

**PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY
SOCIETY**

Peace News

FEBRUARY 2018



We are located at:

Parkdale United Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8

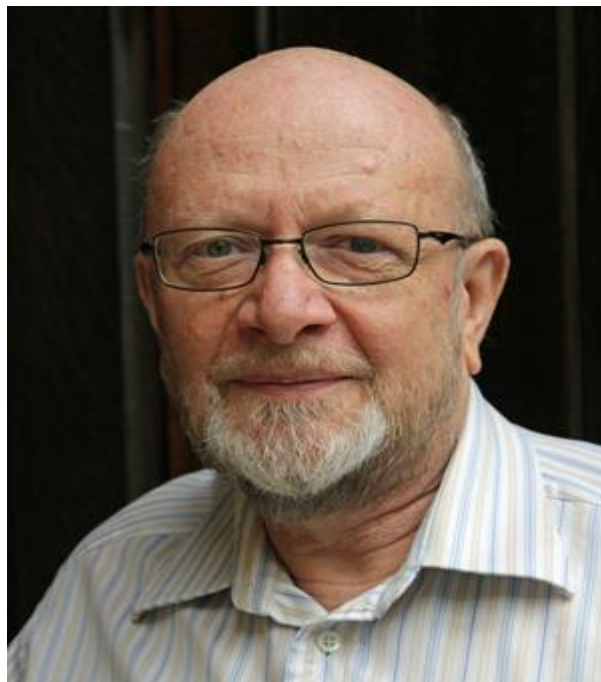
403-270-7366

Office hours:

Mon, Tues & Thurs
10 am - 3 pm

Wed 2 pm - 7 pm

**Ploughshares Calgary Society
presents
Rev. Dr. Grant Dawson**



Topic: What does it mean to love your enemies?

When: Wednesday, February 21st 2018

Time: 7 pm to 8:30 pm

**Where: Parkdale United Church,
Conference Room (in the basement)
2919-8 Avenue NW**

Admission: by donation

Tea and cookies will be served

UN Secretary General issues Red Alert to the World.

January 1, 2018

Dear friends around the world,

Happy New Year.

When I took office one year ago, I appealed for 2017 to be a year for peace.

Unfortunately, in fundamental ways, the world has gone in reverse.

On New Year's Day 2018, I am not issuing an appeal. I am issuing an alert -- a red alert for our world.

Conflicts have deepened and new dangers have emerged.

Global anxieties about nuclear weapons are the highest since the Cold War.

Climate change is moving faster than we are.

Inequalities are growing.

We see horrific violations of human rights.

Nationalism and xenophobia are on the rise.

As we begin 2018, I call for unity.

I truly believe we can make our world more safe and secure.

We can settle conflicts, overcome hatred and defend shared values.

But we can only do that together.

I urge leaders everywhere to make this New Year's resolution:

Narrow the gaps. Bridge the divides. Rebuild trust by bringing people together around common goals.

Unity is the path.

Our future depends on it.

I wish you peace and health in 2018. Thank you. Shokran. Xie Xie. Merci. Spasiba. Gracias. Obrigado



**UN Secretary General
Antonio Guterres of Portugal**

IT IS NOW 2 MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists Move Clock Ahead 30 Seconds, Closest to Midnight Since 1953

To read full press release, visit: <https://thebulletin.org/press-release-it-now-2-minutes-midnight>

Rosalie Abella — Calgary Peace Prize Recipient 2018



Justice Abella was appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada in 2004. She is the first Jewish woman appointed to the Court.

She attended the University of Toronto, where she earned a B.A. in 1967 and an LL.B. in 1970. In 1964 she graduated from the Royal Conservatory of Music in classical piano. She was called to the Ontario Bar in 1972 and practiced civil and criminal litigation until 1976 when she was appointed to the Ontario Family Court at the age of 29, the youngest and first pregnant person appointed to the judiciary in Canada. She was appointed to the Ontario Court of Appeal in 1992.

