

PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY

Peace News

APRIL 2010



We are located:

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

403- 270-7366

Office hours:

**Mon, Tue, Thurs
10:30am - 3pm**

Wed 2 - 6pm

The Art of Peace! with Fif Fernandes and Carolyn Pogue



7:30pm Wednesday April 14th

Parkdale United Church—2919 8th Ave NW



Fif Fernandes and Carolyn Pogue will speak about using the arts to explore and achieve peace. Together Fif and Carolyn call themselves *PeaceJam*, a couple of slightly off-the-wall women who might use story, puppetry, music, laughter yoga, breathing or visual arts to help young people focus on peace with self, nature, family, community and the world. They are the co-founders of *The Art of Peace: A Camp for Kids*, a regular summer event for artists and for children aged 9 to 13. Since the first Art of Peace Camp in Calgary 5 years ago, there have been 4 other camps started, from Halifax to Gulu, Uganda.

When they are not presenting as PeaceJam, you may find Carolyn writing another peace book or giving a workshop about writing to change the world in a school or library. You might find Fif as Shanti Amani Salaama the Peace Fairy at Banker's Hall or as Jumpa, the Therapeutic Clown at the Children's Hospital.

www.theartofpeacecamps.com www.youtube.com/user/theartofpeacecamps



Small Arms Big Impact: Addressing Violence in Communities

Project Ploughshares Calgary's Spring Workshop

Friday May 14th 7-9pm and Saturday May 15th 9am—4:30pm

Project Ploughshares Calgary is pleased to have staff from the Project Ploughshares national office out for our spring workshop this year. **Maribel Gonzales** and **Ken Epps** have many years of experience between them working nationally and internationally on the topic reducing armed violence. A comparative approach will be used drawing on cases both from the Caribbean (where Project Ploughshares currently has a project) and from Alberta and the rest of Canada. Several experts, including a Caribbean staff person, will present.

The Friday evening portion of the workshop will be a screening of the 2008 film *Devil's Bargain: A Journey into the Small Arms Trade* which is by Canadian director Shelley Saywell, of Bishari Films. This portion of the workshop will be free and at the U of C, location TBA.

The Saturday portion of the workshop will cover:

- Small Arms Proliferation: the International Response
- Canada's International and Domestic Action on Controlling Small Arms Proliferation
- Reducing Armed Violence in the Community: Initiatives to Improve Community Safety
- Civil Society and Citizen Action to Reduce Armed Violence

The Saturday portion of the workshop will be held at the Bow Cliff Senior's Centre (608 Poplar Road SW) and the cost is: Regular (before May 10th): \$40, Regular (after May 10th): \$45, Student / Low Income: \$20. Refreshments and lunch are included.

Contact the Ploughshares Calgary office for more info or to register.

Ploughshares Calgary News

Dr. Arthur Clark on Global Citizenship prior to Ploughshares Calgary AGM Wednesday June 9th 7:30pm at Parkdale United Church (2919 8th Ave NW)

Dr. Arthur Clark will be sharing from his new book, *The ABCs of Human Survival* (scheduled to be released this month), in addition to providing an update on the status of the Calgary Centre for Global Community.

The ABCs of Human Survival examines the effect of militant nationalism and the lawlessness of powerful states on the well-being of individuals and communities; and the essential role of global citizenship in that dynamic. Based on analysis of world events, Dr. Clark presents militant nationalism as a pathological pattern of thinking that threatens our security, while emphasizing effective democracy and international law as indispensable frameworks for human protection. Within the contexts of history, sociology, philosophy, and spirituality, *The ABCs of Human Survival* calls into question the assumptions of consumer culture and offers, as an alternative, strategies to improve overall well-being through the important choices we make as individuals.

Following Dr. Clark's presentation, Ploughshares Calgary will hold a brief Annual General Meeting for supporters and interested individuals, sharing a summary of the previous year's activities in addition to the 2010 budget.

Program and Project Updates

Project Ploughshares Calgary has embarked on a project to invite Calgary **Order of Canada** recipients to join with 502 other OC's in Canada who are calling on the Government of Canada to endorse and begin negotiations for a **Nuclear Weapons Convention** (Treaty). Volunteers are finding the addresses for over 90 recipients who live in Calgary. It is hoped that, if funding is received, we will hold a special event for those who join this call for a Treaty. Stay posted and let us know if you would like to help with this project in some way. Later, when the abolition of nuclear weapons is agreed to, you will know that you helped!



