ALTERNATIVE NEW YEAR’S CELEBRATION & PEACE GATHERING:
December 30, 2013 — January 1, 2014

Details: go to ACTIONSouth.blogspot.com or email newsouthnetwork@gmail.com
(More info at tonight’s Vets for Peace literature table)

Sponsored by: Pax Christi Florida Nancy O’Byrne: obyrnen@bellsouth.net - 904-461-9216.
New South Network of War Resisters, Coleman Smith - 828-301-6683
Trident to Life in the the Southeast and Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice

This year Bruce Gagnon returns to the Gathering to lead a workshop on the history & future of the peace movement.
Celebrate with us the peace we all know is our birthright.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP of GAINESVILLE

All people share a moral responsibility to create peace. Mindful of both our rich heritage and our past failures to prevent war, and enriched by our present diversity of experience and perspective, we commit ourselves to a radically inclusive and transformative approach to peace.
UU Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking

Join Us at UUFG for 11:00 AM Services
website: http://uufg.org/

27th Annual Winter Solstice PEACE CONCERT
Music & Cheer for Dark Hours

December 21st, 2013, 8:00 PM
at and co-sponsored by the
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF GAINESVILLE
The year 2013 saw Vets for Peace continuing locally and nationally to follow the Mission of affirming “our greater responsibility to serve the cause of world peace.” Following a successful Winter Solstice Concert on December 8th 2012, Chapter 14 began planning their events for the following year starting with donating some of the concert proceeds to worthy causes including the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program; Civic Media Center; Home Van, serving the homeless; Courage to Resist, which supports troops who refuse to fight; the Bradley Manning Defense fund; subscriptions to the National VFP Newsletter and the War Times Crimes; and to the National VFP, who have been leading national campaigns including the anti-drone program, seeking justice for victims of Agent Orange; and the “How is the War Economy Working for You?” sign campaign. You may have seen those signs at the Peace pickets which continue on Tuesday afternoons. See the front page of the website for times and places. In addition to these donations VFP set aside funds to cover the annual Penrod award which goes to local social justice activists, the Peace Poetry event, and the Memorial Mile in May, plus concert expenses in December 2013.

VFP rounded out January by attending the Martin Luther King march with their banner. February began with the mailing of Peace Poetry Contest announcements to all the local schools. On Sun., Feb. 3rd, Scott Camil (VFP Coordinator), Joe Courter of the Civic Media Center, and Dot Maver from the River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding spoke at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship’s Peace Service.

March was a busy month as the Peace Poetry Contest continued with VFP member volunteers visiting schools to make sure teachers were receiving the materials. Veterans’ Speak Out took place on Wed., Mar. 13th at Santa Fe College with members Pierce Butler organizing and Mary Bahr moderating an event where veterans are invited to speak about their experiences at war before an audience of the public. Penrod Award was given on Fri., March 22nd at Prairie Creek Lodge. VFP member and amazing worker and organizer Sheila Payne received the Award for 2012. Congratulations Sheila! On Mon., March 25th, Dennis Schuman conducted the second Children of Abraham Seder. This is a Passover celebration in a Christian church with Jews, Christians, Muslims and others attending with Vets for Peace members part of the sponsoring organization United Voices for Peace. Tales of Honor, a multimedia play about returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, took place at the Santa Fe College Fine Arts Hall 1 March with Scott Camil on the discussion panel after the play. Scott reported a lively discussion resulted. Work began on the tombstones for Memorial Day.

April saw 230 Peace Poems turned in and our judging team, Dr Sidney Wade, UF Poetry professor and her graduate students, went to work to choose the finalists. Preparation for a busy May with Peace Poetry Awards on the 11th and Memorial Day weekend Memorial Mile preparations proceeded apace. Volunteers are always needed for the Memorial Mile. Besides coming out to set up and take down the memorial we need volunteers to staff our three stations to watch over the tombstones and help visitors find particular memorials. We invite all of you to come and drive or walk the Memorial Mile for a special Memorial Day experience. You also are invited to

Gainesville Veterans for Peace Activities in 2013:
continued on inside back cover...
Over the last 27 years, Veterans for Peace has recognized people whose service is integral to the work of VFP. This recognition is acknowledged with the presentation of the Peace Helmet Award.

The award is a beautiful stained glass replica of the VFP symbol of the Dove of Peace on a military helmet. For the past 27 years, these stained glass Peace Helmets have been created for us exclusively by McIntyre Stained Glass Studio.

We started giving this award out publicly at the Solstice in 2008.

We do not give this award out every year.

This year’s recipients’ names are not printed here in order to keep the award a surprise.

Peace Helmet Award Recipients over the last 27 years:
(We did not have computer records in the beginning so we have done our best to remember all of the recipients. If you have received this award and are not listed, we apologize - please let us know.)

Virtual Peace Helmet to the Occupy Movement everywhere

David Pokorney

2011 Peace Helmet Award Recipients: Jessica Newman
Ann and Phil Haisley - Books Inc - Book Lover's Cafe
Virtual Peace Helmet to the Occupy Movement everywhere

2010 Peace Helmet Award Recipients: Sheila Payne
Charlie Scales - Hyde and Zyke

2009 Peace Helmet Award Recipients: Kirk Anthony - MFSO
Jacque Betz - Code Pink
Sue Faulk
Craig Nikolaus
Peter Theoktisto - Everyman Sound
Bob Tomashevsky

2008 Peace Helmet Award Recipients: Denny Bellesheim
Dottie Burnham
Louis Clark - Bio-Graphix
Rob Hopkins
Gil Marshall
Ku Wang

Other Years:
Mary Bahr
Norman Balabaian
Pierce Butler
Scott Camil
John Chambers
Joe Courter - Gainesville Iguana
Jim Creaven
John Fullerton
Bill Gilbert
Sherry Steiner
John Hawkins
Dave Henderson
Stephen Hunter
Bill Hutchinson
Marybeth Hyer
Bobby Ing
John Koch
Julie Netzer
Bill Salmon
Bill Warrick
Charles Willett

Special Thanks to—
The Members & Supporters of Veterans for Peace
Bill Hutchinson • Civic Media Center • McIntyre Stained Glass
Charlie Scales • Pete Peters • Linda Kemp
Peter Theoktisto of Everyman Sound Company
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville
Samuel Proctor Oral History Program
The UUFG Social Justice Council • Kotodama Glassworks
Tuesday afternoon peace picketers
Whistleblowers

Vet er ans for Peace thanks

Linda Kemp
for the beautiful artwork on the cover of this program.

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Celestial Wind
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John Chambers
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Marybeth Hyer
Bobby Ing
John Koch
Julie Netzer
Bill Salmon
Bill Warrick
Charles Willett

White House Comment Line: (202) 456-1111
Red Cross/Red Crescent: 1-800-HELP-NOW (435-7669)
Secretary of State Comment Line: (202) 647-6575
Doctors Without Borders: 1-888-392-0392
Congressional Switchboard: (202) 224-3121
Oxfam America: 1-800/OXFAM-US (693-2687)
This year, Veterans for Peace organized the Fourth Annual Peace Poetry Contest, inviting all students in Alachua County schools to submit poems based on what peace means to them. Last year was the first year we opened the contest up to Marion County schools. This year we did not advertise the contest in Marion County or promote it through the schools, but somehow students got word, and we received approximately 100 poems from outside of Alachua County.

After the more than 230 submissions were collected, a panel of English graduate students at the University of Florida (Claire Eder, Rebecca Evanhoe, Adam Stengel, Ezra Stewart-Silver, Sarah Trudgeon and Terita Heath-Wlaz), led by Dr. Sidney Wade, judged the entries based on their message and creativity, and issued first, second and third place awards by age group (ranging from kindergarten to twelfth grade). The 32 winning poems and honorable mentions were published in the 2013 Peace Poetry Contest booklet, and poets were invited to share their poems aloud at the Peace Poetry Reading held at the end of the school year at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

This year, two Alachua County students -- Lindsay Ferguson from Gainesville Academy of Art and Music, and Terrance Williams of Eastside High School -- performed at the reading, adding a musical element to the poetry.

Vets for Peace believes that poetry is a prime and meaningful medium for creating a “culture of peace.” Because of this, we believe the Peace Poetry Contest provides a positive avenue for children and young people to share feelings and craft their words creatively.

Overall, the event was a great success, bringing in very diverse poems from students of many different backgrounds. We received great feedback from the parents, students and teachers who participated in this year’s contest.

If you know students who would like to submit a poem to the 2014 Peace Poetry Contest, tell them the deadline for submissions is March 14, 2014, and poems can be submitted to vfppeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com. The Peace Poetry reading will be held in early May, towards the end of the school year; all Central Florida residents are welcome to join us in creating a culture of peace.