She was the sole Commissioner of the 1984 federal Royal Commission on Equality in Employment, creating the term and concept of “employment equity”. The theories of “equality” and “discrimination” she developed in her Report were adopted by the Supreme Court of Canada in its first decision dealing with equality rights under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* in 1989. The report has been implemented by the of Canada, New Zealand, Northern Ireland and South Africa. She

subsequently served as Chair of the Ontario Labour Relations Board (1984 to 1989), Chair of the Ontario Law Reform Commission (1989 to 1992), and Boulton Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Law of McGill University (1988 to 1992). She also served as a commissioner on the Ontario Human Rights Commission; as a member of the Ontario Public Service Labour Relations Tribunal; as Co-Chair of the University of Toronto Academic Discipline Tribunal; as a member of the Premier’s Advisory Committee on Confederation; and as Chair of the Study on Access to Legal Services by the Disabled.

She has written over 90 articles and written or co-edited four books. She was made a Senior Fellow of Massey College in 1989, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1997, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2007. She has given, among others, the Harlan Lecture at Princeton, the Ryan Lecture at Georgetown, the Winchester Lecture at Oxford, the Anderson Lecture at Yale, and was the Bullock Chair at the Hebrew University, the Mackenzie King Distinguished Visiting Professor at Harvard, the Floersheimer Distinguished Jurist in Residence at Cardozo, a Distinguished Visiting Faculty at the University of Toronto Law School, and Bright International Jurist in Residence at the University of Hawaii School of Law.

She was a judge of the Giller Literary Prize; Chair of the Rhodes Selection Committee for Ontario; director of the Institute for Research on Public Policy; moderator of the English Language Leaders’ Debate in 1988; a member of the Canadian Judicial Council’s Inquiry on Donald Marshall, Jr.; Program Chair of the Governor General’s Canadian Study Conference; Chief Rapporteur in Halifax and Co-Chair in Vancouver of the 1992 Renewal of Canada Conferences; Trustee of the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada; Governor of the International Board of Governors of the Hebrew University; and Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors of the National Judicial Institute.

Justice Abella has been active in Canadian judicial education, organizing the first judicial seminar in which all evels of the judiciary participated, the first judicial seminar in which persons outside the legal profession were invited to participate, the first national education program for administrative tribunals, and the first national conference for Canada’s female judges.

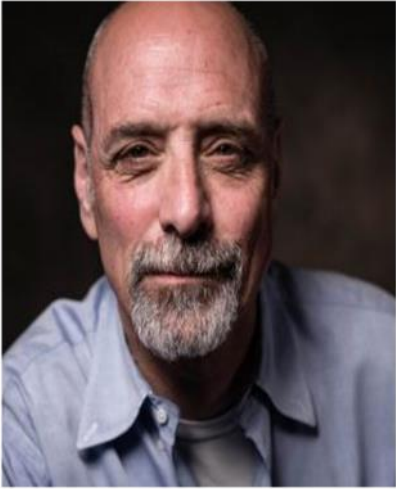
Justice Abella was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award of the University of Toronto Faculty of Law; the Distinguished Service Award of the Canadian Bar Association (Ontario); the International Justice Prize of the Peter Gruber Foundation; the Human Relations Award of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews; the Honourable Walter S. Tamopolsky Human Rights Award; and the Bora Laskin Award for Distinguished Service in Labour Law. She has 37 honorary degrees.

Justice Abella was born in a Displaced Person’s Camp in Stuttgart, Germany on July 1, 1946. Her family came to Canada as refugees in 1950. She is the daughter of Jacob and Fanny Silberman. She is married to Canadian historian Irving Abella and they have two sons, Jacob and Zachary, both lawyers.