To generate bookings, **Puppets for Peace** had two draws for a free show and a promotion of \$100 per show in April. Miraculously, the schedule was filled and the shows broke even. Congratulations to the Committee for their imagination, courage and belief in Puppets for Peace. Spread the word! They are accepting bookings for the Fall now. Two shows available, Grades K through 3 (bully-proofing), and Grades 4 to 6 (empowerment and taking responsibility). A recent evaluation described them as 'absolutely fabulous!'.

GARAGE SALE! *Ploughshares is hoping to have a garage sale in June...but where? Please start saving next-to-new items and consider phoning us at 403-270-7366 to offer your driveway. We will provide the marketing, volunteers and items.*

Building Momentum toward Zero Nuclear Weapons (part 1 of 2, part 2 of 2 in May edition)

Ploughshares' March 13th mini-workshop informed and inspired the two dozen attendees. Bev DeLong's PowerPoints on which the following summary is based will soon be available at www.abolishnuclearweapons.ca.

I Abolition: The Basics

- USA, Russia, France, China and Britain still possess 22,125 nuclear weapons
- Israel, India, Pakistan, North Korea possess 215 to 259
- Hiroshima experienced 197,000 deaths (as of 1996), 78,000 injuries
- Nagasaki experienced 73,884 deaths, 74,909 injuries
- Nuclear testing in Nevada has caused an estimated 49,000 deaths
- US military sources disclose that roughly one serious accident with a nuclear weapon occurs every year
- Power of modern warheads is between 10 and 150 times the size of the Hiroshima bomb.
- 1 megaton (modern) bomb kills through: fireball hotter than sun, blast air wave, 600km/hr winds.
- 100 Hiroshima sized weapons in India and Pakistan would produce World War II fatality counts and significantly disrupt the global climate for at least a decade. Cold and reduced precipitation would greatly harm global crop production.

Question. How else are nuclear weapons used? Answer. For bullying other states and for status.

The use of nuclear weapons has been threatened more than twenty times since their advent. Code words for a threat: 'All options are on the table'.

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Reintegration and reconciliation in Afghanistan: In what order and at what price?

Excerpts of article by Ernie Regehr, Spring 2010 Monitor www.ploughshares.ca/libraries/monitor/monm10g.pdf

The guns of the US-led military surge were blazing with renewed zeal in Afghanistan's Helmand Province in February. But off the battlefield, much of the talk and not a few questions focused on the merits of reintegration and reconciliation. Would the escalated fighting be an effective route to the diplomacy that is essential to finally ending the war? Could effective reintegration precede such reconciliation diplomacy and a ceasefire? Will reconciliation mean losing the gains made in human rights and civil liberties?

In the current parlance of the Afghanistan conflict, reintegration is the wartime effort to persuade rank-and-file insurgents to quit fighting and lay down their arms in exchange for personal safety, immunity, and employment. Reconciliation is diplomacy that seeks to engage insurgency leaders in pursuit of a political settlement that will end the fighting. And, of course, many are hoping that the former can help to create favourable conditions for the latter.

The reintegration of former combatants into society is an essential, and effective, post-conflict measure to stabilize a ceasefire and to consolidate peace, but as a wartime tactic to undermine a still vigorous insurgency it has no persuasive precedent.....It is a common testimony of Afghans that few of those now in the insurgency will be at ease on the sidelines of the war, turning away from the enormous personal and communal sacrifices already made to live as wards of the very government and international forces that their own community views with undiminished suspicion.

The hope that intensified warfare will hasten the insurgents' move to a negotiating table has to contend with the sobering reality that more than eight years of war, including continuing civilian deaths at the hands of international forces, have not only failed to set the insurgents back on their heels, but have witnessed the growth and spread of the insurgency.

This conspicuous failure to promote reconciliation reflects a larger reluctance in the international community to fully embrace a diplomatic track for ending the conflict....many of those who are open to reconciliation in principle worry both about timing and about the human rights implications.

It is clear that reconciliation, supported by effective reintegration programs, points the way out of the Afghanistan war, but two hard realities must be faced. First, reintegration must be recalibrated as a product or follow-on to a political settlement; reintegration is unlikely to be the means to a political settlement. Second, for a durable political settlement in Afghanistan to preserve and gradually expand the rights and freedoms of Afghans, the process leading to it will have to be comprehensive, including Afghans from all walks of life and communities, and guided by human rights law and basic principles of transitional justice.