To see photos from the 2013 reading and to enjoy all winning poems published in the Peace Poetry booklet, visit the Vets for Peace website at www.vfpgainesville.org. For more information, contact the Peace Poetry Contest at vfppeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com.

Happy Holidays and Peace to All
from the family of Harvey and Gillian Ward.

Alice Hou, 10th Grade, Eastside High School, 1st Place, Grades 9-10

When a voice can influence a mind,
And not be judged by the gender of the speaker,
And not be judged by the color of the speaker,
We will be free.

When a couple can show their affection through marriage,
And not be judged by their infatuations,
And not have others judge about their rights over marriage,
We will be free.

When we can step outside our door,
And not be scared to run back,
And not be scared that we are living in a world where danger lies close to home,
We will be Free.

When nations can stop their wars,
And not attack those who are different,
And not attack other forms of government because they are different,
We will be free.

When we can accept the world and people for who they are,
And not be separated by physical appearance
And not be separated by wealth
And when we can call ourselves, together as one, the people,
We will be Freed.
Memorial Mile 2013

2013 was the seventh year of the Veterans for Peace Memorial Day project known as Memorial Mile. The display consists of tombstones bearing the name, date of death, age, rank, and hometown of the American service-men and -women who have died due to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The display is set up in Gainesville along NW 6th Ave. It runs east from 34th Street for one mile, then crosses to the north side of the road and runs west back toward 34th Street. When we started this project in 2007, we did not think that we would still be involved in these wars today. In 2009, we ran out of room on the south side of the road and that is why we crossed to the north side and have started west.

The City of Gainesville has decided to narrow NW 8th Ave. The final plan has not been decided upon as of yet. What we do know is that the current changes will not affect our ability to set up the display, nurture the volunteers who help us set up the display, nurture it, and take it down. This year, we finished cleaning and repairing the tombstones in July. At the current rate of deaths, which is 11 service members per month, we will need to build 132 new tombstones. Would you like to volunteer?

As of this printing, there are 6,773 total tombstones: 2,292 from Afghanistan and 4,481 from Iraq.

When you visit our display, you will see that we have books at both ends of the display that allow us to help people find the tombstones of the loved ones they are looking for. The second part of the display is a set of panels that show the cost of these two wars in human lives, dollar amounts, and lost opportunities.

This chart shows how many tombstones we have erected each year starting in 2007. Each of these tombstones represents a service person wearing an American uniform.

As of this printing, there are 6,773 total tombstones: 2,292 from Afghanistan and 4,481 from Iraq.

When you visit our display, you will see that some of the tombstones have flags on them. We started marking local tombstones with flags so they would be easier to find. We now also put flags on all tombstones that we know have been visited. Currently, there are 335 tombstones are marked by flags.

Veterans for Peace is very grateful to the volunteers who help us set up the display, nurture it, and take it down. This year, we finished cleaning and repairing the tombstones in July. At the current rate of deaths, which is 11 service members per month, we will need to build 132 tombstones for Memorial Day 2014.

We will start building them in March. Each year we add a new four-person team to manage the new tombstones. Would you like to volunteer?

We are pleased to report no American deaths in Iraq for 2013. Under Bush (8 years), 4,221 American military personnel were killed in Iraq. So far under Obama (5 years), 260 American military personnel have been killed in Iraq, with one American killed in 2012.

In Afghanistan, because of Obama’s escalation, the number of American military personnel who have been killed has gone up. Under Bush (8 years), 630 American military personnel were killed in Afghanistan. So far under Obama (5 years), 1,662 American military personnel have been killed.

There is a new open-ended U.S.-Afghan security deal committing thousands of American military personnel and billions of US Taxpayer dollars indefinitely. Our troops will not all be coming home in 2014. The agreement calls for continued US military operations to defeat al-Qaeda and its affiliates.

In 2011, President Obama announced plans to pull US combat forces out of Afghanistan by 2014 and to transfer security to the Afghan forces that we have been training for over a decade.

... bipartisanship is possible if the policy is bad enough. —Lou Dubose

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and
THE BELTRAM PEACEN CENTER

EMMANUEL BENZONITE CHURCH is a welcoming community in the Anabaptist tradition of radical discipleship and active peacemaking.

THE BELTRAM PEACEN CENTER offers events and programs funded by a legacy from the estate of Fred Beltram, a member of the church whose service as a non-combatant in World War II strengthened his passion for peace.

War is absurd. Boys don’t know any better. But for a grown man to be trapped in stupid wars – it’s embarrassing, it’s humiliating, it’s absurd.

— Anonymous US Army officer

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Just after this announcement, the “Green on Blue” attacks escalated. “Green on Blue” is the name given to insider attacks against coalition forces by the Afghan security forces. These attacks accounted for 9.9% of coalition casualties in 2013.

The total number of Coalition deaths from green-on-blue attacks for the period Jan. 1, 2008 to the present is 140. The total number of Coalition wounded is 159.

Green-on-blue deaths per year and percentage of Coalition deaths caused by such attacks:

- 2008 - 2 - less than 1%
- 2009 - 12 - 2%
- 2010 - 16 - 2%
- 2011 - 35 - 6%
- 2012 - 61 - 15%
- 2013 - 14 - 9.9%


We invaded Afghanistan in 2001 to arrest one man that Afghanistan was willing to turn over to a 3rd country. That man is now allegedly dead and we are still years away from leaving Afghanistan, with no end in sight.

The United Nations Charter, to which all the Coalition countries are signatories, provides that all UN member states must settle their international disputes peacefully and no member nation can use military force except in self-defense. The U.S. Constitution states that international treaties, such as the United Nations Charter, that are ratified by the U.S., are part of the law of the land in the U.S., though subject to effective repeal by any subsequent act of the U.S. Congress (i.e., the “leges posteriores priores contrarias abrogant” or “last in time” canon of statutory interpretation). The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) did not authorize the U.S.-led military campaign in Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom). [from Wikipedia]

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**Thank you for being community builders.**

**You are major community builders because you reach deeply into different parts of the community and bring people together.**

Josh and Sally

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For high-schoolers considering not registering for the Selective Service as is currently mandated: call 1-800-379-2697 or go to www.nisbco.org.

Already in the service, but want to know your rights? call the GI Hotline at 1-877-447-4487 or go to www.girightshotline.org.

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Rob Hyatt thanks the Veterans for Peace.

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“For high-schoolers considering not registering for the Selective Service as is currently mandated: call 1-800-379-2697 or go to www.nisbco.org.”

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“Thank you for being community builders. You are major community builders because you reach deeply into different parts of the community and bring people together.”

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**“We utterly deny all outward wars ... for any end or under any pretence whatsoever.”**

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Friends Declaration of 1661

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**“What a dangerous edifice war is, how easily it may fall to pieces and bury us in its ruins.”**

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— Carl von Clausewitz
Legalize Medical Marijuana – Sign the Petition!
by Michael Canney

Visit the United For Care website:
http://www.unitedforcare.org/

Supporters of an amendment to the Florida Constitution that would permit physicians to prescribe medical marijuana for a “debilitating medical condition” have until February 1st to gather more than 600,000 signatures, if the measure is to be included on the 2014 state election ballot.

At least 20 states have already legalized medical marijuana in some form. A recent Tampa Bay Times editorial said that “Florida voters should be given the opportunity to decide if they want to add this state to that list.” Assisted by funding from attorney John Morgan of the Morgan & Morgan law firm, the campaign to gather petition signatures is in full swing across the state, and despite a legal challenge filed in the Florida Supreme Court by Attorney General Pam Bondi and Republican party leaders, designed to keep the initiative off the ballot, petitioning has continued.

According to a recent public opinion poll, more than 80 percent of Florida voters are in favor of this amendment. Putting this medical marijuana amendment on the ballot in 2014 and approving it at the polls in November is an important step toward correcting a decades-long injustice that affects all of us.

The Green Party joins with Veterans for Peace in calling for support for this Constitutional Amendment to legalize medical marijuana, and for an end to federal and state Cannabis/Hemp Prohibition laws.

Medical marijuana ballot summary

Allows the medical use of marijuana for people with debilitating diseases as determined by a licensed Florida physician. Allows caregivers to assist patients’ medical use of marijuana. The Department of Health shall register and regulate centers that produce and distribute marijuana for medical purposes and shall issue identification cards to patients and caregivers. Applies only to Florida law. Does not authorize violations of federal law or any nonmedical use, possession or production of marijuana.

I want freedom for the full expression of my personality.
— Mohandas K. Gandhi
Everything is changing. People are taking their comedians seriously and the politicians as a joke.

— Will Rogers

The artificial primacy of defense among our national priorities is a constant unearned windfall for some, but it’s privation for the rest of America; it steals from what we could be and can do. In Econ 101, they teach that the big-picture fight over national priorities is guns versus butter. Now it’s butter versus margarine—guns get a pass.

