

PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY

Peace News

FEBRUARY 2015



We are located:

Parkdale United
Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8

403-270-7366

Office hours:

Mon Tues & Wed
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Project Ploughshares Calgary Peace Education Presentation

From the Heart



Compassion and Community

Wednesday February 11, 2015 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Parkdale United Church
2919 – 8 Avenue NW

*Stories of positive peace;
Courage in the face of uncertainty*

Swati Fernando, M.A. Registered Social Worker
and others will recount times when their commitment
to compassion brought relief in extremely difficult circumstances



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Ploughshares News



Spirituality and the Environment

Wednesday January 14, 2015 - 7:00 - 8:30 PM

What do spirituality and the environment have in common? How do various spiritual traditions view our role in caring for the environment? This well-attended presentation showed that various faith traditions strongly encourage their adherents to look after the planet - that without fresh air, water, and soil we cannot sustain ourselves, and that we are all intricately connected with each other and our environment. Our deepest thanks to Dr. Anne White of the U of C Religious Studies Department, Tim Nethercott, United Church minister and U of C Chaplain, Tracey Braun, Chair of Project Ploughshares who represented the Pagan tradition, and Salma Mohiuddin from Western Muslims Initiative for an incredibly informative and inspiring evening that sparked a lot of discussion!



2020 Vision for Humanity Symposium Friday March 27 - Sunday March 29, 2015 Parkdale United Church

The 2020 Vision for Humanity is an independent network of Calgarians working for the abolition of nuclear weapons and for a profound change in the conditions that lead human beings to produce such weapons. We promote awareness of the challenges to human security worldwide, and how we can meet those challenges. In accord with the mandate of Mayors for Peace, we do this by addressing root causes of violent conflict; by raising awareness of life-affirming alternatives; and by encouraging Calgarians and others to participate in related work.

This year's Symposium is co-chaired by Dr. Arthur Clark and Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish, a Palestinian physician and an internationally recognized human rights and inspirational peace activist.

Our keynote speaker, Ernie Regehr, OC is a Canadian peace researcher and expert in security and disarmament. The title of his address is "Fighting to Lose: The Limits of Military Force". He co-founded Project Ploughshares, a peace research organization based in Waterloo, Ontario, with Murray Thomson in 1976 and served as its Executive Director for thirty years. Regehr has been a Canadian NGO representative and expert advisor at numerous international disarmament forums including UN Conferences on Small Arms. Regehr is currently a Research Fellow at the Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies at Conrad Grebel University College (Waterloo, Ontario) and The Simons Foundation (Vancouver, BC).

Dr. Clark is a Professor Emeritus of Neuropathology and Clinical Neurosciences at the University of Calgary. He is a citizen of the United States and of Canada, and served as a Captain in the US Army Medical Corps 1971-73, during the era of the Vietnam War. Dr. Clark has been active in public affairs since the time of the 1990-91 crisis involving Iraq. His emphasis has been on the necessity of responsible global citizenship and on the failure of governments to uphold international law as a major factor jeopardizing human security.

Dr. Abuelaish was the first Palestinian doctor to receive an appointment in Medicine at an Israeli hospital. Dr. Abuelaish's internationally best-selling book, *I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity*, an autobiography that centers on his life, his achievements, and the loss of his daughters and nieces in the 2009 Gaza War, has been translated to 23 languages and has achieved critical acclaim. It has become a testament to his commitment to forgiveness as the solution to conflict and the catalyst towards peace.

We encourage you to look at the website [here](#) for more information. Click [here](#) to purchase your tickets.

Upcoming Peace Education Presentations

Parkdale United Church Conference Room, 2919 - 8 Avenue NW - 7:00 - 8:30 PM



Wednesday March 11, 2015 - Women and Peace. We will be discussing women's roles in maintaining and sustaining peace with activists from local women's groups. Stay tuned for more info!

Saturday April 25, 2015 - Annual Spring Workshop - Youth Participation in Peace

Activities: What Projects Engage You? Further information available soon.



Make a Difference!

DONATE

It's a New Year! Time to plan your yearly giving, and we are hoping that you will remember your local Peace Education Organization!

The month of December saw \$ ___ in donations, while January's total was \$ _____. We need your help to maintain some of the best peace education programs and activities in the city! Thanks so much for your consideration of Project Ploughshares Calgary.



If you or someone you know would be interested in being on our Organizing Team for Ploughshares annual spring workshop, please contact Karen at 403-270-7366 or email her at office@ploughsharescalgary.ca. This year's workshop is all about youth engagement, so youth input from the start is essential.



Mennonite Central Committee

Mennonite Central Committee - Crisis Relief, South Sudan

The ongoing crisis in South Sudan has left an estimated 3.8 million people in need of food assistance and the UN estimates that 1.5 million people are at crisis levels of food insecurity.

