

PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY

Peace News

NOVEMBER 2012



We are located:

Parkdale United
Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8

403-270-7366

Office hours:

Mon Tues & Thurs
10:30 am - 3 pm

Wed 2 - 6 pm

P E A C E O N E A R T H

28th Annual

Holiday Peace Fair

Saturday November 3, 2012
St. David's United Church
3303 Capitol Hill Cres
(near University LRT)
9:30 am - 4 pm

Light lunch available
for purchase from:
El-Rouhaa Pita
Bakery & Restaurant

\$3.00 Admission
Free for children 12 and under

Sponsored by Project Ploughshares Calgary
www.ploughsharescalgary.ca 403-270-7366

Supporting
Social Justice
and Fair Trade
Delightful items from
30 vendors
working for peace,
social justice
and the environment.

Project Ploughshares Presentation Wednesday November 14, 2012, 7:30 - 9 pm Parkdale United Church Conference Room

Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta lived in Jerusalem for seven years and has written widely on Palestinian and Israeli nonviolent activism and related topics. She will present her recent book, *Refusing to be Enemies: Palestinian and Israeli Nonviolent Resistance to the Israeli Occupation*, an interview-based study that presents the voices of over 100 practitioners and theorists of nonviolence, the vast majority either Palestinian or Israeli, as they reflect on their own involvement in nonviolent resistance and speak about the nonviolent strategies and tactics employed by Palestinian and Israeli organizations, both separately and in joint initiatives. In their own words, these activists share examples of effective nonviolent campaigns and discuss obstacles encountered in their pursuit of a just peace, as well as the changes required for their organizations - and the nonviolent movement as a whole - to more successfully pursue this goal. Attention is also devoted to the special challenges of joint struggle and to hopes and visions for a shared future in the region.





Project Ploughshares Calgary's 30th Anniversary October 12 - Anniversary Dinner October 13 - Seminar with Ernie Regehr, O.C., Co-Founder of Project Ploughshares

Project Ploughshares 30th Anniversary Dinner was a resounding success with 52 people in attendance at the Danish Canadian Club. The evening was comprised of a beautiful prayer composed and read by Chris Eddy, retrospective slide show of Project Ploughshares Calgary's last 30 years,

heart-warming peace music with Barry Luft, and a talk on ***Ending War: How, and How Soon?*** by Ernie Regehr. Many thanks to our evening's MC, Dr. David Swann, and Dr. Arthur Clark, who graciously thanked Ernie for his impactful presentation.

The Saturday seminar was well attended by some 25 people who engaged in discussion around the topic of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine, which was adopted in 2006 by the United Nations. As Ernie Regehr explained to attendees, R2P represented a major development in international law, which delivered to the international community the right to violate the sovereignty of individual states, recognizing that sovereignty should not be a fence behind which nation states hide to do whatever they wish. Basically, this doctrine links sovereignty to responsibility, and the right to protection overrides sovereignty. There are three basic responsibilities, or pillars, underpinning the R2P doctrine: 1) A state has a responsibility to protect its population from mass atrocities; 2) The international community has a responsibility to assist the state to fulfill its primary responsibility; and 3) If the state fails to protect its citizens from mass atrocities and peaceful measures have failed, the international community has the responsibility to intervene through coercive measures such as economic sanctions. Military intervention is considered the last resort.

In the international community R2P is a norm, not a law. R2P provides a framework for using tools that already exist, i.e. mediation, early warning mechanisms, economic sanctioning, and chapter VII powers, to prevent mass atrocities. Civil society organizations, States, regional organizations, and international institutions all have a role to play in the R2P process. The authority to employ the last resort and intervene militarily rests solely with United Nations Security Council and the General Assembly.