Overall, we’re weaker for it, and at enormous cost.

— Rachel Maddow

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There are causes worth dying for, but none worth killing for.
— Albert Camus
In 2008, three progressive groups created an annual award to honor the legacy of John A. “Jack” Penrod, who dedicated his life to the fight of the people for dignity, freedom and a democratic, peaceful society.

Gainesville Veterans for Peace, the Alachua County Labor Party and the United Faculty of Florida wanted to honor activists in the local community for their long-haul track record of consistent, responsible movement work.

The award refers to the “Brigadas,” the International Brigades that Jack Penrod fought with during the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939), along with 32,000-plus other volunteer soldiers from around the world. The Brigadistas defended Spanish democracy against the fascist coup led by General Francisco Franco and supported by Nazi Germany and Italy, in what many consider the prelude to World War II.

In his day, Jack Penrod worked with the Steel Workers Organizing Committee and helped organize the first faculty union at UF, United Faculty of Florida. He was a member of Veterans for Peace and a vocal opponent of the Iraq War; he helped found the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, worked closely with the National Organization for Women and Gainesville Women’s Liberation, and also dedicated time to the Alachua County Labor Party.

Jack devoted his life to peace and justice, and he didn’t stop until his death in 2008 at the age of 94.

Sheila Payne, this year’s Brigadas Award recipient, has been an activist all her life—in the Central American solidarity movement, immigrant justice, labor, civil rights, women’s rights, and anti-war movements—much like Jack.

After meeting Cesar Chavez as a teenager, she became involved in the farm labor movement, and she later worked with the United Farm Workers in Washington state during its historic struggle to unionize in the fields of Chateau Ste. Michelle wineries. She also worked with the Farm Labor Organizing Committee and currently fights alongside the Coalition of Immokalee Workers in the Campaign for Fair Food.

In Gainesville, Sheila has been an organizer with Gainesville Veterans for Peace, the Alachua County Wage Theft Task Force, the Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice, the Coalition to End the Meal Limit NOW, and Porters’ Community Farm, among other efforts.

On the night of the SpringBoard, Sheila was completely surprised when she was called up in front of the crowd at Prairie Creek Lodge and presented with the Brigadas Award. Fellow organizers and friends spoke about working with her and the inspiring nature of her energy and dedication to the movement, as well as her dependability. Afterwards, Sheila turned the spotlight away from herself and stressed that we’re stronger when we work together and that little is accomplished fighting alone.

And this is why the Penrod Award is important. It is important to recognize those whose work for peace and justice sets a standard for us all, a mission often difficult, grueling and without instant gratification.

Your donations are requested to help fund the Penrod Award. This important work needs our financial backing to enable our activists to keep fighting for all of us. Please stop by the Veterans for Peace table at the Winter Solstice, or send your donation to:

Gainesville Veterans for Peace
PO Box 142562
Gainesville, FL 32614

For more information, call (352) 375-2832, or visit www.vfpgainesville.org.
United Faculty of Florida at the University of Florida is the professional association for faculty and professional staff.

UF faculty have protected their rights through collective bargaining since the union was first certified in 1976. We are affiliated with the Florida Education Association (FEA), the National Education Association (NEA), the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), and the AFL-CIO.

“Solidarity Forever”

World Peace

World peace is when peace is all over the world. The name kind of gives it away. We have never had world peace, because people are always at war. War isn’t peace, it’s fighting and fighting is wrong. World peace will bring a lot of happiness to everyone.

Murdolph Jones, 2nd Grade, J.J. Finley Elementary School
Honorable Mention, Grades 1-5

You have to educate yourself. You have to be vigilant. It really makes the world more interesting. It’s called living an informed, awake life, and it’s way more interesting than sleepwalking through it.

— Mary Berry

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Don’t be afraid to go out on a limb. That’s where the fruit is.
— H. Jackson Browne
Envision the Impact of Sprawl on Our Rural Communities

By Whitey Markle, Marihelen Wheeler, and Dave Wilson

The distance from Melrose to the project will be only 6 miles.

If Plum Creek builds the 10,500 homes it has planned, the quiet rural character of these clusters will be lost to traffic, sprawl, noise and destruction of wetlands. Since Plum Creek will come before the County Commission in the very near future to request amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, the Suwannee St. Johns Group of the Sierra Club has taken a stand opposing the Envision Alachua project for four reasons: water quantity, water quality, habitat corridors and sprawl.

If three people occupy each of the 10,500 homes and each uses 50 gallons of water a day (as projected by representatives of Envision), the project will have to find 1.5 million gallons of water a day somewhere. In conversations with representatives of Plum Creek, we understand that a total of 3 to 7 million gallons of water will be required for the entire project. Combined with the Adena Ranch development’s request for 5.2 million gallons a day, these water demands could spell the death knell for the Lochloosa Creek.

As an alternative to rural development, we should make the case that economic development should occur in Gainesville and Hawthorne. Recently, Plum Creek unveiled a housing development west of Hawthorne rather than within its urban boundaries, contradicting both good planning policy and the comprehensive plan. In Gainesville, urban development has already been set in motion with the recent successes of Innovation Square and downtown redevelopment projects.

Elected public officials took five years to write the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan. According to that plan, new population growth should occur within the urban boundaries. The Plum Creek agricultural land should remain agricultural land. Plum Creek has stated repeatedly that more people want to move here, only getting worse. If additional deterioration occurs, the fishing community on the east side of the lake could meet the same fate as the fish camps at Heagy Burry Park and other spots along the west side of Orange Lake.

While representatives of Envision talk about preserving a habitat corridor along Lochloosa Creek, the reality is that the housing and sprawl are certain to have a negative impact on wildlife. Although the “corridor” will meander around the housing, it is only a half-mile wide on each side of Lochloosa Creek.

A number of our friends and allies have told us, “You can’t stop this development.” We say we can and we should.

If you share our concerns, we ask that you stand up at County Commission meetings (possibly during public comment) and state the case for protecting the character of our rural communities. Let’s stand up for protecting our rural communities.

Dave Wilson is chair and Whitey Markle is conservation chair of the Suwannee St. Johns Group of the Sierra Club. Marihelen Wheeler is a Melrose resident and environmental activist.

Published: in The Gainesville Sun on Saturday, November 30.

I never, ever cheated. I don’t condone cheating. But I would sometimes spread misinformation. This is a great tactic. Misinformation can be very important.

— Rand Paul
(speaking of military troops)

“... I wonder if they realize how
they are being used?”
“Not a bit. They think they are
the emperors of creation.”
“Poor lambs.”
“That’s not how I would
describe them.”
“I was thinking of animal
sacrifice.”
“Ahh. That’s closer.”

— Lois McMaster Bujold

“You people kinda specialize in farce down
there in D.C., don’t you?”
“Not on purpose…”

— Donald E. Westlake

The Samuel Proctor
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Veterans History Project
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www.history.ufl.edu/oral

Thank You, Veterans for Peace
for working over 25 years to
encourage Peace and Harmony.

I’m a leftist. I don’t argue with anyone unless they agree with me.

— Steven Brust

Trouble the Water
A Documentary of Hurricane Katrina
from the producers of Fahrenheit 9/11 and Bowling for Columbine
Academy Award Nominee / Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury Prize, 2008

January 15, 2014:
Panel on Trouble the Water with professors Sharon Austin, Barbara
Mennel, Churchill Roberts, and Judith Page: Ustler Hall, 2:15 PM.
Screening of Trouble the Water and discussion with producer Tia Lessin:
Pugh Hall, 6:00 PM.
Gainesville Move to Amend
by Harry Patterson

“All contributions by corporations to any political committee, or for any political purpose, should be forbidden by law.” So said former Republican president Theodore Roosevelt, over 100 years ago. My, how the times have changed. These days, you’re more likely to hear a wealthy presidential candidate, like Mitt Romney, declare that “Corporations are people, my friend.” Indeed, over 100 years of corrupt Supreme Court decisions have taken the rights granted to actual people by the Constitution, and given those rights to huge multi-national corporations. I hope it is a sign of the times that “We, the People” are awakening to the fact that the power of these corporations, and the corrupting influence of their money, is a real threat to our democratic Republic.

This is why we Move to Amend.

The Founding Fathers warned us of the danger to our freedom that the wealthy, and their corporations, would pose. It is why we fought a war against the British royalty and their corporations, who controlled our economy, and our chance for the self determination of our fledgling Nation. All of this corruption of the political process, however, could not take place without one more important piece of the puzzle, and that is the notion that “money equals speech.” The Supreme Court gave us that little gem in 1976, with the Buckley v. Valeo decision. Thereafter, the more money you had, the more speech you would get.