In the final stages of negotiations to end any protracted war, when the focus turns to exit strategies, negotiators are invariably tempted to cut deals, even if that means trading away commitments to inclusiveness and basic principles of justice. It is a temptation they can't resist on their own – they need the guidance of a fully engaged and consulted population. That in turn means the international community now needs to become fully fixated on developing the mechanisms for engagement and consultation that will draw in all segments of Afghan society and earn the cooperation of Afghanistan's neighbours – in other words, a mechanism to meaningfully consult those whose future is on the line.

Join the Interfaith Leaders' G8/G20 Campaign

From Ploughshares' March 29th E-Newsletter www.ploughshares.ca/libraries/Newsletter/Issue23Mar10.html

On June 25-26 the leaders of the G8 nations will meet in Huntsville, and on June 26-27 the G20 leaders will meet in Toronto. Religious leaders from around the world will meet on June 21-23 in Winnipeg to formulate their call to the G8 and G20 summits to address poverty, care for our planet, and to invest in peace.

In preparation for these major events, local faith communities in Canada are asked to join together in hosting an interfaith dinner with their federal Member of Parliament as a guest. A link to detailed information on how to stage such an event can be found on the home page of the Interfaith Summit: http://faithchallengeg8.com/home_en.html.

Individuals also are encouraged to sign a petition that can be accessed on the Summit's home page or found directly at <http://petition.faitchallengeg8.com/>. The petition urges "our government representatives to set aside short-term agendas and work together for a future that allows all citizens of this planet to thrive."



Project Ploughshares Calgary

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Special thanks to Diane Janzen, Larry Kennard and Sally Hodges for their work writing and editing this issue of the newsletter.

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 2010 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)

Building Momentum toward Zero Nuclear Weapons

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International Humanitarian Law says:

- self defence must be proportional to the attack and necessary
- civilians must never be the object
- prohibited to cause unnecessary suffering to combatants
- must not affect states that are not parties to the conflict
- must not cause severe, widespread, long term damage to the environment

Why is there more concern now?

New states have acquired nuclear weapons. Proliferation is becoming more likely. At the last US nuclear policy review it was stated that US would consider using nuclear weapons

- against 7 particular states
- in response to chemical or biological weapons
- in the case of 'surprising military developments'

These would all be unlawful uses. The policies for use by NATO normally mirror US policies. If so, Canada could be involved in unlawful policies.

How does Canada support the use of nuclear weapons?

1. participates in NORAD's warning and attack assessments
2. contributes staff and funding to NATO's nuclear infrastructure
3. permits US to port their nuclear armed submarines in our harbors
4. permits US bombers to train in our airspace
5. participates in the NATO nuclear planning group which is responsible for NATO's nuclear weapon policies

Toward a world without nuclear weapons

Excerpts from a March 26th letter in The Globe and Mail by Jean Chrétien, Joe Clark, Ed Broadbent and Lloyd Axworthy

At the end of the Second World War, Canada was one of the few countries that possessed the technology and raw materials needed to produce nuclear weapons. In the wake of the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Canadian leaders of the day, shocked at the terrifying power of the bomb, renounced that option and turned their attention to achieving an international agreement to control the spread of nuclear weapons and to free humanity from the risk of annihilation.

New nuclear weapons states have emerged. Others are on the point of becoming nuclear capable. And these states cannot be counted on to adhere to the doctrine of "mutually assured destruction" that ironically helped keep the peace between NATO and the Warsaw Pact throughout the Cold War.

It is thus a welcome development that more and more statesmen have been sounding a wake-up call to governments and peoples to deal urgently with the nuclear crisis. President Barack Obama has launched a debate in the United States. He has been joined by others in Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy and Australia. A number of specific proposals have been made to further the goal of eventually abolishing nuclear weapons in their entirety.

We believe that the future of humanity is as threatened now as it was at the end of the Second World War from proliferation of nuclear weapons. There are many good ideas already on the table to begin to tackle the issues, but unless action is taken now, the situation could become catastrophic.

We therefore support the goals of our colleagues in the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy and Australia and call on governments and ordinary people everywhere to push for action now before it is too late.