



# August 2023 Newsletter

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If you haven't yet made  
your 2023 donation,  
please consider doing so  
soon! Email  
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how to donate.



## CALGARY FLOATING LANTERNS THANKS YOU

Thank you to everyone who made it out to  
the 11th Annual Floating Lantern Peace  
Ceremony held at Olympic Plaza!

With your support we sold out of lanterns  
and were able to raise a great deal of funds  
to keep this ceremony going for another  
year!

Please remember to check out our  
"Building A Culture Of Peace" exhibit on now  
at the Calgary Central Library. The exhibit  
is on until August 25th.

Contact Us:



## PEACE TABLE LETTER TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Ploughshares Calgary Society drafted a letter that has been sent to the PM and Deputy PM, ministers of Foreign Affairs and National Defence, opposition leaders, foreign affairs critics from all parties, and officials In Global Affairs Canada.

As an organisation with a long-standing dedication to peace, we are deeply troubled by the escalating deaths, debilitating human trauma, destruction of infrastructure, and serious environmental damage that has taken place since the February 24, 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine. Of gravest concern is the heightened risk of nuclear warfare that the invasion has unleashed. This compels us to seek steps that might be taken towards the resolution of this conflict. We reach out to you with this concern and offer some context and suggestions.

On June 14, 2023, we held an event, both online and in-person, called the “Calgary Peace Table on Ukraine and Russia.” At this meeting, we viewed excerpts from a two hour video recording of an April 27, 2023 Zoom meeting sponsored by the Canadian Pugwash Group (CPG), entitled “The Peace Table for Ukraine and Russia.” (The video of this meeting can be viewed [here](#).) In this recording, four speakers with relevant diplomatic and work experience in Russia and Ukraine participated in a facilitated discussion that focused on obstacles to a ceasefire, and possible steps that could be taken towards circumventing those obstacles. CPG followed up their discussion with a Report of the Peace Table on Ukraine and Russia and a paper entitled “Silence the Guns in Ukraine” (can be viewed [here](#)). We commend this work, the orchestration of such an informative and engaging debate, and the publication of these two ensuing helpful documents. We support the effort towards peace that these encourage, in particular the offering of suggestions for specific actions that could be taken to build trust. We encourage you to read and view these, for they provide much valuable food for thought.



## PEACE TABLE LETTER TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

After our own viewing, we spent time discussing the video excerpts and supporting documents. We believe that Canada can make a positive contribution towards creating a forum for the dialogue that could open up new ground for pathways towards peace. In particular, we want to suggest that our country become involved in supporting the development of an international Peace Table on Ukraine and Russia. Such a Peace Table could be structured to include input from all concerned parties, and be informed by experts in the region's history, in international diplomacy, conflict resolution as well as in ecology and environmental restoration. Such a forum for dialogue could generate specific recommendations to create the conditions most likely to lead towards a durable peace.

In our own Calgary Peace Table, we developed the following recommendations that could help guide peace negotiations and rebuilding. We offer them here:

- Change the language of the dialogue from that of winning/losing to living as neighbours.
- Engage women in the process to reach a more durable peace agreement.
- Respect security concerns of both sides, with the goal of both sides feeling secure (Common Security.)
- Attend to humanitarian needs (physical, social, and psychological.)
- Require accountability, transparency, sustainability and efficiency (e.g. in the provision of humanitarian and military aid, other practical support, etc.).
- Support democratic decision-making, holding elections under international supervision.
- Listen to the views of all citizens and support dialogue in both countries.
- Encourage strategies and approaches that lessen environmental degradation and that mitigate the climate crisis.
- Seek understanding and advice from relevant historical and political experts.



## PEACE TABLE LETTER TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Canada has offered significant assistance to Ukraine, both military and humanitarian, as well as generous support for refugees. But this war needs to come to an end. Human and ecological fragilities demand it. Our country can play a role in bringing it to an end. As a democratic, multicultural country with a history of contribution towards peace-making, we must find ways to step up and make an important contribution towards the dialogue necessary to move towards peace. A Peace Table on Ukraine and Russia is a promising suggestion.

Would you be willing to support such an initiative? If so, what support could you offer, and how can we assist?