This is why we Move to Amend.

We are MovetoAmend/Gainesville, the local affiliate of the national MoveToAmend group, and we reject these false premises. Corporations are not people, corporations are property. Money is not speech, money is property. Join us and hundreds of communities and organizations across the country, in our effort to amend the US Constitution to say that corporations are not people, and money is not speech.

Find out more, and sign the petition, at www.MoveToAmend.org
In a democracy, you say what you like and do what you're told.
— Dave Barry

The Law Office of Bill Salmon Salutes the diligent work of the VETERANS FOR PEACE in pursuit of peace and justice.

We believe that an understanding point of view and acceptance of the views of others is paramount for the future.

We really ask a lot of our young service people out on the checkpoints because there's danger, they're asked to make very rapid decisions in often very unclear situations. However, to my knowledge, in the nine-plus months I've been here, not a single case where we have engaged in an escalation of force incident and hurt someone has it turned out that the vehicle had a suicide bomb or weapons in it and, in many cases, had families in it. That doesn't mean I'm criticizing the people who are executing. I'm just giving you perspective. We've shot an amazing number of people and killed a number and, to my knowledge, none has proven to have been a real threat to the force.
— General Stanley McChrystal, chief of US forces in Afghanistan
The Myth of American Exceptionalism

by Perry Keidel

Does the American character as “a uniquely free nation based on democratic ideals and personal liberty” currently mandate US leadership to enlighten the rest of the world with “democratic values and institutions” by bombing them?

During our – fortunately aborted – run-up to bomb Syria this fall, you also heard President Obama say, “What makes America different, what makes us exceptional” is that we will act “with humility but with resolve” when we need to “heroically protect the ideals we hold dear as Americans.” “Unlike the old empires, we don’t make these sacrifices for territory or for resources. We do it because it’s right ... a unique willingness makes us exceptional” is that we will act “with humility but with resolve” when we need to “heroically protect the ideals we hold dear as Americans.”

Appealing to national uniqueness has been used by all expansionist empires. We drove westward with “Manifest Destiny” covering our use of all expansionist empires.

The credibility of Obama’s outrage over Syria’s CW use is further undermined by (1) his refusal to sign existing treaties against the use of landmines (also a killer of women and children); (2) his refusal to join international conventions against the use of child soldiers (the great scourge of subsaharan Africa); and (3) the fact that the US and Israel do not now comply with international CW sanctions because we continue to manufacture and store these materials.

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Seraphim Center is an inter-faith, community-based ministry.

“If you look at the continuous denial of reality, there has got to be a point where someone stands up and says that this is just factually insane.”

— Newt Gingrich
Tonight's songs may include,
but are not limited to...

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN
Graham Nash

You who are on the road
Must have a code
That you can live by
And so become yourself
Because the past is just a goodbye

Chorus:
Teach your children well
Their fathers' hell
Will slowly go by
And feed them on your dreams
The one they pick's
The one you'll know by
Don't you ever ask them why
If they told you you would cry
So just look at them and sigh
And know they love you
And you of tender years
Can't know the fears
That your elders grew by
So please help them with your youth
They seek the truth
Before they can die
Oh teach your parents well
Their children's hell
Will slowly go by
(continue chorus)

SPIRIT OF SPRING (the Joy Chant)
Cathy DeWitt

(And) All of the joy and the light
Come into my life today!

IMAGINE
John Lennon

Imagine there’s no heaven
It’s easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky
Imagine all the people living for today
Imagine there’s no countries
It isn’t hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion too
Imagine all the people living in peace

Chorus:
You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will be as one
Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people sharing all the world

Chorus

FEELS LIKE I'M FIXIN' TO DIE RAG
Country Joe MacDonald

Well, come on all of you, big strong men,
Uncle Sam needs your help again.
He's got himself in a terrible jam
Way down yonder in Vietnam
So put down your books and pick up a gun,
We're gonna have a whole lotta fun.

Chorus
And it's one, two, three,
What are we fighting for?
Don't ask me, I don't give a damn,
Next stop is Vietnam;
And it's five, six, seven,
Open up the pearly gates,
Well there ain't no time to wonder why,
Whooppee! we're all gonna die.

Come on Wall Street, don't be slow,
Why man, this is war au-go-go
There's plenty good money to be made
By supplying the Army with the tools of its trade,
But just hope and pray that if they drop the bomb,
They drop it on the Viet Cong.

Chorus

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH
Stephen Stills

Something’s happening here
What it is ain’t exactly clear
There’s a man with a gun over there
Telling me I got to beware

Chorus:
I think it’s time we stop
Hey! What’s that sound?
Everybody look what’s going down
Battle lines being drawn
Nobody’s right if everybody’s wrong
Young people speaking their mind
Getting so much resistance from behind

Chorus

Stupidity is the same as evil if you judge by the results.
— Margaret Atwood

Chorus

Come on mothers throughout the land,
Pack your boys off to Vietnam.
Come on fathers, and don’t hesitate
To send your sons off before it’s too late.
And you can be the first ones in your block
To have your boy come home in a box.

Chorus

Lyrics continue on next page...
PUT A LITTLE LOVE IN YOUR HEART
Jackie DeShannon, Randy Myers & Jimmy Holiday

Think of your fellow man
Lend him a helping hand
Put a little love in your heart.
You see it's getting late
Oh please don't hesitate

Chorus
Put a little love in your heart.
And the world will be a better place
And the world will be a better place
For you and me
You just wait and see

Another day goes by
And still the children cry
Put a little love in your heart.
If you want the world to know
We won't let hatred grow

Chorus
Take a good look around and
If you're lookin' down
Put a little love in your heart.
I hope when you decide
Kindness will be your guide

Chorus
Put a little love in your heart
Each and every day
Put a little love in your heart
There's no other way
Put a little love in your heart,
It's up to you
Put a little love in your heart...

Join our efforts to improve local food systems,
seek fairness for those who grow our food
and help heal our environment
through sustainable farming.

Our work is made possible through your support.
Visit www.foginfo.org on how you can help!

HERE COMES THE SUN
George Harrison

Here comes the sun, here comes the sun
And I say it's all right
Little darlin' it's been a long cold lonely winter
Little darlin' it feels like years since it's been here
Here comes the sun, here comes the sun
And I say it's all right
Little darlin' the smiles returning to their faces
Little darlin' it seems like years since it's been here
Here comes the sun, here comes the sun
And I say it's all right
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes
Little darlin' I feel the ice is slowly meltin'
Little darlin' it seems like years since it's been clear
Here comes the sun, here comes the sun
And I say it's all right
Here comes the sun, here comes the sun
It's all right, it's all right

War is over
John and Yoko

As many of you know, our good friend and VFP member David Gold was injured in a bicycle accident on Tuesday, December 3, 2013. David is in the hospital with a brain injury and will have a long recovery. No visitors allowed at this time. We are happy to report that David is getting better.

Our thoughts and love go out to David and his loving wife Judy.

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Sure we could replace war with paintball battles. But it would escalate to paint grenades, paint bombs, weapons of mass paint. I don't want to live in a world where my kids have to worry about what color they will be in the morning.

— danoftheday
In Memory of Charlie Scales

by Scott Camil

Charlie Scales died July 2, 2013 from a heart attack at the young age of 59. Charlie had been in good health and this was a shocking surprise to everyone.

We will miss Charlie’s great smile and demeanor. Our love goes out to Charlie’s family, Janice his wife of 32 years, whom I have known since she was 12, and his children Rebecca and Josh.

Veterans For Peace had a special relationship with Charlie Scales and Hyde & Zeke Records. For 24 years Hyde & Zeke was the exclusive location to get tickets for our Winter Solstice Peace Concert.

Charlie was a good friend and a great musician. Charlie never played at the Solstice, for he always had a gig to play. In 2010 Charlie was awarded the Veterans For Peace Peace Helmet for his years of service to VFP.

In 1990 Charlie bought Hyde & Zeke and it became the exclusive location to buy Solstice tickets.

I asked Bill Perry to write something for this article. Bill and Charlie had been friends for 34 years. He replied:

There are few people we meet in life that are there for the long haul. Charlie Scales was one of those friends to me and so many people. His love for life was felt by all those who knew him. He didn’t care what race, color, preference, etc., that you were. He only cared that you existed and he gave kindness to you. So many times I needed his help and he would see what he could do. He lived life to the fullest and that is why his loss hurts so much. We need people like him.

I had the pleasure of 34 years of friendship and 32 years of being co-workers. He turned me on to so many things... music, camping, freespirt... on and on. Charlie loved his wife Jan, his kids Becca and Josh, music, guitars, friends, wildflowers. I miss his story telling, if he was excited about a subject (Kennedy assassination, Grateful Dead, being on the road in his band) he could talk for hours about it.