Fifty Years after the Cuban Missile Crisis: What have we learned? Where are we heading? Sunday October 21, 2012, Calgary Public Library

In October 1962 the world teetered on the brink of a nuclear war. This symposium focused on looking at how close we are to those dangers today, and what we can do to avoid them. The speakers included Bev Delong, who is currently the chair of CNANW. Bev spoke about establishing Nuclear Weapons Free Zones, and the value of diplomacy in fostering nonviolent negotiations. She was followed by Dr. Alfredo Louro, who is a senior instructor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at U of C. Alfredo showed the audience a simulation of what would happen if a nuclear bomb were to be dropped on downtown Calgary. He maintained that nuclear weapons are truly weapons of genocide. Dr. David Tal is the Kahanoff Chair in Israeli Studies at U of C, and a professor in the Department of History. His talk was entitled "Armaments are a consequence and not a cause", and he looked at why there is still such a gap between the idea of disarmament and its implementation. He posited that although the idea of disarmament and arms control is attractive to citizens, politicians often think and act quite differently. Strategic and national security considerations were, and are, much more important than the idea and practice of disarmament. The last speaker was Dr. Arthur Clark, recently retired professor in the Faculty of Medicine at U of C. Dr. Clark spoke to the lessons learned from the Cuban Missile Crisis, and how those lessons shape us and the world around us. His talk was focused on individual and collective responsibility and the impact of the choices that each of us make. Do we prefer a future more hospitable to human existence, or do we prefer the game of power politics regardless of the consequences? Do we value state power over human security? These are the kinds of questions that influence the lessons we derive from the Cuban missile crisis.



Ploughshares Calgary News



Remembrance Day & Nonviolence Service

St. David's United Church

3303 Capitol Hill Cres NW

Sunday, November 11, 2012, 10:00 am

Guest Speaker: Maxine Kaufmann-Lacusta

St. David's United Church in conjunction with Project Ploughshares is presenting a special intrafaith and interfaith Remembrance Day Sunday service. This worship experience will honor nonviolence as a means to achieve Peace on earth, featuring Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta, a Quaker Jewish woman who lived for 7 years in Jerusalem and will speak to her experiences of nonviolent resistance within both the Palestinian and Israeli communities. Join us in exploring ways in which ordinary people can engage in nonviolence as a means to achieving a peaceful world.



Volunteers Needed!

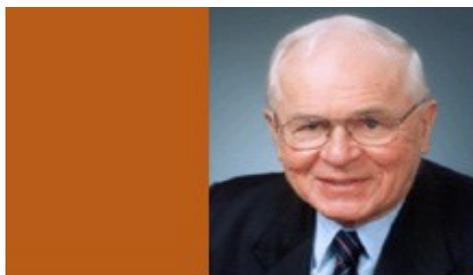
Please visit our website

www.ploughsharescalgary.ca. We can always use a helping hand! We will be developing new Committee Coordinator positions for next year's Calgary Peace Run, in addition to all our



Donations Needed!

Monthly donations in October from individuals totalled \$2,875.00. Please remember your local peace education organization when you are considering giving money to a worthwhile cause. Please give generously! We are deeply appreciative of your help with our programming needs!



Extending social and economic development throughout the world and eliminating nuclear weapons from military arsenals are two fundamental prerequisites to replacing the culture of war with a culture of peace, and building true security for all the world's people.

Douglas Roche, o.c.
a canadian for peace & human security



"All nuclear weapon states should now recognize that this is so, and declare - in Treaty form - that they will never be the first to use nuclear weapons. This would open the way to the gradual, mutual reduction of nuclear arsenals, down to zero."

~ Joseph Rotblat



War and the True Tragedy of the Commons

By H Patricia Hynes, Truthout | News Analysis - Thursday, 28 July 2011

(Excerpted)

<http://truth-out.org/news/item/2250>

The "Tragedy of the Commons," Garrett Hardin's 1968 controversial essay published in Science, essentially targeted overpopulation (read: poor women) as the prime threat to sustainable life on our finite earth. Hardin, and many who consumed this thesis, failed to single out the very small, but politically powerful, population responsible for a mammoth environmental impact - the military. Per capita, the military complex (read: powerful men) is the most polluting human population.

A well-glued solidarity between the military, national security advisors, civilian defense contractors, and elites of government has cloaked the extraordinary debt of pollution, destruction of land, and use of finite resources in the paternalistic mantle of national security.

Since the origins of recorded history, war chroniclers have told of tactical environmental destruction: destroying crops, forest, and infrastructure; polluting water supply and breaching dikes to flood enemy troops and fields; salting enemies' fields; catapulting infected blankets into enemy garrisons, and so on. ...

