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**WISHING YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES PEACE, HEALTH,  
AND HAPPINESS DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON AND  
IN THE UPCOMING NEW YEAR.**

**MAY THE SPIRIT OF LOVE AND PEACE FILL OUR HEARTS  
AND GUIDE US THROUGHOUT THIS SEASON AND INTO  
2020. OUR WARMEST THOUGHTS AND BEST WISHES TO  
ALL OUR MEMBERS, FRIENDS, AND SUPPORTERS AS YOU  
CELEBRATE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.**

If you need to reach us, please leave a message with our office at 403 270 7366 or email us.

We will only be able to return calls with an Alberta area code.

Please note that during the Christmas and New Year's holiday season, our Ploughshares office will be closed.

### Save the date!

**Please join us to hear the following speakers at Parkdale United Church,  
2919 – 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.W., Calgary from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.:**

**January 8, 2020—Prof. Adbie Kazempir, University of Calgary  
Aspects of Refugee and Immigrant Adjustment**

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**February 12, 2020—Dr. Doreen Barrie, University of Calgary  
Perils of Use of Electronic Devices for Voter Registration and Voting**

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**March 11, 2020—John Rose, Royal Bank  
How to Screen Your Investments for Nuclear Weapons Divestment**

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Events are free, but we gratefully accept donations – bring a friend.



- ❖ **During a visit to Nagasaki, Pope Francis called on world leaders to stop stockpiling nuclear weapons, noting it offered their countries a false sense of security.** His comments came on November 24 as he placed a wreath at a memorial to the 74,000 people who died after the US dropped a nuclear bomb on Nagasaki on 9 August 1945. Three days before, on 6 August, 1945, the US had carried out a nuclear attack on Hiroshima where 140,000 people died by the end of the year. See [Nagasaki](#).
- ❖ **In this opinion piece in November 15's *Globe and Mail*, Erna Paris reports on Gambia's recent lawsuit against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Hague, accusing Myanmar of genocide against the Rohingya Muslims.** When Abubacarr M. Tambadou, Gambia's justice minister, visited a Rohingya refugee camp, he saw a parallel between his experience as a justice on the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in the 1990s and the Rohingya's experience. See [The Rohingya](#).
- ❖ **Impeachment backstory: The nuclear dimension of US security assistance to Ukraine.** This November 13 article by Mariana Budjeryn, PhD, explains why American tax dollars should be spent on security assistance to the Ukraine. Budjeryn points to the Budapest Memorandum, signed on December 5, 1994, by the U.S., the United Kingdom, and Russia as the reason why the U.S. should provide security assistance. With the Budapest Memorandum, Ukraine gave up the nuclear arms it had inherited upon its independence and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. In return, it wanted its security concerns addressed—in particular Ukraine was distrustful of Russia, who was reluctant to accept Ukraine independence. See [Impeachment backstory](#).
- ❖ **On November 13, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) released a report: "Schools of Mass Destruction: American Universities in the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Complex."** The report outlines how approximately 50 American colleges and universities are supplying the scientific, technical, and human resources necessary to maintain and expand U.S. weapons of mass destruction. These universities have signed formal agreements worth millions or billions of dollars to manage or partner with nuclear weapons development and production sites. Some of these universities include the following: University of California, Texas A&M University, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of New Mexico. [See here for the list of universities](#).



- ❖ **On November 10, Global Affairs Canada [issued a statement](#) that it welcomed the call for new elections in Bolivia by the Organization of American States Electoral Observer Mission to the country.** On November 20, Bolivia's interim government presented a bill that would annul the disputed October 20 election, appoint a new electoral board, and forge a path to new elections. On November 22, Bolivia's interim government also [charged former President Evo Morales with sedition and terrorism](#). This [Globe and Mail editorial of November 21](#) contends that the interim government of Ms. Anez is taking actions that are outside the range of a caretaker government "that is supposed to work toward reconciliation and quickly call another election." The editors argue that countries backing the Anez government should withdraw their support and demand a new election without delay.
  
- ❖ **Breaking the North Korean nuclear stalemate.** This November 11 East Asia Forum article by Chung-in Moon explores the history of crises and peace surrounding the Korean Peninsula for the past three years. Chung-in Moon argues that trust-building is essential to bridge the huge gap between Pyongyang and Washington. The author offers some tangible solutions for reaching a comprehensive agreement for complete and verifiable denuclearization. See [Breaking the stalemate](#).
  
- ❖ **Experts dispute Canada's assertion of no link between Saudi arms sales and human rights abuses.** In this November 22 article on *Global News*, Andrew Russell reports on Canada's claims that no evidence exists relating its military exports to Saudi Arabian human rights abuses. Contradicting Canada's claim, footage has emerged over the last few years of Canadian-made light armoured vehicles being used as Saudi forces and Houthi rebels battle along the Saudi-Yemen border. See [Experts dispute](#).



*Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays,*

*One and All*

*Wishing You a Healthy and Peaceful 2020!*



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