Charlie, We Miss You.

VFP wishes to express our thanks and gratitude to Mary and Mike McIntyre of McIntyre Stained Glass Studio and Art Gallery for becoming the new venue for VFP Winter Solstice tickets.

Without deviation from the norm, progress is not possible.
— Frank Zappa

Talking Service
A reading and discussion program for military veterans and their family and friends designed as a means of healing.
3rd Mondays, 7:00–8:30 PM
Beltram Peace Ctr, 1236 NW 18th Ave, Gainesville

If you are interested in participating in a Talking Service group, contact Don Smith at (352) 376-0044 or smithdc2@bellsouth.net. There is no charge.

Community Coalition
Against War & Terrorism

On the streets against US wars and occupations, for justice and universal health care -

* 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 4–6 PM: Archer Road & SW 34th Street
* 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 4–6 PM: University Avenue & W 13th Street
Conservatives seem, in particular, to believe that freedom’s just another word for not enough to eat.

— Paul Krugman

Many veterans have died because they believed with all their hearts in defending, with their lives, the noble concepts of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” But not all in wars. Far too many have died and continue to die from the brutality of homelessness.

In 1990, the National Coalition for the Homeless designated December 21 as National Homeless People’s Memorial Day, chosen because it is the shortest day and longest, darkest night of the year, and often one of the coldest nights. On this day, we remember and honor all those who have died on the streets and in the woods, victims of our society’s brutal treatment of the poor and the disabled.

This month Gainesville lost three of our homeless friends: Michael Johnson and Joseph Lee Robinson, who died alone in Tent City, and Daniel Adkins (reported to be a veteran), who was the victim of crime, as homeless people often are.

In their names, and in the names of all those, known and unknown, who died this year from the plague of homelessness, we must continue to do everything we can to create a society where we can all enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

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Conservatives seem, in particular, to believe that freedom’s just another word for not enough to eat.

— Paul Krugman
The fifth year of the Obama presidency is coming to an end and we are as disappointed as we have been for the previous four years.

On the war front, after 12 years in Afghanistan, we still have a confusing mission. Originally we invaded Afghanistan to arrest Osama Bin Laden – mission accomplished, you would think.

According to a new 25-page agreement called, “Security and Defense Cooperation Agreement Between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan”, our troops “shall remain in force until the end of 2024 and beyond.” This agreement is to take effect January 2015 and of course it means that not all of our troops will be coming home by the end of 2014 as we were previously led to believe.

The agreement could be cancelled with a two-year written notice by the US or Afghanistan.

The agreement does have some confusing parts. For instance it says, “No detention or arrest shall be carried out by the United States forces. The United States forces shall not search any homes or other real estate properties.”

Does this mean that the US can kill people but not arrest them and can only do so outside of the suspects’ homes?

The agreement also says, “The Parties acknowledge that continued U.S. military operations to defeat al-Qaeda and its affiliates may be appropriate and agree to continue their close cooperation and coordination toward that end.”

What makes this statement seem ridiculous is the fact that when he was CIA director, Leon Panetta said that there were less than 100 members of al-Qaida left in Afghanistan. “At most, we’re looking at 50 to 100, maybe less.” According to the Brookings Institute, there are about 108,000 international troops in Afghanistan under NATO and Operation Enduring Freedom; 344,108 Afghan Security Forces; 90,000 private Defense Department contractors; and 2,000 private contractors training the Afghan Army. This is more than 454,000 vs. less than 100 – and we need ten more years.

Did I mention that currently the Afghanistan War is is costing us 1.7 billion dollars a week? http://fcnl.org/issues/afghanistan/ (Cost_of_the_Afghanistan_War_By_the_Numbers _13_FEB13.pdf)

We are very happy to report that there have been no US troop deaths in Iraq in 2013. We are also glad that the administration stood up to Israel, bowed to public pressure, and did not attack Syria or Iran.

Drone Wars Escalate

While the US is drawing down troops, the Drone wars escalate. Just this month, fifteen people on their way to a wedding in Yemen were killed in an air strike after their party was mistaken for an al-Qaïda convoy. Jailed Yemeni journalist Abdulelah Haider Shaye received the Human Rights Defenders Award for establishing that US drone missiles – not the Yemeni military – were responsible for the deaths of 41 people, 21 of them children and another 14 women. Of course, he will not be allowed to go to Geneva to receive the coveted award.

In Pakistan, drone strikes have led to the suspension of truck convoys carrying vital supplies to troops in Afghanistan. The US is still using the “double tap,” which launches an initial drone strike and is then followed by a second strike that targets rescuers and first responders. The rationale behind the use of double taps is that those who converge on the scene of the initial strike must be militants themselves.

My strong view is that we are not going to succeed simply by piling on more and more troops. — Barack H. Obama

Don’t let the butt heads win.
— Lisa Simpson

Obama: Year Five – Still Disappointed

by Scott Camil

Don’t Get Left Out
In the Cold…
Join Us!

Sierra Club Outings are a terrific way to meet new people and enjoy the great outdoors. Whatever your interests - hiking, canoeing or birdwatching - there is an outing for you around, Join today and become part of America’s largest environmental organization with the most enjoyable outings.

“Turns out I’m really good at killing people,” Obama said quietly, “Didn’t know that was gonna be a strong suit of mine.”

— Mark Halperin and John Heilemann in Double Down: Game Change 2012
The Transnational Capitalist Class has all of us in a Control Grid of immense proportions and is in the process of tightening the noose. They control our money, our food, our water, our air, our Healthcare, our travel, our votes, and the Media. There is only one way out and that is Public Banks. It can give us control of our money again.

Go to Publicbankinginstitute.org and Webofdebt.com

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU

W.H.WARRICK III MD
has helped our enemies because it validates every negative perception of the United States.” Major General Lehnert was in charge of opening the Guantanamo prison. Lehnert decided soon after he opened it that the strategy was a mistake. He said that most of the individuals captured did not have much information, nor was there adequate evidence connecting them to war crimes.

On the home front, Obama is still far right of center. His agreeing to “The Grand Bargain,” which would overhaul the tax code by lowering the corporate tax rate alongside deeper social spending cuts, supports Wall Street over Main Street.

Domestic Spying

Newly released documents (courtesy of Edward Snowden) show that Obama has increased the spying on Americans. The top secret PRISM program started under Bush now has direct access to servers of firms including Google, Facebook and Apple. In June 2013, a New York Times editorial charged that the Obama administration “has now lost all credibility on this issue” of domestic spying. It added, “for years, members of Congress ignored evidence that domestic intelligence-gathering had grown beyond their control, and, even now, few seem disturbed to learn that every detail about the public’s calling and texting habits now reside in a N.S.A. database.”

It wrote with respect to the FISA-Court in context of PRISM that it is “a perversion of the American justice system” when “judicial secrecy is coupled with a one-sided presentation of the issues.” … “the result is a court whose reach is expanding far beyond its original mandate and without any substantive check.”

As more information is leaked out, it is obvious that the Obama administration’s domestic spying is increasing.

Protecting War Criminals

The Obama Justice Department filed papers requesting that George W. Bush, Richard Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Colin Powell, Condoleezza Rice and Paul Wolfowitz be granted procedural immunity in a case alleging that they planned and waged the Iraq War in violation of international law.

Sundus Shaker Saleh, an Iraqi single mother and refugee now living in Jordan, filed the complaint in March 2013 in San Francisco federal court. The complaint says that the planning and waging of the war against Iraq constituted a “crime of aggression” against Iraq. This is a precedent set by the Nuremberg Tribunal and used to convict Nazi war criminals after World War II.

Monsanto Protection Act

In March of this year, Obama signed HR 933 over public objections to Section 735, known as the “Monsanto Protection Act.” Section 735 effectively bars federal courts from being able to halt the sale or planting of GMO or GE crops and seeds, no matter what health or ecological consequences from these products may come to light in the future.

... continued on second page following...

The Americans have a lot to learn.
— Pakistan Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan
As for health care in the US, we now have “Obamacare.” This law was a gift to the insurance industry, mandating 30 million Americans to buy private health insurance or face fines. Obama allowed the insurance companies to write the law and now there are many problems and broken promises.

If Obama had been on the side of the public, he would pushed for universal health care, which is what the rest of the Western world has. Under universal health care, also known as single payer in the US, everyone would be covered. No one would ever again lose their home and life savings to the health insurance companies. Not only did Obama try to denigrate those who supported universal health care saying that they represented the “Left,” in the end he did not even allow a public option to be discussed. Just think, Obama could have gone for single payer, compromised with the Republicans, and ended up with an “Obamacare” which Republicans would have favored. Instead Obama started with a big gift to the private sector insurance companies, and he still has to fight the Republicans. 48 million members of the public remain uninsured, an illness away from losing everything to the health insurance companies.