More than 1.5 million people have been displaced; over 1.4 million inside South Sudan with more than 450,000 now in neighbouring countries. In addition to displacement, the violence has prevented farmers from planting for the next growing season, which means that many people will require food assistance in the months to come.

Your gift today will help MCC and partner organizations in South Sudan:

- provide food baskets for 10,028 vulnerable displaced people in Mundri
- supply 11,340 displaced people in Budi County with monthly food vouchers
- provide three days of food to 300 vulnerable South Sudanese refugees in Kakuma Refugee Camp
- train 80 local women and youth church leaders in trauma healing
- prepare a shipment of relief kits, hygiene kits, blankets and canned meat

To donate, go [here](#).



Upcoming Calgary Peace Events

Harmony Café

Sat. February 21st, 6:00 - 9:00 PM

11 Coleridge Cres NW

Dr. Arthur Clark has graciously opened his home for the February edition of the Harmony Café. Karen Huggins of Project Ploughshares and Janyce Konkin of Initiatives will be conducting a special Focus Group to determine the future direction of Harmony Café: what would people like to see, how best do we promote the 'pay-it-forward' concept, how do we promote generosity in Calgary? A **Giftival** will be a part of this evening, so please bring something of yours that is particularly meaningful that you would be willing to gift to another person. Please visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/395093220643348/> for more info.



CALGARY CENTRE FOR GLOBAL COMMUNITY



Calgary Centre for Global Community and the Consortium for Peace Studies at the University of Calgary are offering these seminars with the goal of introducing participants to basic principles of peace and global citizenship.

Seminar Topics & Dates:

Fundamentalism Unpacked - Thursday February 26, 2015

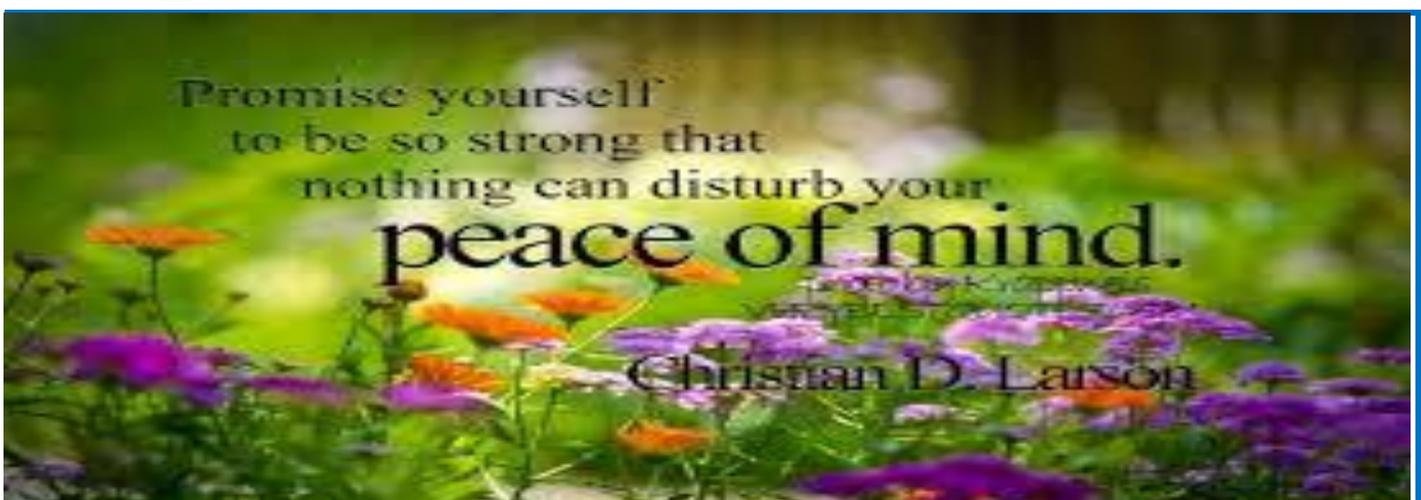
Indigenous Rights – Stories & Themes from Around the World - Thursday March 26, 2015

Building a Community Response to Climate Change - Thursday April 30, 2015

Social Activism Across Borders - Thursday May 28, 2015

Social Entrepreneurship to Transform Culture, Economy and the Environment - Thursday June 25, 2015

For more info and to register, please go to <http://www.calgarycgc.org/seminars-in-peace--global-citizenship.html>





3 Minutes to Midnight by Robert Dodge

Originally published by Common Dreams

<http://www.wagingpeace.org/3-minutes-to-midnight/>

The [Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists](#) has just announced its latest nuclear Doomsday Clock moving ahead the minute hand to three minutes till midnight. The clock represents the count down to zero in minutes to nuclear apocalypse – midnight. This significant move of TWO minutes is the 22nd time since its inception in 1947 that the time has been changed.