The locus of war has moved from battlefields to urban and rural population centers, causing massive numbers of residents to flee and imminent health crises of contaminated water, poor sanitation, inadequate health care, malnourishment, overcrowding, and sexual predation in refugee camps. ...

By 1990, researchers estimated that the world's military accounted for 5-10 percent of global air pollution, including carbon dioxide, ozone-depletion, smog and acid-forming chemicals. The Research Institute for Peace Policy in Starnberg, Germany calculated that 20 percent of all global environmental degradation was due to military and related activities. ...

If, as many contend, the principal threat to world security in the 21st century is environmental degradation (through climate change, pollution, soil erosion, habitat loss and species extinction), then challenging the destruction and damage to the environment and the massive exploitation of oil and metal resources for the military-industrial war machine must become paramount in the work for peace.

...The documented environmental hazards of grievously polluted US military sites, as well as of other sites polluted from US-led wars and war-related activities, serve as the "worst-case" example of global military pollution - the true tragedy of our commons.



"It's easier to be ignorant and say I don't know about the problem. But once you know, once you've seen it in their eyes, then you have a responsibility to do something. There is strength in numbers, and if we all work together as a team, we can be unstoppable."

Craig Kielburger, founder of Free The Children, an organization to stop child slavery.



"We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences that we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee."

Marian Wright Edelman, lawyer, educator, activist, President and Founder of the Children's Defense Fund



Iraq records huge rise in birth defects New study links increase with military action by Western forces

Sarah Morrison

The Independent, Wednesday October 24, 2012

It played unwilling host to one of the bloodiest battles of the Iraq war. Fallujah's homes and businesses were left shattered; hundreds of Iraqi civilians were killed. Its residents changed the name of their "City of Mosques" to "the polluted city" after the United States launched two massive military campaigns eight years ago. Now, one month before the World Health Organisation reveals its view on the legacy of the two battles for the town, a new study reports a "staggering rise" in birth defects among Iraqi children conceived in the aftermath of the war.

High rates of miscarriage, toxic levels of lead and mercury contamination and spiralling numbers of birth defects ranging from congenital heart defects to brain dysfunctions and malformed limbs have been recorded. Even more disturbingly, they appear to be occurring at an increasing rate in children born in Fallujah, about 40 miles west of Baghdad.

There is "compelling evidence" to link the increased numbers of defects and miscarriages to military assaults, says Mozghan Savabieasfahani, one of the lead authors of the report and an environmental toxicologist at the University of Michigan's School of Public Health. Similar defects have been found among children born in Basra after British troops invaded, according to the new research.

US marines first bombarded Fallujah in April 2004 after four employees from the American security company Blackwater were killed, their bodies burned and dragged through the street, with two of the corpses left hanging from a bridge. Seven months later, the marines stormed the city for a second time, using some of the heaviest US air strikes deployed in Iraq. American forces later admitted that they had used white phosphorus shells, although they never admitted to using depleted uranium, which has been linked to high rates of cancer and birth defects.

The new findings, published in the Environmental Contamination and Toxicology bulletin, will bolster claims that US and Nato munitions used in the conflict led to a widespread health crisis in Iraq. They are the latest in a series of studies that have suggested a link between bombardment and a rise in birth defects. Their preliminary findings, in 2010, prompted a World Health Organisation inquiry into the prevalence of birth defects in the area. The WHO's report, out next month, is widely expected to show an increase in birth defects after the conflict. It has looked at nine "high-risk" areas in Iraq, including Fallujah and Basra. Where high prevalence is found, the WHO is expected to call for additional studies to pinpoint precise causes.

The latest study found that in Fallujah, more than half of all babies surveyed were born with a birth defect between 2007 and 2010. Before the siege, this figure was more like one in 10. Prior to the turn of the millennium, fewer than 2 per cent of babies were born with a defect. More than 45 per cent of all pregnancies surveyed ended in miscarriage in the two years after 2004, up from only 10 per cent before the bombing. Between 2007 and 2010, one in six of all pregnancies ended in miscarriage.