Whistle blowers

Now to the real patriots, the whistle blowers. I think of the American government as public employees. That makes us, the public, the employers. I can think of no place besides the government where the employees get to hide what they are really doing from their employers.

How can we, the public, manage our employees if they can hide all of their dirt from us? We can’t. This is why it is so important to support the courageous whistle blowers. There are many and I will just touch on a few of them. They are our unsung heroes and we must support them.

Veterans For Peace salutes them.

It’s a disaster of epic proportions if someone has to wait 20 minutes for a government website to load but no big deal if people have to wait in line for 8 hours to vote.

— Ed
The Few, the Heroic: Whistleblowers

Sibel Edmonds
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Edmonds is a former FBI translator and naturalized American citizen of Turkish descent who was fired in 2002 by the FBI for attempting to report cover-ups of security issues, potential espionage, and incompetence. She has been gagged by the State Secrets Privilege in her efforts to go to court on these issues, including a rejection without comment recently by the Supreme Court of the United States to hear her case. She is now founder of the National Security Whistleblowers Coalition (NSWBC) that is looking to lobby Congress and help other whistleblowers with legal and other forms of assistance. Edmonds testified before the 9/11 Commission, but her testimony was excluded from the official 567 page 9/11 Commission Report.

Edmonds is also the founder and publisher of The Boiling Frogs Post, an online media site that aims to offer nonpartisan investigative journalism.

In a June 2009 interview with Brad Friedman on The Mike Malloy Show, Edmonds stated: “I have information about things that our government has lied to us about. I know. For example, to say that since the fall of the Soviet Union we ceased all of our intimate relationship with Bin Laden and the Taliban - those things can be proven as lies, very easily, based on the information they classified in my case, because we did carry very intimate relationship with these people, and it involves Central Asia, all the way up to September 11.”


Joseph Wilson
United States Government

Wilson is a former U.S. ambassador, whose editorial in The New York Times, “What I Didn’t Find In Africa,” showed that the reasons for the 2003 invasion of Iraq were bogus. In February of 2002 he was sent to Niger by the CIA to find out if Saddam Hussein had purchased enriched yellowcake uranium. He ultimately concluded: “it was highly doubtful that any such transaction had ever taken place.”

In President Bush’s 2003 State of the Union Address he said, “The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa.” Wilson penned an op-ed piece for the New York Times in response to what President Bush had said, titled “What I Didn’t Find In Africa.” In retaliation for the article, Wilson’s wife Valerie Plame was outed as a CIA operative by Washington Post columnist Robert Novak.

Joe Darby, Sergeant
United States Army

Darby first alerted the U.S. military command of prisoner abuse in the Abu Ghraib prison, in Abu Ghraib, Iraq. In 2002, Sgt Joe Darby turned over two CDs with photographs of prisoner abuse and torture at the hands of American military police to U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command. Sergeant Darby said, “It violated everything I personally believed in and all I’d been taught about the rules of war.”

Sgt. Darby was promised anonymity for his cooperation. Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense, ousted Darby during a Senate hearing. Darby received a John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award on May 16, 2005, in recognition of his courage in exposing the abuses at Abu Ghraib. Sergeant Darby and his family now live under protective military custody because of threats to their lives.

Samuel Provance, Sergeant
United States Army

Provance was a system administrator for U.S. Army Military Intelligence at the Abu Ghraib prison who publicly revealed the role of interrogators in the abuses, as well as the general effort to cover up the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse.

In our country, the lie has become not just a moral category, but a pillar of the State.

– Alexander Solzehnitsyn

2013 has been an important year for civil society. As we look back on the events of the past year and their implications for the state of surveillance within the United States and around the world, I suspect we will remember this year less for the changes in policies that are sure to come, than for changing our minds. In a single year, people from Indonesia to Indianapolis have come to realize that dragnet surveillance is not a mark of progress, but a problem to be solved.

— Edward Snowden
Doctors of the Darkside, a documentary produced and directed by Martha Davis, is dedicated “to Sam Provance and the courage to bear witness.” The Grey Line, by Jo Metson Scott, is a new book that documents “the perspective of US and UK soldiers who have spoken out against the Iraq War.” Provance is featured on the front cover.

Russ Tice
United States Government

Tice is a former intelligence analyst for the National Security Agency (NSA), the U.S. Air Force, the Office of Naval Intelligence, and the Defense Intelligence Agency. Tice first approached Congress and eventually the media about the warrantless surveillance of the US population by the NSA. Tice was a major source for the 2005 New York Times exposé and spoke out widely following subsequent disclosures by other NSA whistleblowers. He was the first to make his allegations publicly and openly during the era beginning with the George W. Bush administration (which continues into the Obama administration).

Tice was fired by the NSA in May 2005, two days after publicly urging Congress to pass stronger protections for federal intelligence agency whistleblowers facing retaliation. On January 5, 2006, The Washington Times reported that Tice wanted to testify before Congress about electronic intelligence programs that were carried out illegally by the NSA and DIA: “I intend to report to Congress probable unlawful and unconstitutional acts conducted while I was an intelligence officer with the National Security Agency and with the Defense Intelligence Agency.”

In a letter dated January 10, 2006, Renee Seymour, Director of the NSA Special Access Programs (SAP) Central Office, warned Tice that members of neither the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, nor of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, had clearance to receive the classified information about the SAPs that Tice was prepared to provide.

This last statement goes to the very heart of the problem. Our elected representatives and senators do not have clearance from the NSA to know what is being done in our name with our money.

Thomas Andrews Drake
National Security Agency

Thomas Drake worked at the NSA in various analyst and management positions. He blew the whistle on the NSA’s Trailblazer project that he felt was a violation of the Fourth Amendment and other laws and regulations. He contacted The Baltimore Sun, which published articles about waste, fraud, and abuse at the NSA, including stories about Trailblazer. In April 2010, Drake was indicted by a grand jury on various charges, including obstructing justice and making false statements. After the May 22, 2011 broadcast of a 60 Minutes episode on the Drake case, the government dropped all of the charges against Drake and agreed not to seek any jail time in return for Drake’s agreement to plead guilty to a misdemeanor of misusing the agency’s computer system. Drake was sentenced to one year of probation and community service.

Cautious, careful people, always casting about to preserve their reputation or social standing never can bring about reform. Those who are really in earnest are willing to be anything or nothing in the world’s estimation, and publicly and privately, in season and out, avow their sympathies with despised ideas, and bear the consequences.

— Susan B. Anthony
for spending American taxpayer monies wisely.”

Mark Klein
AT&T, National Security Agency

Klein is a retired communications technician for AT&T who revealed the details of the secret 2003 construction of a monitoring facility a large SBC Communications phone building, three floors of which are occupied by AT&T. The facility is one of several operated by the National Security Agency as part of the warrantless surveillance undertaken by the Bush administration in the wake of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. In recognition of his actions, the Electronic Frontier Foundation picked Klein as one winner of its 2008 Pioneer Awards

Julian Assange
WikiLeaks

Julian Assange is an Australian editor, activist, publisher and journalist. In 2006, he founded WikiLeaks, which publishes submissions of secret information, news leaks, and classified media from anonymous news sources and whistle-blowers. On November 28, 2010, WikiLeaks began releasing some of the 251,000 American diplomatic cables in their possession, of which over 53 percent are classified “Confidential” and just over six percent are classified “Secret.” The following day, the Attorney-General of Australia, Robert McClelland, told the press that Australia would inquire into Assange’s activities and WikiLeaks.

John Kiriakou
Central Intelligence Agency

In an interview with ABC News on December 10, 2007, CIA officer Kiriakou disclosed that the agency waterboarded detainees and that this constituted torture. He was convicted of releasing classified information and sentenced on January 25, 2013 to 30 months imprisonment. Having served the first months of his service, he wrote an open letter describing the inhuman circumstances at the correction facility. Link to letter: http://dissenter.firedoglake.com/2013/05/29/imprisoned-cia-torture-whistleblower-john-kiriakou-pens-letter-from-loretto/

Bruce Riedel, a former intelligence adviser to Barack Obama who turned down an offer to be considered for CIA director in 2009, has sent the President a letter signed by eighteen other CIA veterans urging that the sentence be commuted.

In 2012, Kiriakou received the Joe A. Callaway Award for Civic Courage for standing up for constitutional rights.

Chelsea Manning (formerly Bradley Manning)
United States Army

Manning was a US Army intelligence analyst who released the largest set of classified documents ever, mostly published by WikiLeaks and their media partners. The material included videos of the July 12, 2007 Baghdad air strike and the 2009 Granai air strike in Afghanistan, 250,000 United States diplomatic cables, and 500,000 army reports that came to be known as the Iraq War logs and Afghan War logs.

