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Speaking our peace: Young Jewish and Palestinian voices in conversation

November 1, 2018, 7:00 p.m.
Foothills Mennonite Church,
2115 Urbana Rd N.W., Calgary, AB

Come and join us to hear two young adults, one Israeli and one Palestinian, speak about their experiences growing up in the Middle East. The Calgary Multicultural Choir will also perform and snacks will be provided. This event is presented by the Mennonite Central Committee's *A Cry for Home*, which envisions secure homes and a hopeful future for Palestinians and Israelis. Everyone is welcome.



Hold that date: Peace Village: November 16-18, 2018
Supporting peace, fair trade, and the environment
By Kathleen McWilliams

We are excited to announce that our annual *Holiday Peace Fair* is joining forces this year with the Marda Loop Justice Film Festival Society's *NGO Village* for a new combined event called the *Peace Village*. It will be part of the *Marda Loop Justice Film Festival* that runs from November 16 to 18, 2018, at River Park Church, 3818 14A Street S.W., Calgary. Join us for some relaxed browsing, nibbles, and conversation at this fair that supports peace, fair trade, and social justice. Many local vendors involved with social justice, fair trade, and environmental sustainability will be there to sell items from around the globe. A silent auction is also planned and a light lunch and snacks will be available for purchase. It will be a great place to do some of your holiday shopping while supporting many great causes. Best of all, admission is free.

We are also requesting **donations of gently used children's books about peace** that we can resell for a nominal price at this year's *Peace Village*. If you have any to donate, please contact our office at 403-270-7366. We are also accepting **donations of silent auction items** for the *Peace Village*—if you'd like to donate any items, (e.g., tickets, spa days, outdoor activities, sports events, concerts, theme parks, cooking classes, gift baskets—the list is endless!), please call our office. We look forward to seeing you there!

Peace Village
River Park Church,
3818 14A St. S.W., Calgary
November 16 – 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
November 17 – 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
November 18 – 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

A riveting film about America's nuclear weapons program.

Wednesday, October 10, 2018, 7:00 p.m.
Parkdale United Church, 2919 8th Avenue N.W., Calgary

Join us for the compelling film, *Command and Control*, based on the 1980 Damascus Titan missile explosion in Arkansas. The film interweaves a gripping look at America's nuclear weapons program, centred on recently declassified documents. It's essential viewing about a potential threat more constant than nuclear war. We'd like to hear your thoughts at the Q&A session afterwards. Why not invite some friends to attend this free screening with you?



Chairperson's message

It's hard to believe that it's fall already and our summer, with its combination of sun and smoke, has passed. The Ploughshares Calgary Society is busily organizing for the next few months, with special focus on the Peace Village (River Park Church, November 16 – 18), which will be a continuation of our traditional Holiday Peace Fair and held in collaboration with the Marda Loop Social Justice Film Festival.

Our September educational meeting was about restorative justice programs in Calgary. Facilitators Trish Elgersma and Cyndie Shouldice were energetic, inspiring, and generous with their responses to questions from the audience. Sally Hodges took notes, and her very helpful summary of the meeting appears later in this newsletter.

The board continues to be active and we benefit from the participation and energy of our new members, David Boutland, Kathleen McWilliams, and Al Coats. The board continues to reflect on our newsletter and seeks to strengthen our financial base. There will be no November educational meeting because of the many activities associated with the Peace Village. We are exploring various ideas for the winter: possibilities include presentations and discussions of the removal of historically controversial statues; strategies for the evaluation of conflict resolution programs; the relevance of corruption to conflict; and the dilemmas posed by returning ISIS fighters. We look forward to a stimulating winter and spring program.

Our October meeting, on the 10th, will feature the movie 'Command and Control' which tells the true story of a 1980 nuclear accident, revealing an incredible chain of events that brought Americans to the brink of nuclear disaster. The amazing situation depicted indicates the difficulty of achieving security and safety while managing weapons of mass destruction.

Your participation in our meetings and events will be appreciated. Good wishes to all.

Cheers,

Trudy Govier

What Is Restorative Justice?

