



Veterans for Peace
Chapter 14

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Veterans for Peace Announces Third Annual Public Reading for the Peace Poetry Contest for Alachua and Marion County Schools

On Saturday, May 11, approximately 30 students from Alachua and Marion counties will read their winning peace poems aloud at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (4225 NW 34th St.) as winners of the 2013 Peace Poetry Contest.

The fourth annual Peace Poetry Contest began in February, inviting all K-12 students of Alachua County and surrounding area schools, both public and private, to submit one poem on what peace means to them. A team of English graduate students from the University of Florida, led by Dr. Sidney Wade, evaluated and judged the approximately 230 poems according to age group.

From those poems, 32 readers were chosen to perform their pieces on May 11 and will have their winning poems published in the 2013 Peace Poetry booklet. Winners also receive a gift certificate to Book Gallery West, a locally owned and operated bookstore in Gainesville.

Though this contest holds no formal position on the current state of world affairs, we still want to honor the ideal of peace through the perspectives of young people. Peace is a uniquely human conception and affirms the human spirit. It is especially important to remember that peace is not merely a goal but a human right. In that spirit of reflection, we are very pleased with the success of this year's contest.

This year's reading will be held on Saturday, May 11, at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville (4225 NW 34th St.), from 2:30pm to 4pm. The event will include live performances by the winning poets and music by a number of local musicians. A reception with refreshments will follow the program. The reading is free and open to the public.

For more information on the 2013 Poetry Reading, please contact the organizers at vfppeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com, or contact the Gainesville chapter's president of Veterans for Peace, Scott Camil, at 352-375-2563.

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