Manning was held at the Marine Corps Brig, Quantico in Virginia, from July 2010 to April 2011 under Prevention of Injury (POI) status—which entailed de facto solitary confinement and other restrictions that caused domestic and international concern. POI status is one stop short of suicide watch, entailing checks by guards every five minutes. Manning was not allowed to sleep between 5 am and 8 pm. and was required to remain visible at all times, including at night, which entailed no access to sheets and no pillow except one built into her mattress. Manning was allowed to walk for up to one hour a day and was allowed one magazine and one book. Manning was placed on suicide watch, had her clothing and eyeglasses removed, and was required to remain in her cell 24 hours a day. Manning had her clothes removed at night, and had to present herself naked one morning for inspection. The detention conditions prompted national and international concern. Juan E. Mendez, a United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture, published a report saying the detention conditions had been “cruel, inhuman and degrading.”

Manning was convicted of violating the Espionage Act and other offenses and sentenced to 35 years in prison.

Edward Snowden
National Security Agency / CIA

Booz Allen Hamilton contractor Snowden released about 1.7 million classified documents on top-secret NSA programs. These documents included the PRISM, XKeyscore, and Tempora surveillance programs. Snowden gave them to The Guardian and The Washington Post in June 2013. By November 2013, six months after the disclosures began, the Guardian had published one percent of the documents, with “the worst yet to come.” According to Snowden, his “sole motive” for leaking the documents was “to inform the public as to that which is done in their name and that which is done against them.” The disclosures have fueled debates over mass surveillance, government secrecy, and the balance between national security and information privacy. In December 2013, a federal judge ruled that the government had “almost certainly” violated the US Constitution by its practice of “collecting data on nearly every single phone call within or to the United States.” Snowden’s disclosures reveal that the US collects all electronic information from all countries, including the personal phone calls and e-mails of foreign leaders and governments.

Snowden is currently living in Russia under temporary asylum.

Welcome to the United States of America, where crimes flourish and those who report them are punished.
Peace Scholarship Program for Alachua County High School Students

by Paul Ortiz
Gainesville Veterans for Peace Chapter 14 announces its inaugural Peace Scholarships for the spring of 2014. We are awarding two scholarships of $500 for high school seniors with demonstrated commitment and leadership in activities involving: peace & social justice, conflict resolution and/or nonviolent social change.

Our chapter is creating these scholarships as a way to give financial support to students who are following dreams and planning careers in pursuit of a more equitable, peaceful, and just world. It is not enough to counsel students about “alternatives to military service.” We must provide tangible alternatives in a society that is based on funding war and violence.

As a veterans’ organization, we recognize that for many individuals, military service is a matter of economic security and the only pathway available for working class students in pursuit of a college education. In my senior year in high school I was told by my guidance counselor that military service was my only viable career option; this in spite of the fact that I had scored highly on a PSAT exam earlier in the year. As the son of a Mexican-American shipyard worker, my high school viewed me as the newest generation of working class kids who had been raised to fight America’s endless wars. By creating this scholarship, Veterans for Peace is attempting to forge a new narrative in American history, where the pursuit of peace is nurtured, encouraged, and yes, funded!

As a veterans’ organization, we recognize that for many individuals, military service is a matter of economic security and the only pathway available for working class students in pursuit of a college education. In my senior year in high school I was told by my guidance counselor that military service was my only viable career option; this in spite of the fact that I had scored highly on a PSAT exam earlier in the year. As the son of a Mexican-American shipyard worker, my high school viewed me as the newest generation of working class kids who had been raised to fight America’s endless wars. By creating this scholarship, Veterans for Peace is attempting to forge a new narrative in American history, where the pursuit of peace is nurtured, encouraged, and yes, funded!

Please help Gainesville Veterans for Peace spread the word about this new scholarship program! To be eligible to apply for the Peace Scholarship, the applicant must be a high school senior planning to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school in the United States for the entire 2014-15 academic year.

Peace Scholarship applicants will also be asked to provide a brief autobiographical statement and evidence of leadership and/or personal initiative in activities in an organization (including volunteer or paid work) relating to peace and social justice, conflict resolution and/or nonviolent social change. Applicants will also need to provide two letters of recommendation.

Peace Scholarship Application Deadline
The application (PDF file) must be downloaded from the Gainesville Veterans for Peace website, printed out, completed and mailed to the address on the application. The deadline is March 1st, 2014.

Peace Scholarship recipients will be announced at the Gainesville VFP Peace Poetry Awards Ceremony in mid-May.

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The full announcement and instructions for applying may be found on our web site, at www.vfpgainesville.org.

It’s not our job to toughen our children up to face a cruel and heartless world.
It’s our job to raise children who will make the world a little less cruel and heartless.

— L.R. Knost
The North Central Florida Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO represents workers from all fields and professions in Gainesville, Florida and the surrounding regions in North Florida. We fight for justice, equality, work place democracy, and a decent life for working families.

Come join us and organize now! We are proud members of US Labor Against the War.

For more information, contact 352-372-6888.

“Solidarity knows no borders nor boundaries.”

— Linus Pauling

Dorn’s Liquors & Wine Warehouse
4140 NW 16th Blvd.
Gainesville, FL 32605
(352) 378-0229
dorn@winewarehouses.com
www.winewarehouses.com

There is no passion to be found playing small – in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living.

— Nelson Mandela

SEASON’S GREETINGS AND WISHES FOR PEACE AND HARMONY IN THE NEW YEAR!

Paul and Marihelen Wheeler
The Gestalt Center

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World Peace Day in Gainesville

by Mary Bahr

On September 21st Vets for Peace and their members were the organizers and supporters of the first celebration of World Peace Day in Gainesville.

Honoring peace on a special day has evolved from its beginnings in the 1980s to take many forms around the world, from ringing Peace Bells to planting Peace Poles. In 1981 the United Nations General Assembly, by unanimous vote, adopted Resolution 36/67 establishing the International Day of Peace (IDP) which pledged “to devote a specific time to concentrate the efforts of the United Nations and its Member States, as well as the whole of mankind, to promoting the ideals of peace and to giving positive evidence of their commitment to peace in all viable ways.” In 2001 the UN followed up this resolution making September 21st a permanent day for honoring world peace in ceremonies and good works.

In Gainesville we began at 11:00 am Saturday morning with a Peace March from campus (13th Street and University Avenue) to the Plaza, carrying flags from 30+ countries from around the world. Vets for Peace were the organizing force in this march, followed by students from Santa Fe Model UN and UF UN and Geography clubs, plus members of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and Gainesville Occupy. When the march reached the Plaza at noon the flags were used in a flag ceremony around a portable Peace Pole purchased by Vets for Peace and erected on the Plaza. Many international students from UF and Santa Fe participated in the ceremony, starting with a young woman from Bangladesh and including a Lebanese-American couple from UF and members of Vets for Peace carrying the VFP banner, children from the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, and citizens of Gainesville. The ceremony closed with live music and a participatory “Peace Greeting Dance” led by Diana Kanoy of Universal Dances for Peace.

Thousands of Peace Poles have been dedicated in many countries around the world, including one in Veterans Park in Gainesville. Our portable Peace Pole has inscribed in eight different languages on its sides “May peace prevail on Earth.” You can see pictures of the march and ceremony on the VFP website at vfpgainesville.org.

In addition to the peace pole and flag ceremony there was a children’s art activity connected with the Peace Pinwheel Project - also associated with World Peace Day - facilitated by Sandra Topp of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, and tabling by the sponsoring organizations including:

- United Nations Association of Gainesville
- Gainesville Veterans for Peace Chapter 14
- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville
- River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding

A special thanks to Larry Schwandes of the local Baha’i congregation for getting the ball rolling and playing a big role in organizing this event.

Freedom is an indivisible word. If we want to enjoy it, and fight for it, we must be prepared to extend it to everyone, whether they are rich or poor, whether they agree with us.

― Wendell Willkie
Tip the Scales

War is good, some people say, while in the ground, their families lay. They talk about serenity, but act with utter enmity.

In the night, the bombs will fall, killing mother, father and child all. Why we do it, no one knows, but yet we continue exchanging blows.

How to stop it, this terrible force, to me, there is only one true course. We must use peace to save the earth, tip the scales, embrace life's birth.

So, tip the scales, and release the hate, for peace always does lie in wait. You know how to find it, it's in you and me. Just believe in peace, and you will be free.

Nate Englert, 8th Grade, St. Patrick Interparish School Honorable Mention, Grades 6–8
VFP Financial Report 2013

Gainesville Veterans for Peace (VFP) believes that part of our responsibility is to help support and mentor other groups who share our goals. In that capacity, we make donations of time, materials and funding to other Peace and Justice organizations.

The Winter Solstice Celebration is the primary event from which we derive our operating funds.