The new research, which looked at the health histories of 56 families in Fallujah, also examined births in Basra, in southern Iraq, attacked by British forces in 2003. Researchers found more than 20 babies out of 1,000 were born with defects in Al Basrah Maternity Hospital in 2003, a number that is 17 times higher than recorded a decade previously. In the past seven years, the number of malformed babies born increased by more than 60 per cent; 37 out of every 1,000 are now born with defects.

The report's authors link the rising number of babies born with birth defects in the two cities to increased exposure to metals released by bombs and bullets used over the past two decades. Scientists who studied hair samples of the population in Fallujah found that levels of lead were five times higher in the hair of children with birth defects than in other children; mercury levels were six times higher. Children with defects in Basra had three times more lead in their teeth than children living in non-impacted areas.

Dr Savabieasfahani said that for the first time, there is a "footprint of metal in the population" and that there is "compelling evidence linking the staggering increases in Iraqi birth defects to neuro-toxic metal contamination following the repeated bombardments of Iraqi cities". She called the "epidemic" a "public health crisis".

"In utero exposure to pollutants can drastically change the outcome of an otherwise normal pregnancy. The metal levels we see in the Fallujah children with birth defects clearly indicates that metals were involved in manifestation of birth defects in these children," she said. "The massive and repeated bombardment of these cities is clearly implicated here. I have no knowledge of any alternative source of metal contamination in these areas."

Dr Savabieasfahani said she plans to analyse the children's samples for the presence of depleted uranium once funds have been raised. She added: "We need extensive environmental sampling, of food, water and air to find out where this is coming from. Then we can clean it up. Now we are seeing 50 per cent of children being born with malformations; in a few years it could be everyone."





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

Calgary Peace Events



Calgary Centre for Global Community, C3 Forum—Communities Connecting for Change Saturday October 27th, 12:00 - 5:00 pm, Genesis Centre, 7555 Falconridge Blvd. NE

We're inviting Calgarians from across the city to join us for a unique community building event! The C3 Forum is bringing together community members & leaders, community organizations, and people working on civic engagement to share ideas and experiences and to inspire Calgarians from all walks of life to contribute to positive change in their communities. Please check our website at www.calgarycgc.org/programs_001_004.html for more information about registration and how you can get involved!

The Source of Happiness and Peace: Transforming the World by Transforming Ourselves November 10, 11, 17, & 18 - Free four day workshop Mahendra Singh & Naomi Turner

Happiness, prosperity and peace is what we are all really seeking in life, despite the many different ways we try to find it. Is 'sustained and collective' happiness, prosperity and peace truly possible? Or is it only a utopian and idealistic concept?

This workshop provides a transformative understanding with effective strategies and practical tools for living a happy, healthy and peaceful life. You will learn how we can move beyond differences, divides and disagreements, and work cooperatively as one interdependent entity of society - ensuring not only harmony within, but joyous and deeply connected relationships at home, in the workplace, your neighborhood, community and in the world at large. Event website: <http://freepdfhosting.com/5bdb35badf.pdf> contact: email- jivanvidya@gmail.com, ph# 403.719.1173



Yes! I want to become a Project Ploughshares Calgary donor and partner in building peace.

Name: _____

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E-mail: _____

Here is my donation for 2012 of:

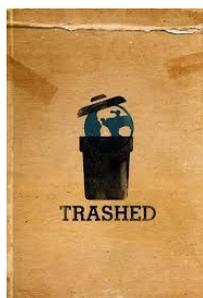
\$35 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$_____

(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)



Unitarian Green Sanctuary Committee Presents: Trashed!

Friday November 16, 2012, 6:30 pm

Wickenden Hall, Unitarian Church, 1703—1 St NW

Join the Green Sanctuary Committee for pizza, movie and discussion as well as a pot luck dessert. The film will be "Trashed", which analyzes the seemingly innocuous act of 'taking out the garbage'. Humorous and deeply poignant, Trashed examines the American waster stream and showcases individuals working to effect change and reform the current model.

<http://unitarianscalgary.org/events/green-sanctuary-film-series/> ~ \$10 donation appreciated.