In moving the hand to 3 minutes to midnight, Kennette Benedict the Executive Director of the Bulletin, identified in her comments: “the probability of global catastrophe is very high”... “the choice is ours and the clock is ticking”... “we feel the need to warn the world” ... “the decision was based on a very strong feeling of urgency”. She spoke to the dangers of both nuclear weapons and climate change saying, “they are both very difficult and we are ignoring them” and emphasized “this is about doomsday, this is about the end of civilization as we know it”. The Clock has ranged from 2 minutes to midnight at the height of the Cold War to 17 minutes till midnight with the hopes that followed the end of the Cold War. The decision to move the minute hand is made by the Bulletin’s Board of Directors in consultation with its Board of Sponsors, which includes 18 Nobel Laureates.

What is clear is that the time to ban nuclear weapons is now. Today’s announcement by the Bulletin further corroborates the dangers confirmed by recent climate science. These studies identify the much greater dangers posed by even a small regional nuclear war using just 100 Hiroshima size bombs out of the 16,300 weapons in today’s global stockpiles. The ensuing dramatic climate changes and famine that would follow threaten the lives of up to 2 billion on the planet with effects that would last beyond 10 years. There is no escaping the global impact of such a small regional nuclear war.

Medical science has weighed in on the impacts and devastation of even the smallest nuclear explosion in one of our cities and the reality is there is no adequate medical or public health response to such an attack. We kid ourselves into a false sense that we can prepare and plan for the outcome of a bomb detonation. Every aspect and facet of our society would be overwhelmed by a nuclear attack. Ultimately the resultant dead at ground zero would be the lucky ones.

Probability theorists have long calculated the dismal odds that the chance for nuclear event either by plan or accident are not in our favor. Recent documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act detail over 1000 mishaps that have happened in our nuclear arsenals. Time is not on our side and the fact that we have not experienced a nuclear catastrophe is more a result of luck than mastery and control over these immoral weapons of terror.

The time to act is now. There is so much that can and must be done. Congress will soon begin budget debates that include proposals to increase nuclear weapons spending for stockpile modernization by \$355 Billion over the next decade and up to a Trillion in the next 30 years. Expenditures for weapons that can never be used and at a time when the economic needs for our country and world are so great.

Around the world, there is a growing awareness of the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, and a corresponding desire to rid the world of these weapons. The Vienna Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons conference last month saw 4/5 of the nations of the world participating. In Oct., 2014, at the UN, 155 nations called for the elimination of nuclear weapons. At Vienna, 44 nations plus the pope advocated for a treaty banning nuclear weapons.

The people are making their voices heard and demanding a change of course from the status quo.

In this week’s State of the Union address, President Obama emphasized that we are one people with a common destiny. He said this both in reference to our nation and our world. The threat of nuclear weapons unites us even as it threatens our very existence. This reality can also be remembered in the words of Martin Luther King when he said,

“We must all learn to live together as brothers or we will all perish together as fools. We are tied together in the single garment of destiny, caught in an inescapable network of mutuality. And whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.”

The time for action is now, before it is too late. It’s 3 minutes till midnight.

Robert Dodge is a family physician practicing full time in Ventura, California. He serves on the board of [Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles](#) serving as a Peace and Security Ambassador and at the national level where he sits on the security committee. He also serves on the board of the [Nuclear Age Peace Foundation](#) and [Citizens for Peaceful Resolutions](#). He writes for [PeaceVoice](#).



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



Articles of Interest

Buddhist Leader Calls for Increased Efforts to Rid World of Poverty and Ban Nuclear Weapons in 70th Year since WWII. <http://www.sqi.org/news/press-releases/press-releases-2015/peace-proposal-2015-press-releases.html>

Klaatu, Where Are You? By Jeffrey Lewis, January 27, 2015

The face-off over Ukraine has killed nuclear cooperation between the United States and Russia. You have permission to begin freaking out. <http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/01/27/klaatu-where-are-you/>

Five Years After: Long Live Howard Zinn by Bill Bigelow, January 27, 2015

<http://commondreams.org/views/2015/01/27/five-years-after-long-live-howard-zinn>

The humanitarian impact on the nuclear weapons treaty by Paul Meyer

<http://www.embassynews.ca/opinion/2015/01/21/the-humanitarian-impact-on-the-nuclear-weapons-treaty/46603>



Project Ploughshares Calgary

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

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

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

(Project Ploughshares is a charitable organization - we issue tax receipts for all donations over \$20)