



August 2022 Newsletter

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Want to donate to Ploughshares Calgary? If you haven't yet made your 2022 donation, please consider doing so soon! Email office@ploughshares.ca for more information on how to donate.



Upcoming Event:

Calgary Floating Lanterns will be holding their 10th annual memorial celebration this upcoming Saturday, August 6th. See more on **page 2**

Welcome our new volunteer!

Ploughshares Calgary is excited to introduce our new volunteer, Khalida Alizada! Read more about her on our **Good News** page

CONTACT US NOW:



INTRODUCTION TO OUR NEW PRESIDENT: MARYA JARVEY



Marya is a native Calgarian with a lifelong interest in social justice, ecology and peace. She has been involved with numerous organisations working in these areas, such as the Seminar on the UN and International Affairs, Arusha Cross Cultural Centre, as well as Project Ploughshares.

She was a founding member of the original Educators for Peace and Social Justice group (operating in the 1980s and 90s), helping to plan and run student conferences, develop and share resources, including at the Calgary Teachers' Convention and through the ATA Global Education Specialist Council.

She creatively integrated topics of justice and the environment into her classroom, which led to a Local Excellence in Teaching award in 1992. At that point, Marya's career took a turn towards working with students with learning difficulties. She completed a Masters in Educational Psychology, and became registered as a psychologist, working at both school and district levels to serve students with learning challenges. In 2008, she received a Shepherd Leadership Award in Calgary Catholic School District. Over her career in Education, Marya taught students from Kindergarten through High School, developed countless supportive resources, contributed to several books, and provided many professional development sessions for prospective and practicing teachers. Since retiring, she spends more time traveling with her husband to see their far-flung family, and getting out in nature as often as possible. She was glad to renew her commitment to issues of nonviolence and social justice by joining Ploughshares Calgary Society Board last year. As PCS' new president, she is looking forward to the work we can do together in our fifth decade of promoting peace and justice, in our home community of Calgary, and in our broader world.





CALGARY FLOATING LANTERN PEACE CEREMONY

Floating Lantern Peace Ceremony will mark its **10th anniversary** this year. This has been a summer family event where everyone can enjoy their time with music and cultural performance, as well as speeches by community youth leaders and distinguished persons. Attendees can reflect on peace through observing colourful lanterns on the pool. This summer event was started to honour the lives impacted by the atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Since 2020 we have also honoured the lives lost to COVID, suicide, and drug overdoses. Since 2021, we have further honoured the children's lives lost during the Residential School System by creating and launching the 1000-light-boat.

This year's keynote speaker is Ms. Lorelei Higgins, Mrs. Canada Globe 2021, who is Metis and has worked tirelessly for peace and reconciliation. As always, the Floating Lantern Peace Ceremony will take place at Olympic Plaza on August 6 (Sa) from 6 pm – 9:30 pm.