By Sally Hodges



Photo by rawpixel on Unsplash

What should happen to young people who have broken the law—to those who have stolen a car, for instance? The usual response is that the justice system views the offender solely as having committed an offence that is a violation of the law and an offense against the state. Legal justice requires the courts to determine who is to blame and what that person's punishment should be. The victim may write a victim's statement but the offender is seen very much through the lens of being an offender. Do child offenders in Calgary, aged 11 to 17, face this treatment?

The September public Ploughshares meeting introduced two skilled social workers to the audience, Trish Elgersma and Cyndie Shouldice, both facilitators with the Restorative Actions for Transformation (RAFT) program in Calgary. They informed us that the goal of the Youth Justice Act is to rehabilitate youth offenders. On the other hand, they explained, an important focus in restorative justice is on the victim's needs and the perpetrator's responsibility to repair harm to the victim.

Restorative justice is not in lieu of legal justice—it works in tandem with it. Their clients, who range from 11 to 17 years of age, are led through a process that helps them understand the impact of their actions in terms of the people and relationships involved. In addition, ALL of the people involved in the situation are invited to participate, and their needs and what has to be done to repair the harm are discussed. The young person must tell his or her story (who, why) to their parents, social workers, and possibly even their school principal. Trish said, "It is a way of sharing perspectives and understanding one another. I am struck by how kind the perpetrator can be. He or she often shows empathy and understanding of the ripple effect of their actions."

A summary of RAFT's work with the parties involved is sent to the judge and, "all the red flags are in the story." The objective is for all the parties concerned to know what the root causes are for a particular youth. Most youth admit what they did and plead guilty. Most are also terrified going into the victim and perpetrator meetings and going to

court. Cyndie noted, "It shows a lot of guts to do it."

In line with their hands-on approach, the two presenters also facilitated a game for the audience. The attendees were divided into being victims, the neighbours, and the family of the perpetrator to consider acts of vandalism that a young person had carried out in the victim's house. It was very interesting to hear how the acts of vandalism felt for each group.

When the presenters were asked whether the RAFT method is available for people 18 and over, the answer was that no adequate funding exists for this in the Calgary area. Yet, it was clear to the audience that the restorative justice approach usually forestalls more law-breaking behaviour. The caring shown, and the insistence on taking responsibility bring about deep changes in the youth involved.

An important focus in restorative justice is on the victim's needs and the perpetrator's responsibility to repair harm to the victim. Restorative justice is not in lieu of legal justice—it works in tandem with it.

Canadian peacekeeping in Mali

By Trudy Govier

On May 16, Chris Roberts (U of C, Political Science) gave an extremely well-informed and balanced presentation on the Canadian government's decision to send military personnel and equipment to assist with United Nations peacekeeping efforts in Mali. Roberts noted how Canadian participation in UN efforts had radically diminished to the point where we had only 43 peacekeeping personnel in service, and he said that many would welcome our return to international service in this area. He also noted that peacekeeping has changed dramatically since the Balkan wars of the 1990s, as operations are frequently in zones of extreme conflict; we could even call them war zones. It is not a matter of patrolling borders or separating contending sides; in fact, lives are at risk. Roberts explained why the Mali mission could be questioned, with conflicts (especially in the north of the country) between factions contending for governance, and *jihadi* groups.

Among news reports echoing these themes were the following:

“‘It’s a war:’ experts question whether Mali mission is peacekeeping,” by Jane Gerster, Global News, June 28, 2018. <https://globalnews.ca/news/430095/peacekeeping-in-mali/>

“Canadian peacekeepers in Mali concerned by reported delays in evacuations”, The Canadian Press, August 22, 2018. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/canadian-peacekeepers-in-mali-concerned-by-reported-delays-in-evacuations-1.4063708>

“Canadian Troops in Mali prepare for daunting dangerous UN peacekeeping mandate,” by Adrienne Arsenault, CBC News, June 24, 2018 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/arsenault-minusma-1.4719915>

Canada to create new ambassador position dedicated to women, peace, and security

By Kathleen McWilliams

Minister Freeland and EU High Representative Federica Mogherini join their global counterparts in Montreal for a family photo of women foreign ministers. Photo by Foreign Policy Canada.