With sincere concern and hope,  
Marya A. Jarvey  
President

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Calgary Ploughshares Society



# WHAT YOU WON'T LEARN ABOUT IN OPPENHEIMER: THE POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF A NUCLEAR WAR

By James Westman

CBC News

August 3, 2023

Summarized by Haylie Smith

- Christopher Nolan's film, Oppenheimer, told the story of the Trinity test, the first atomic bomb explosion which took place more than 78 years ago.
- A potential effect of the atom bomb, nuclear winter, was not explored until after the death of J. Robert Oppenheimer.
- Nuclear war would cool the planet due to smoke produced by fires resulting from the bombs. This smoke would be lifted into the stratosphere creating a giant thunderstorm.
- These are known as pyrocumulonimbus clouds and one resulted in Hiroshima, Japan, on August 6th, 1945.
- According to a 2007 paper, nuclear war between the United States and Russia would send 150 million tonnes of smoke into the stratosphere, which would result in a global cooling of 7-8 degrees celsius that would persist for years. After 10 years, the world will still be 4 degrees celsius cooler.
- A global cooling would be a massive problem for food production. Countries at higher latitudes would be hit harder by a nuclear winter
- A paper released in Nature Food found that 5.3 billion people would die from starvation two years after a nuclear exchange between the United States and Russia. The paper also found 99% of Canadians would starve to death.

To read the full article, click [here](#)





## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF HIROSHIMA

It is both my honor and pleasure to send this message on the occasion of the Lantern Peace Festival in Calgary.

Seventy-eight years ago in the summer, without warning, the first atomic bomb to be used against humanity was dropped. It detonated over the citizens of Hiroshima just 600 meters above ground. The horrific heat rays and blast winds claimed countless precious and innocent lives and everyday life vanished violently into scenes from hell. To this day, the lives of the hibakusha survivors are still impaired by the adverse effects of radiation on their minds and bodies.

In the present, the Russian invasion of Ukraine continues to fuel the notion that nuclear deterrence is the only way to maintain peace. To accept such a notion is to accept the status quo, abandon the ideal of peace maintained without military force, and threaten the very survival of the human race. Above all, entrusting a nuclear button to any world leader is to sanction continued nuclear threats to humanity and the potential re-creation of the hellscape of August 6, 1945. We must immediately render all nuclear buttons meaningless.

With the hibakusha's will for peace at our core, the City of Hiroshima will continue striving toward nuclear weapons abolition, however arduous the path, rather than treating a world without nuclear weapons like a distant dream. In this process, we must realize the ideal of a civil society in which each and every citizen shares the conviction that happy lives require an end to war, an end to armed conflict, and an end to life-threatening social discrimination. It therefore could not be more meaningful that you have organized this event to share the views about the value of peace with the participation of the Child-Diplomats and many other young people, and I extend to you my deepest respect.



## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF HIROSHIMA

At the G7 Hiroshima Summit held in May this year, world leaders touched upon the realities of the atomic bombing, took the Spirit of Hiroshima into their hearts, and sent to the world a message of working toward a world free from nuclear weapons.

In the wake of the G7 Hiroshima Summit, together with more than 8,200 Mayors for Peace member cities, our city will never stop in its mission to promote the culture of peace that rejects all forms of violence and to encourage policymakers to pursue foreign policy through dialogue without relying on nuclear deterrence. I would like to ask you to act in solidarity with us as we strive to eliminate nuclear weapons and realize lasting world peace.

In closing, I extend my best wishes for the great success of this event, as well as the good health and happiness of all in attendance.

August 6, 2023  
 MATSUI Kazumi Mayor  
 The City of Hiroshima



## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF NAGASAKI

On behalf of the people of Nagasaki, I would like to send you a message on the occasion of the Floating Lantern Peace Ceremony 2023. I would like to offer my deepest respect to those who are in the Ploughshares Calgary Society for keeping your work to send out a message for peace with many citizens in Calgary, especially children, for 11 years long.

At 11:02 AM, on August 9th, 1945, one single atomic bomb dropped brought the loss of 74,000 precious lives, 75,000 injuries, and devastation in the city of Nagasaki. Our Hibakusha, as well as all of our citizens, have been advocating for realizing "the world free from nuclear weapons" in order for anyone in the world not to experience the tragedy and atrocity caused by nuclear weapons.

Currently, the risk of nuclear weapon use has been increasing in the midst of an international situation relating to nuclear weapons centering on the protracted Ukraine Crisis. The only method that protects the earth and humanity from the threat of nuclear weapons is nothing but the "Abolition of Nuclear Weapons."