For more info please contact: <http://blogs.mtroyal.ca/peaceinitiative/contact/>

Hawaii false alarm: a nuclear wake-up call

By Eric Schlosser—excerpted from the *Sydney Morning Herald*



At one point or another, when confronted by a drop-down menu on a computer screen, just about everyone has chosen the wrong option. It's usually a trivial mistake, easily corrected, that momentarily selects shoes that are too big or a one-way flight instead of round-trip. Last Saturday at 8.05am, an operator at the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency inadvertently chose "missile alert" instead of "test missile alert", setting off sirens across the state, sending messages to thousands of phones that implied a nuclear attack, broadcasting similar warnings on radio and television, and scaring the hell out of a lot of people.

Unlike most drop-down menus, however, this one lacked an option to correct the mistake. There was "no cancellation button", a spokesman for the emergency agency told *The Washington Post*. As a result, it took almost 40 minutes for the system to reassure the public that

ballistic missiles were not on their way to Honolulu.

In the realm of nuclear accidents and false alarms, the Hawaii event wasn't especially serious or dangerous. It involved a civilian, not a military, early warning system. But it shared a common cause with accidents that could have proven truly catastrophic: a seemingly trivial but unanticipated error disrupting the workings of a complex technological system.

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Moreover, no country is safe from the nuclear threat. The effects of a nuclear detonation show little respect for national borders. A relatively small nuclear war between India and Pakistan, involving about one hundred weapons, would have worldwide atmospheric effects and cause hundreds of millions of casualties.

William J. Perry, who served as secretary of defence during the Clinton administration, believes the threat of a deliberate or accidental nuclear catastrophe is greater today than it was during the Cold War. More than a decade ago, Perry joined former US senator Sam Nunn and two former secretaries of state, Henry Kissinger and George P. Shultz, in calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Then-president Barack Obama later endorsed their support for abolition and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) won last year's Nobel Peace Prize for seeking that goal.

The alternative to abolishing nuclear weapons is fully embracing the faith that machines will always work perfectly, computers will never go wrong, and nobody will ever push the wrong button. The last nuclear weapon to detonate on Australian soil – the Taranaki test at Maralinga on October 9, 1957 – had an explosive force almost twice as strong as that of the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima. Unless there is a worldwide campaign to eliminate these weapons, with massive demonstrations like the ones that helped to end the Cold War peacefully, Taranaki may turn out not to be the last one, after all.

*Eric Schlosser is an award-winning American investigative journalist. He is the author of several books, including *Fast Food Nation* (2001), *Reefer Madness* (2003), and *Command and Control: Nuclear Weapons, the Damascus Accident, and the Illusion of Safety* (2013).*

To read the full article please visit:

<http://www.smh.com.au/comment/hawaii-false-alarm-a-nuclear-wakeup-call-20180116-h0j4lz.html>

Canada and the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Petition e-1402 initiated by Barbara Birkett, and sponsored by her Liberal MP Pam Damoff, is now open for signatures for 120 days.

Please take a moment to go online to sign the petition and forward this email to friends and family encouraging them to sign as well.

The petition reads as follows:

PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

Whereas:

- The use of any nuclear weapons would have catastrophic consequences; and
- Nuclear Weapons are the only weapons of mass destruction not yet prohibited by international agreement

We, the undersigned, **residents of Canada**, call upon the **Government of Canada** to sign and ratify the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Go here to sign the petition online: <https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-1402>

Winner Announced: 2017 Arms Control Persons of the Year

(Washington, D.C.)—Diplomats from the disarmament delegations of Austria, Brazil, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, and South Africa, and Ambassador Elayne Whyte Gómez of Costa Rica received the highest number of votes in an online poll to determine the "2017 Arms Control Persons of the Year" in recognition of their efforts to secure the historic 2017 UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The diplomats leading the disarmament delegations from Austria, Brazil, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, and South Africa were part of the "core group" of states who, along with the president of the negotiating conference, Ambassador Elayne Whyte Gómez of Costa Rica, played a central role in the multilateral talks on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The negotiations were brought to a successful conclusion in July and the treaty was opened for signature in September.

