



SEPTEMBER 2018

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Floating Lantern Ceremony

Now is
is the time for Canada to
sign the
Treaty on the Prohibition
of Nuclear Weapons.



Hundreds of lanterns lit up the 2018 Floating Lantern Ceremony
By Sally Hodges

Despite drizzle up until 30 minutes before the program, 400 to 500 people gathered at Olympic Plaza by 8:00 p.m. on August 4th for the ceremony. Volunteers had arrived at 4 p.m. to set up the professional sound equipment and a new white 10 X 20 ft tent on the main stage. Nearby, tents were erected for volunteers to rent out up to 1,400 lanterns, sell Ploughshares wares, and teach the skills of origami. By 8:20 p.m., 240 extra lanterns graced all four sides of the pool as decoration, and the mood was ready for singing O Canada and acknowledging the events in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Three choirs, including the Artio Mount Royal youth choir, sang songs that celebrated diversity and the beauty of the world. Letters from the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki specifically written to two “Child-Diplomat Project” children in Calgary were read, and Priscilla Bukasa spoke a moving poem with keyboard accompaniment. The Honourable Douglas Roche soon called upon us to ask our Members of Parliament whether they support Canada signing the new treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons and what they are doing to urge the government to negotiate for the elimination of nuclear weapons. As usual, the ceremony ended with flute music and the launching of hundreds of beautiful lanterns.

What is restorative justice?

An opportunity to hear from two local experts
September 12, 2018 - 7:00 p.m., Parkdale United Church
2919 8th Avenue N.W., Calgary

Join us to hear two experts from Restorative Actions for Transformation, a collaborative, inter-agency project that provides restorative justice services in Calgary for youth who have committed offenses, their victims, and the wider community that has been affected by the offenses.



Chairperson's message

SEPTEMBER UPDATE

A warm thanks to all who attended our Floating Lantern Ceremony on August 4, and to those who gave so generously of their time and resources to ensure our event was a success. A special thanks to our guest speaker, the Honourable Douglas Roche, who gave a rousing speech on the importance of continuing to work for peace and nuclear disarmament in the world. My gratitude also to event co-chairs Sally Hodges and Shinobuo Apple who worked incredibly hard to deliver a truly meaningful and special event.

Although the weather for our ceremony this year did not co-operate as much as we wished, I heard many positive comments from those who attended. It was great to see Calgarians and visitors of all ages and from diverse multicultural and faith communities come together in solidarity to commemorate the victims of the atomic bombings and to take a stand for lasting world peace. We held our ceremony in conjunction with similar events taking place in many of the 7,614 cities in 163 regions worldwide who have joined Mayors for Peace, a group of mayors, including Mayor Nenshi, who develop initiatives that promote the abolition of nuclear weapons. Following the event, we also issued a news release with Doug's message. [You can read the news release on our website at www.ploughsharescalgary.ca/news](http://www.ploughsharescalgary.ca/news)

Ploughshares Peace Fair combining forces with NGO Village at Marda Loop Justice Film Festival

We are excited about a change to Ploughshare's Peace Fair to ensure its ongoing success. This year, we are joining forces with the Marda Loop Justice Film Festival to hold a combined event during the Film Festival. In the past, the Film Festival has included an NGO Village. As both the Peace Fair and the Film Festival have typically been held within a week of each other, we felt we could potentially attract a larger audience by joining together. In August, Sultana Virani and I met with the president and executive director of the Film Festival to explore opportunities to combine resources. We decided that our Peace Fair will combine with their NGO Village for a new combined event to be called the Peace Village as part of the Marda Loop Justice Film Festival, running November 16 to 18, 2018. We will need volunteers to help with our portion of this event. If you are interested in volunteering, please call us at (403) 270-7366 or e-mail office@ploughsharescalgary.ca

We welcome all members and anyone who is interested to join us on September 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Parkdale United Church to hear from Restorative Actions for Transformation, an inter-agency project that provides restorative justice services in Calgary for youth who have committed offences, their victims, and the wider community. Hope to see you there!

Cheers,

Trudy Gouier

Hiroshima anniversary blends sadness with hope

by Kathleen McWilliams

At many of the memorial events held around the world to commemorate the date of August 6, 1945, when the U.S. dropped a nuclear bomb on Hiroshima, participants were reminded about efforts to ratify an international treaty that would ban nuclear weapons. For this reason, this year's remembrance programs were also held with hope that these weapons that pose a constant threat to humanity and life on earth will be abolished.

Preventing nuclear war

On July 7, 2017, the United Nations passed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, by a vote of 122 in favour, one against, one absention, and 69 non-voting nations. To date, 59 nations have signed the treaty and 14 have ratified it. Fifty nations need to ratify the treaty to for it to take effect. Of Canada's participation in this Treaty, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)—a group that won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 for its work to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons—said the following: “Canada did not participate in the negotiation of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It voted against the UN General Assembly resolution in 2016 that established the mandate for nations to negotiate the treaty. It claims that US nuclear weapons are essential for its security.”

The current situation

ICAN reports that nine countries together possess around 15,000 nuclear weapons. The largest nuclear arsenals are held by the United States with 6,800 warheads and Russia with 7,000 warheads. Moreover, the United States and Russia maintain roughly 1,800 of their nuclear weapons on high-alert status, which means they can be launched within minutes of a warning. Most are many times more powerful than the atomic bombs dropped on Japan in 1945. For more information, you can visit the following websites:

- The United Nations at <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/>
- The Noble Peace Prize for 2017 at <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2017/summary/>
- International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons at <http://www.icanw.org/>

What can we do?

Therefore, we urge all members to ask their MPs the following questions:

- 1) Do you support Canada signing the International Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons (If not, why not)?
- 2) What have you done to promote the agenda of nuclear weapons abolition?

Did you know?

Puget Sound, along the northwestern coast of the U.S. state of Washington, is home to one third of deployed U.S. nuclear weapons. For four weeks that began July 9, up to 39 Metro downtown buses in Seattle carried ads paid for by the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action to call attention to nuclear weapons in the area. You can read more about this at <http://www.gzcenter.org/2018/07/05/metro-bus-ad-to-inform-citizens-of-puget-sound-about-nuclear-weapons-stockpiled-in-their-back-yard/>

We want to hear from you

We are updating our newsletter and we would like to hear from you. We are interested in what you would like to see in upcoming issues. If you have a comment or suggestion, please email us at office@ploughsharescalgary.ca by September 18, 2018.

Please email us if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter

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We are very grateful for your loyal moral and financial support over the years. Because of our members, we have been able to work towards peace and educate about peace. If you haven't already sent in your donation, please consider donating soon. If you have already sent in your donation for 2018, we thank you most sincerely. Please remember to make your cheques payable to Ploughshares Calgary Society.

Yes, I am interested in supporting the peace work of Ploughshares Calgary!
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 to volunteer _____

Name: _____
Phone #: _____
Address: _____

City: _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____
Email: _____

Payment 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.

Many thanks to all the participants and volunteers who attended
our 2018 Floating Lantern Festival