Last year, we raised $11,040 from the Solstice and over the year, we have donated $5,600 of that money to groups we support. We include this financial report each year so that we have full transparency with you, the people whose support makes our work possible.

Thank you.

Our donation list for 2013:
- $240 to Cinemaverde.org
donna$500 to the Civic Media Center, an organization that helps resisters in the military. couragetoerisist.org
- $500 to Courage to Resist for the Bradley Manning Defense Committee.
courageoteresist.org/donate/bradley-manning.html
- $500 to the Home Van for its service to our area’s homeless (25 – 30% of the homeless are veterans)
- $500 to Iraq Veterans Against the War, www.ivaw.org
- $500 to The Brave New Foundation: “Our mission is to champion social justice issues by using a model of media, education, and grassroots volunteer involvement that inspires, empowers, motivates and teaches civic participation and makes a difference.” (Robert Greenwald)
www.bravenewfoundation.org
- $500 to The Gainesville Iguana, Gainesville’s progressive calendar and newsletter
www.gainesvilleiguana.org

$500 to Cinema Verde, to co-sponsor the film Dirty Wars.
cinemaverde.org dirtywars.org
- $500 to the Civic Media Center, an alternative library and space for progressive speakers, groups and events - www.civicmediacenter.org
- $500 to the Civic Media Center, Noam Chomsky sponsorship.
- $500 to Courage to Resist, an
organization that helps resisters in the military. couragetoerisist.org

$500 to the Samuel Proctor Oral History Project, http://oral.history.ufl.edu
- $360 to SDS, Students for a Democratic Society, for a grant to attend the National SDS Convention
- Total Donations = $5,600

VFP Projects
- The Memorial Day weekend display: $194.40 (see article)
The John Penrod Award: $1,500 (see article)
The Peace Poetry Contest: $1,122.24 (see article)
- It costs us about $1,600 to produce the Winter Solstice concert.
- Total cost of VFP Projects = $4,416.64
- Other: VFP Vests: $22
- PO Box: $78.08
- Veterans For Peace National - $800 Dues, www.veteransforpeace.org
- Veterans For Peace National - $525 for a grant to attend the National SDS Convention
- Bumper Stickers $181.68
- Office supplies & printer ink $233.09
- Other costs: Total $1,034.85
- Total spent for 2012: $11,332.49

Income:
- Solstice 2012: $11,040
- Jack Penrod Committee: $1,597.40
- Memorial Day Donations: $525
- Other Donations: $740
- Dues and other sales: $440
- Total income for 2013 = $14,342.40

If you care to make a special donation for any of these projects, that would be greatly appreciated.

We could not do this without the money that we raise from you, our Friends, our Guests, our Supporters and our Sponsors.

I'M AGAINST PICKETING, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SHOW IT!
— Mitch Hedburg

VFP Statement of Purpose:
We, having dutifully served our nation, do hereby affirm our greater responsibility to serve the cause of world peace. To this end we will work with others:
1) Toward increasing public awareness of the costs of war;
2) To restrain our government from intervening overtly or covertly in the internal affairs of other nations;
3) To end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons; and
4) To abolish war as an instrument of international policy.
To achieve these goals, members of VFP pledge to use non-violent means to maintain an organization that is both democratic and open with the understanding that all members are trusted to act in the best interests of the group for the larger purpose of world peace.
Support the people who support Veterans for Peace!

We’ve lost several sponsors in the last few years - not because they’ve given up on working for peace, but as a result of our kleptocratic war economy that preys on all of the 99%. So, please buy local whenever possible, and remember the good people and organizations who help out with the life-and-death issues that matter to us all.

Wear your VFP t-shirt, button, or cap while doing business with:

- A Automotive
- Alachua County Labor Party
- Alachua Integrative Medicine Alternatives
- All Star Automotive
- Artisans’ Guild
- Atlas Printing
- Richard Beardasley
- Bio-Graphix
- Book Gallery West
- The Bottcher Family
- Cardiac & Vascular Institute
- Celebrations Catering
- Celestial Wind
- Central Labor Council of North Florida
- Cinema Verde
- Citizens Co-op
- Civic Media Center
- Civilization
- Cruz Davis Dental
- Democratic Party of Alachua County
- Dorn’s Liquors & Wine Warehouse
- Earth Pets
- Emmanuel Mennonite Church
- Everyman Sound
- Fine, Farkash, & Parlapiano, PA
- The Fine Print
- Five Elements Acupuncture
- The Flanagan Companies
- Floating Lotus Spa
- Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice
- Florida Organic Growers
- The Gainesville Iguana
- Gainesville Society of Friends
- The Gestalt Center
- Gifts of Avalon
- Green Party of Alachua County
- High Springs Emporium
- Emily Franck Hoon, PhD
- Rob Hyatt
- Independent Radio News
- Jonesville Tennis Club
- Linda Kemp
- Kotoradama Glassware
- Leonardo’s Pizza
- McIntyre Stained Glass Studio
- Molks Organics
- Nana’s Pet Care
- Northwest Seafood
- Occupy Gainesville
- Pace Jewelers
- The Painted Table
- Gunn & Cindy Paulson
- Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery
- The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program
- Pure Energy Solar
- Renaissance Jewelers
- Cindy Rosenfeld, DVM
- Bill Salmon, Esq
- Sarkis Clinical Trials
- Satchel’s Pizza
- Stephen Schachter
- Schramek’s Upholstery
- Seraphim Center
- Sierra Club
- Sound Ideas
- Southeast Sharpening Service
- Spindle Sweets
- Stuart’s Cycle
- Sunflower Health Foods
- Talking Service
- Target Copy
- Theatre of Memory
- Tillman & Dreyfus Acupuncture
- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville
- United Faculty of Florida
- Volta Coffee Tea & Chocolate
- The Ward Family
- Ward’s Supermarket
- Helen Warren
- William H. Warrick, III, MD
- Arlene Weinshelbaum, MD
- Moksa Organics
- McIntyre Stained Glass Studio
- Volunteers of America
- Volunteers of America of Alachua County.

The Gainesville Iguana

12-27-1979: Soviet forces seized Afghanistan. At least they had the good sense to leave after ten years, unlike some countries.

— Scott Bateman

...continued from inside front cover

...continued from inside front cover

attend the Peace Poetry readings at the Unitarian Universalist Church where the finalists of our Peace Poetry Contest read their poems, music is performed and refreshments are served. Open to the public at no charge! Details are on the VFP website at vfp.gainesville.org.

May went like a breeze with no rain on Memorial Day weekend! After the take down a crew gathered on Saturday June 8th to finish cleaning and storing the tombstones in their labeled boxes for next year. Finally in June the Chapter voted to buy a Peace Pole for the planned event on the International Day of Peace planned for September 21st.

Charlie Scales passed away in July. He was a fine musician and owner of Hyde and Zeke Records. He sold Stolzic Concert tickets for us every year from Hyde and Zeke and received our Peace Helmet Award in 2010.

VFP gathered again in August after their summer break. George W. Bush is coming to speak in Sarasota on Jan. 14th 2014 and members of Florida Veterans for Common Sense are planning to have a large presence at his speech. VFP Chapter voted to buy a Peace Pole for the planned event on the International Day of Peace planned for September 21st.

VFP Chapter voted to become an official member of the United States Peace Pilgrim Program (SPOHP) was able to interview the people who came to the reunion and record that history for researchers in the future. The jury foreperson Lois Hensel passed away this year but her husband brought her box full of detailed files for next year. Finally in June the Chapter voted to buy a Peace Pole for the planned event on the International Day of Peace planned for September 21st.

Scott told us that because history is disappearing as the people who were involved die, he is very glad that the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program (SPOHP) was able to interview the people who came to the reunion and record that history for researchers in the future. The jury foreperson Lois Hensel passed away this year but her husband brought her box full of detailed files from her time as a juror and SPOHP will scan and archive those files. Prof. Paul Ortiz said that the students were very excited about their experiences over the weekend.

...continued from inside front cover

You let that bother you, A war is immoral, and if you let that bother you, you’re not a good soldier.

— General Curtis LeMay

The Chapter has been working with the newly reconstituted Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), participating in and speaking at their rallies on Drones Against military action on Syria and SDS members joined our Tuesday pickets in September that focused on Syria. VFP Gainesville also helped fund a trip SDS took to their National convention.

September also brought a showing on Jeremy Scahill’s Dirty Wars at the Hippodrome with financial and organizational support form VFP. World Peace Day celebrations was held on September 21st (see article). VFP has also begun a project to bring a balanced view of the opportunities and dangers of military service to our local high school students with an updated enlistment guide and the request for the same access for our information to students as military recruiters have. Obviously we have not yet achieved world peace but with your continued support we intend to get there in the future!