping and a leading participant in such efforts for some decades. However, over the past 20 years, we have had very minimal involvement. The nature of peacekeeping has changed dramatically: peacekeepers are now involved in combat regions in civil war contexts in which they may come to be targets requiring them to defend themselves with military force.

To read Hon. Doug Roche's Address to Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons,
“The Vision of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World: Five Starting Points”

Ottawa, April 19, 2018

please click here: <http://ploughsharescalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/RocheSpeechApril18.pdf>

~~~~~

Dear friends and colleagues,

Nuclear abolition campaigners from around the world met in New York on May 11 to discuss strategies and to build cooperation amongst disarmament campaigns.

There were lively and productive discussions on nuclear risk-reduction, war prevention, 'Move the Nuclear Weapons Money', nuclear-weapon-free zones, youth actions, engaging legislators and outreach to broader human rights, environment and faith-based communities.

Read more: <https://mailchi.mp/baselpeaceoffice/state-of-the-world-abolition-2000-campaign-and-strategy-meeting?e=14cbd4c32c>

~~~~~

Dear Friends,

On May 24, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres will release Securing our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament, a new initiative to address the humanitarian impact of armed conflict and the increased threats from arms races, international tensions and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

...

May 24 is also the *Women's International Day for Peace and Disarmament*. Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament (PNND) are using the occasion to release *Common security for a sustainable and nuclear-weapon-free world*, a joint parliamentary statement commemorating the day and supporting the UNSG's initiative.

Continue reading: <https://mailchi.mp/unfoldzero/un-secretary-general-to-release-new-disarmament-initiative-on-womens-day-for-peace-and-disarmament?e=47295b8d34>

Floating Lantern Peace Ceremony

Saturday, August 4th, 2018

8 pm—10 pm

Olympic Plaza, Calgary

In memory of all those impacted by the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and in solidarity toward a peaceful world free from nuclear weapons.

Keynote Speaker: Hon. Douglas Roche, O.C.

Live music, colorful lanterns, friendships, snacks.

**If you would like to volunteer,
please email: office@ploughsharescalgary.ca
Or call 403-270-7366 and leave a message.**

We look forward to seeing you there!



Ploughshares Calgary Society
 2919 8th Ave. NW
 Calgary AB T2N 1C8
 (403) 270-7366

Special thanks to all who submitted articles & Trudy Govier and Sally Hodges for editing this issue of the newsletter.



If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, you may unsubscribe at any time by just emailing us your request.



We are very grateful for your loyal moral and financial support over the past years. Because of you, we have been able to work toward peace and educate about peace. As we approach our AGM, we hope you will continue to support us. If you haven't already sent in your donation, please consider donating soon. If you have already sent in your donations for 2018, we thank you most sincerely.

Ploughshares Calgary Society

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



- \$ 50
- \$100
- \$250
- \$500
- \$1000
- I'd like to make a monthly donation of \$_____
- I'd like to volunteer
- Other Amount (Specify) \$_____

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Donation Options: Cheque PayPal Cash

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

Please mail completed form with donation to:

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

Please note that we are unable to provide tax receipts at this time.