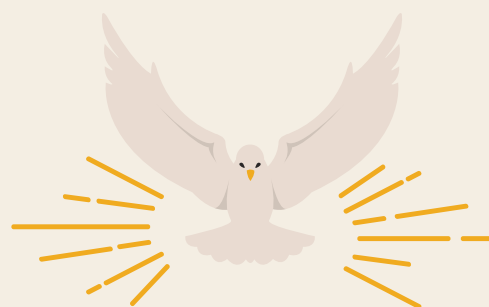
Photo by Albert Woo

Photo Credits: Albert Woo



GOOD NEWS

- Lacombe Composite High School in Lacombe, AB has been listed as a contender in a global sustainability contest. It is the only North American school to be listed. At this school, students run a greenhouse, manage beehives, maintain and milk goats, and grow fruit trees. The school has solar panels and plants to filter the air. These activities are sponsored and run by its Ecovision Club. (Canadian Press July 3, 2022)
- Alberta is expanding its support for Ukrainian refugees. (Canadian Press, Globe and Mail, July 4, 2022) Premier Kenney announced that beginning July 25, refugees arriving from Ukraine would be eligible for new forms of aid, including basic living costs for up to six months, and child care support. The cost of these additions is estimated to range between 15 and 38 million dollars.
- The Ploughshares Calgary Society has an Afghan woman volunteer who is working remotely from Toronto. Her name is Khalida Alizada. Her background is in journalism, organizing, women’s rights, teaching English, and community services. Khalida needs some Canadian experience. She will do some writing for our newsletter and will also interview some persons from Afghanistan about their attitudes, as victims of war, to a peace museum. Haylie and Trudy look forward to working with her. Thanks to Katherine Govier and the Shoe Project for making this connection for us.
- Mount Royal University campus welcomes 100 Ukrainian refugees. Individuals started arriving in June and will be able to utilize the East Residence townhouses until August 15th. (MRU, July 13th, 2022)





GOOD NEWS

- This one is qualified. In late July, an agreement to **facilitate the shipping of grain** from Ukraine and Russia through the Black Sea was negotiated under the auspices of the UN and Turkey, between Russia and Ukraine. This seemed like a “beacon of hope”. Because some areas had been mined, pilot vessels would be needed to guide commercial vessels. The deal seemed extremely hopeful with regard to **getting food supplies to Africa and areas of the Middle East**. It also appeared to give an encouraging sign regarding the **prospects for constructive diplomacy**. However, it is not entirely clear that this agreement will be fulfilled, as there have been Russian attacks on Odessa and other nearby centres since the announcement of this agreement. **Follow this story with hope!**
- Six Nations of the Grand River, located in Southern Ontario, is the largest First Nations community by population in Canada. As a community they are involved in renewable energy projects, including solar and wind farms. This community established the Six Nations of the Grand River Development Corporation (SNGRDC) that not only generates sustainable power, but also provides economic prosperity. The Grand Renewable Energy Park solar farm generates enough energy for 17,000 homes. Niagara Regional Wind Farm was then created via collaboration with Boralex and Six Nations and generates enough energy for 76,000 homes. All funds made by Six Nations Development Corporation goes back to benefit their community. (The Weather Network, July 8th, 2022).



- Habitat for Humanity Southern Alberta has been thriving despite the COVID-19 Pandemic, all thanks to the Alberta province’s COVID-19 declaration that construction was an essential service. Habitat volunteers have increased post-pandemic as individuals are looking at ways to give back to their community. Habitat provides interest-free homes with no down payment and relies on donations of materials, time and funding from the community. The organization chooses its future homeowners from thousands of applications received annually. In 2021, Habitat housed eight families in Radisson Heights. They are currently looking to complete 16 new units in Silver Springs by 2023. (Calgary Herald, July 15, 2022)
- The government of Manitoba will be upping its financial support to the International Peace Garden to celebrate the garden's 90th anniversary. The garden was created in 1932 to signify a peaceful relationship between Canada and the United States. In honour of the 90th anniversary, the province will increase annual grant funding more than 40 per cent. (CTV Winnipeg, July 25, 2022)



Photo Credits:Travel Manitoba



MUSEUM INITIATIVE UPDATE

- The museum support committee has met with great enthusiasm from many persons interviewed regarding its contact brochure, and is working on revisions and further contacts
- We are receiving wonderful feedback from pro-peace, highly sympathetic members of our community
- We are working on broadening our interview horizons to garner opinions from members of the community who may not be as sympathetic to our initiative.
- Emily Honderich is working on designing an icon for our peace museum initiative.
- The support group for these interviews includes member Tamara Seiler, member Naushad Dada, former staff person Karen Huggins, president Marya Jarvey, former board member David Boutland, present staff person Haylie Smith, past president Trudy Govier, enthusiastic peace supporter Martha McManus, and new board member Deb Kocay. We have also welcomed a new member to our support committee, author and organizer Carolyn Pogue.
- If you would like to see the latest version of the proposal, you can email the office to have an electronic copy sent along. Alternately, try trudy.govier@uleth.ca