To read the full article please visit: <https://www.armscontrol.org/pressroom/2018-01/acpoy-2017-winner>

Did You Know?: One of our board members donated 23,000 Aeroplan miles to a Calgary refugee sponsor, helping to bring a refugee family of four to Canada.. Such a thoughtful gesture. We are blessed to have such a caring board.

Your Attendance, Donations and Bequests

Have you contemplated the current state of economic, political and societal tension? Do the current shifts and changes cause you angst, concern, panic? Does the rhetoric between the U.S.A. and North Korea make you stop and think about the calibre of leadership inching us towards violence rather than peace? If any of this causes you concern, please consider joining us at our monthly meetings and/or donating to our cause advocating for nuclear disarmament and human security. Finally, please consider leaving a bequest to Ploughshares Calgary Society in your will, to leave a legacy as a Peace Maker.

We do appreciate your consideration and support!

Save these dates:

Ploughshares Events:

- **Wednesday, February 21st 2018** 7 to 8:30 pm
Parkdale United Church 2919-8 Avenue NW Conference room (in the basement)

What does it mean to love your enemy? presented by Rev. Dr. Grant Dawson

Rev. Dr. Grant Dawson received his B.A. in Philosophy from McMaster University and a M.Div. from Emmanuel College. He was given a Doctor of Divinity by St. Andrews/St. Stephen's College in 2004.

He served north of Hull in Quebec and near London in Ontario. He moved to Calgary in 1977 to become part of the team at Knox United Church where he served for 36 years. Among other activities, Rev. Dawson chaired Calgary Presbytery and was the President of Alberta and Northwest Conference. He retired in 2013, but remains active in the church and as a playwright.

Grant is an accomplished linguist; he continues studies in Mandarin, and is at least conversant in French, Spanish, German, Russian, Greek, Hebrew and is now learning Polish to keep in touch with his daughter-in-law's family. He and his wife, Dorothy, travel frequently and are currently looking forward to a trip to Italy. They have two grown sons.

Please join us for this thought-provoking discussion.

- **Wednesday, March 14th 2018** 7 to 8:30 pm
Parkdale United Church 2919-8 Avenue NW Conference room (in the basement)

Islamophobia presented by Professor Dr. Mark Ayyash

Other Events:

Thursday, February 8th 2018

Canadian Involvement in Eastern Europe

Y222, Mount Royal University

4825 Mount Royal Gate SW

From: 2:30 to 4:00 pm

The John de Chastelain Peace Studies Initiative is proud to present Constable John Lamming, M.A. and Captain Lazlo Benak as they speak to the on-the-ground perspectives from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Canadian Armed Forces.

Tuesday, March 13th 2018

Screening of the film "In Dialogue"

River Park Church Auditorium

From: 7:00 pm

Wednesday, April 4th 2018

Calgary Peace Prize—Honorable Justice Rosalie Abella—Recipient

Reception: 7 p.m.


Award ceremony: 8 p.m.

From more info: <http://blogs.mtroyal.ca/peaceinitiative/contact/>



Ploughshares Calgary Society
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Special thanks to all who submitted articles & Kerry Duncan - McCartney for editing this issue of the newsletter.




If you haven't already, please inform us whether you wish to continue receiving emails from us.

You may unsubscribe at any time by just emailing us your request. Thanks to all who have already responded.



Give a special Valentine gift from the heart today. As we begin 2018, we are very grateful for your loyal moral and financial support over the past year. Because of you, we have been able to work toward peace and educate about peace. However, in many ways, our world is in a more precarious and vulnerable position now than during the Cold War. We need to continue to stay focused, work hard to make our world a peaceful, nuclear weapon free world. If you haven't already sent in your donation, please consider donating soon. If you

have already sent in your donations, we thank you most sincerely.



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

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 50	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to make a
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/>	monthly donation
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/>	of \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to volunteer
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1000		
<input type="checkbox"/>	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.