In order to make it happen, we have to pass the baton for peace from the Hibakusha and those who experienced the wars toward the future, and make our voice for peace louder than ever before, in order to stop any wars that trigger the use of nuclear weapons.

I sincerely pray that this peace event plants the seed of peace in the heart of each individual participant and have the seeds grow in a way that "A Culture of Peace" will expand in the world.

Lastly, but not least, I pray for the successful Floating Lantern Peace Ceremony 2023, as well as every participant's health and happiness in the future.

The Fifth of August in the Fifth Year of Reiwa (2023),  
Suzuki Shiro, The Mayor of Nagasaki



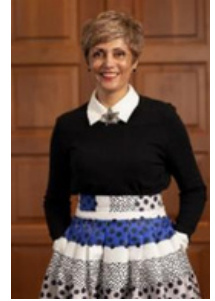


**Calgary**

Mayor Jyoti Gondek

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR GONDEK

On behalf of City Council, I want to express gratitude for this incredibly reflective and action-oriented ceremony which provides Calgarians an opportunity to join with 7,500+ other cities around the world in a unified act of peace.



The significance of the lanterns representing spirits of lost souls during WWII help us remember the cost of world conflict to humanity. This is a lesson we continue to learn today, sometimes painfully slow. At times, the conflict seems so large and beyond our control that it can be easy to lose hope. The floating lantern ceremony reminds us that the solution lies within each of us, and we generate hope when we send that light into the world.

Cities and the people who live in them play an important role in shaping the future of our world. Together, with groups like Ploughshares Calgary Society and all other organizations partnering in today's event, are building a culture of peace with our help.

Thank you for joining in this inspirational ceremony which gently reminds us of the harrowing parts of history while we birth a new, more hopeful future.

Sincerely,

Jyoti Gondek

Mayor of Calgary



**GOOD NEWS**

- Dmitry Bondarenko, a Toronto-based artist and lecturer, spent 10 years filling up a 5x7 black sketchbook of paintings, but lost it while cycling through the city of Leslieville. Bondarenko and his parents immigrated to Canada from the USSR, and the sketchbook contained some of that memory, including still-life paintings of objects belonging to his Russian great-grandfather in the Red Army. Bondarenko retraced his steps, put up more than 70 flyers on telephone poles and street lamps, and checked with park services in the park he had cycled through. Eventually he turned to social media where his post was shared on a FB group called “I Am A Leslievillain” where it reached a man who had found the sketchbook on the trail. Chris Ellam, 75, reached out to Bondarenko to return his sketchbook. Ellam recalls lecturing Bondarenko upon meeting, “I told him, ‘Put your name and number in it!’” (Good News Network, July 25th, 2023).
- A hiker in Oregon jumped into action and helped a young woman pull her mother back up to safety after she slipped off the side of an elevated trail. Taylor Root was hiking along the Columbia River Gorge when he heard a young woman screaming for help. Root ran up to the woman, who only had one arm, to find she was holding onto her mother who was dangling head first off the side of the cliff. With their combined strength, they managed to hoist the older woman back up onto the trail and to safety. (NY Times, June 16th, 2023).



The unidentified mother and daughter embrace after the harrowing rescue  
Photo Credits: Taylor Root





**GOOD NEWS**

- Two Calgary sisters, Mercedes and Anastasia Korngut are out to spread the word on the importance of enjoying small pieces of happiness. The two have created their own small business called “Small Bits of Happiness”. The teens sell items they’ve created, such as clothing and a game featuring messages on cards, to promote connection between family members and friends, as well as between members of the community at large. The sisters sell their products online and at popup stands. If you are interested in checking out their products, click [here](#). (Global News Calgary, August 11th, 2023).
- A crow, now affectionately referred to as Jake, was rescued by Andrew Silverwood (57) in England after he was found in the middle of a busy road with a broken leg when he was around two weeks old. Andrew and his wife, Suzanne, brought Jake into their home in West Yorkshire. Now Jake is staying in the hutch with their rabbits. The couple, who own five rabbits, were not planning on keeping Jake permanently, but after seeing how Jake was adopted by their rabbits, decided to make him an official member of the family. Jake has adopted some characteristics from his rabbit family, which includes hopping around with them. The couple believes that Jake considers the rabbits his adopted parents, and he'll even squawk to them, like a chick would do to their mom, to let them know it's time for him to be fed. (Good News Network, August 7th, 2023).



Jake with one of his rabbits  
Photo Credits: Good News Network