Canada will create a new ambassador position focussed on women, peace, and security, Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland said Saturday, September 22, 2018. Freeland offered few details but said the new ambassador would advocate for feminist-based aid programs and more female participation in peacekeeping and conflict resolution. Freeland made the announcement at a two-day meeting of global female foreign affairs ministers in Montreal that she co-hosted with Federica Mogherini, the high representative of the European Union. Freeland described the gathering as “the first of its kind.” Agenda topics included international security, strengthening democracy, and fighting sexual and gender-based violence. Opening the conference, Freeland stressed the need for heightened female participation in international peacekeeping efforts and conflict negotiations around the world. “I think we all know that prosperity and peace and security are more likely in places where women, and all people in our societies, can actively participate in political life,” she said at the summit’s first session, which fell on the UN-sanctioned International Day of Peace. The two-day summit brought together at least half of the 30 women who hold foreign affairs portfolios globally, as well as Japan’s foreign minister, who is male, and civil society actors. The group plans to meet again next year and Freeland stressed that male ministers were also invited to participate as “we do not want to create a separate box.”

Freeland also confirmed Canada would spend about \$25 million to fund a number of initiatives aimed at combating gender-based violence and promoting women's participation in peace processes, and would co-chair a global network on women, peace, and security with Uruguay in 2020. For more information, see <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2018/09/canada-concludes-successful-women-foreign-ministers-meeting.html> and <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-ottawa-to-create-new-ambassador-for-women-peace-and-security/>

International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons September 26

By Kathleen McWilliams

Two of the high level meetings at this year's 73rd Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations were the September 24, 2018, *Nelson Mandela Peace Summit* and the September 26, 2018, commemoration and promotion of the *International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons*.



The focus of the *Nelson Mandela Peace Summit* was on global peace in honour of the centenary of Nelson Mandela's birth. Heads of government, ministers, other country officials, and civil society representatives discussed actions needed to further international peace and security. UN member states adopted a political declaration that recognizes the period 2019 to 2028 as the Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace, and calls for redoubling efforts to pursue international peace and security, development, and human rights.

Mosaic of inlaid stones in Strawberry Fields in New York's Central Park, with a single word, the title of John Lennon's famous song "Imagine." The lyrics of the song encourage the listener to imagine a world at peace. Photo courtesy of [Jim Nix](#).

The high level meeting on nuclear disarmament was scheduled to involve world leaders presenting their hopes and commitment for global peace and nuclear disarmament. September 26 marks the day an incoming United States ballistic missile attack against Moscow was "detected" by Soviet satellites that were relaying information to the early warning nuclear centre Serpukhov-15. The standard process was to confirm the incoming attack to the Soviet Union's president who would then authorize retaliation before Moscow was hit. Stanislav Petrov, duty officer at Serpukhov-15, defied protocol to report the so-called missile attack as a false alarm. Jakob von Uexkull, founder of the World Future Council noted, "The lesson of the 1983 incident, and the 15-20 other times we have nearly had a nuclear exchange, is that nuclear deterrence could fail—and that failure would mean game over. As such, the nuclear armed states have to replace nuclear deterrence with better ways to achieve security, just as the overwhelming majority of other countries have already done."

Statement of the UN Secretary General at meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

By António Guterres

Last month, I had the extraordinary honour of visiting Nagasaki to commemorate the seventy-third anniversary of the atomic bombing. The reality of the death and destruction caused by only one nuclear weapon—small by today's standards—reinforced my personal commitment to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. As the only weapons with potentially existential consequences, nuclear weapons pose a grave threat to international, national, and human security. The only sure way to eliminate the threat posed by nuclear weapons is to eliminate the weapons themselves. Regrettably, the global security environment has deteriorated, making progress in nuclear disarmament more difficult yet also more important. In truth, verifiable and enforceable efforts to reduce the dangers posed by nuclear weapons bolster regional and international stability, build confidence, and facilitate peace. For all these reasons, I launched a disarmament agenda in May of this year.

To read the rest of António Guterres' speech, please visit the following link:

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/speeches/2018-09-26/commemorate-and-promote-international-day-total-elimination-nuclear>

The Koreas and denuclearization questions

By Kathleen McWilliams

Marius Grinius, former Canadian ambassador to South Korea (2004-07) and North Korea (2005-07), wrote an article for the Globe and Mail on September 20, 2018, entitled “*The Koreas are getting along – but denuclearization questions remain.*” Here, Grinius gives his perspective on South Korean president Moon Jae-in’s current “courtship” of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. Referencing Mr. Kim’s 2018 New Year’s speech that included the annual olive branch to the South and a direct reference for North Korea to take part in the Olympics, Grinius observes that Mr. Moon’s rapid and positive response has led to a flurry of summit meetings that continue unabated, but what it all means is as yet uncertain. To read the article, visit this link :

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-the-koreas-are-getting-along-but-denuclearization-questions-remain/>



The Hon. Douglas Roche O.C. wins Sean MacBride peace prize

Every year, the International Peace Bureau (IPB) awards a special prize to a person or organization that has done outstanding work for peace, disarmament, and/or human rights. These reflect the main concerns of Sean MacBride, the distinguished Irish statesman who began his career as a fighter against British colonial rule, studied law, and rose to high office in the independent Irish Republic. McBride was a winner of the Lenin Peace Prize, and also the 1974 Nobel Peace Prize for his wide-ranging work, which included roles such as co-founder of Amnesty International. This year the IPB chose three winners for the prize, one of whom was Douglas Roche, O.C. In awarding the peace prize, the IPB noted, “We award Mr. Roche for his tireless efforts to promote international peace and disarmament.”

Doug is a great friend of the Calgary Ploughshares Society. In offering congratulations, Calgary Ploughshares board member Bev DeLong noted, “I would add that Doug is a co-founder of Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and Canadians for a Nuclear Weapons Convention and a past chairperson of Canadian Pugwash Group. He has mentored so many of us by sharing his experience and wisdom through discussions, meetings, teleconference, or his books. Doug has persisted in leading and inspiring us as Canadian activists, often through very dark times. His good humour has moved us through many difficult situations. We are deeply grateful to Doug for his vision and courage over decades of work.” Together with Bev, all of us at Calgary Ploughshares Society offer Doug our heartiest congratulations!

“We award Mr. Roche for his tireless efforts to promote international peace and disarmament.”

We are very grateful for your loyal moral and financial support. over the years that has allowed us to continue working for and educating about peace. Please consider donating for 2018 soon if you haven't already done so. If you have already sent in your donation for 2018, we thank you.

Yes, I am interested in supporting the peace work of the Ploughshares Calgary Society. I'd like to make a donation in the following amount:

\$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ or an amount of _____

or a monthly donation of _____ or I am interested in volunteering _____

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov _____ Postal Code _____ Email: _____

Payment Options

Cheque _____ PayPal _____ Cash _____

Make cheques payable to **Ploughshares Calgary Society** or go to www.ploughsharescalgary.ca to make your payment via PayPal. Please mail completed form with donation to the Ploughshares Calgary Society, 2919 - 8 Ave. N.W., Calgary, AB, T2N 1C8. Please note that we are unable to provide tax receipts at this time.



Ploughshares Calgary Society

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1st Annual
Peace Village

Friday, November 16: 4 p.m.-7 p.m.
Saturday, November 17: 1 p.m.-7 p.m.
Sunday, November 18: 1 p.m.- 7 p.m.

River Park Church
3818 - 14A Street S.W.
Calgary

Supporting Social Justice, Fair Trade and the Environment

Excellent documentaries from some of the finest filmmakers and unique items from vendors for peace, social justice, and the environment

Light lunch available for purchase
Free admission

Sponsored by
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Marda Loop Justice Film Festival Society
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Email: admin@mardaloopjusticefilmfestival.ca
Ph: 403-270-7366