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 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.

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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

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Gainesville Veterans for Peace Activities in 2013:

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

continued on inside back cover...

Tonight's Program:

(may include but not limited to)

PROCESSIONAL WARM-UP Mark Billman * Cathy DeWitt

CHEROKEE PEACE CHANT Georg Suzuki

DRUMS OF PEACE

David Beede * Rob Rothschild * Paige Allison * Jared Boock Bill Hutchinson * Bob McPeek * John Chambers Kim Ricks * Robert Clark * Bill Moran

JOHN CHAMBERS AND FRIENDS John Chambers * Mark Billman * Bob McPeek * Bill Hutchinson

LAUREN ROBINSON & MARISSA VARIO JANET RUCKER & DAVID BEEDE KEVIN O'SULLIVAN

QUARTERMOON Raven * John Smith * Tom Nelly

THE ERASABLES

Fagan Arouh * Bob McPeek * David Ottenberg * Brad Bangstad * Rob Rothschild
INTERMISSION

OTHER (formerly Psychedelic) RELICS

OTHER VOICES

Fagan Arouh * Alan Hill * Michelle Ott * Dan Tampas

A CHOIR OF HEAVENLY SEMI-ANGELS

Bob McPeek * David Ottenberg * Rob Rothschild * Brad Bangstad Michelle Ott * David Beede * Mark Billman * Cathy De Witt Bill Hutchinson * Janet Rucker * Fagan Arouh and YOU

and Master of Ceremonies - Bob Treadwater Interpreter for the Deaf: Diane Delage

Peace **Helmet** Award



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



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2012 Peace Helmet Award Recipients: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville, Social Justice Council -Alice Primack 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 Iim Creaven

John Fullerton Marybeth Hyer Bill Gilbert **Bobby Ing** Sherry Steiner Iohn Koch **John Hawkins Julie Netzer** Dave Henderson Bill Salmon Stephen Hunter Bill Warrick Bill Hutchinson 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

Veterans for Peace thanks

Linda Kemp

for the beautiful artwork on the cover of this program.

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■ Congression

Alachua County 2013 Peace Poetry Contest

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 by Jessica Newman

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.

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.

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

Memorial Mile 2013

by Scott Camil

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 8th 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 again on Memorial Day weekend 2014.

The purpose of this display is to give the American public a graphic display of the cost of the US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as measured by the deaths of American military personnel.



The display has two parts. The main part is the tombstones, which are displayed by theater of war and date of death. 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.

| Year | Afghanistan | Iraq | Total |
|------|-------------|------|-------|
| 2007 | 386 | 3457 | 3843 |
| 2008 | 500 | 4077 | 4577 |
| 2009 | 685 | 4294 | 4979 |
| 2010 | 1081 | 4398 | 5479 |
| 2011 | 1598 | 4450 | 6048 |
| 2012 | 1973 | 4481 | 6454 |
| 2013 | 2211 | 4481 | 6692 |

Please keep in mind that the above yearly numbers are from Memorial Day to Memorial Day.

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.

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THE BELTRAM PEACE 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.

AnonymousUS Army officer

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

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%

Read more: http://www.longwarjournal.org/ archives/2012/08/green-on-blue_attack.php #ixzz2m4GCppty

We invaded Afghanistan in 2001 to arrest one man that Afghanistan was willing to turn over to a $3^{\rm rd}$ 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 selfdefense. 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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Only among men is Nature's law of "survival of the fittest" thwarted and indeed, reversed; for in almost every generation the fittest are sent forth to be slaughtered by orders of the stunted, the twisted, and the senile.

— Sidney J. Harris

"We utterly deny all outward wars ... I for any end or under any pretence I whatsoever."

Friends Declaration of 1661

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What a bangerous edifice war is, how easily it may fall to pieces and bury us in its ruins. — Carl von Clausewitz



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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.

There is no way to vote against the interests of Goldman Sachs. - Chris Hedges



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.



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- Mohandas K. Gandhi

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Everything is changing. People are taking their comedians seriously and the politicians as a joke.

— Will Rogers

US Middle East policy:



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Rachel Maddow



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THERE ARE CAUSES WORTH DYING FOR, BUT NONE WORTH KILLING FOR.

- ALBERT CAMUS

The John A. Penrod "Brigadas" Award for Peace and Justice

International Brigade, Spanish Civil War (1936-1937)

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.

by Jessica Newman

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

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

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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.

There are no Democrats and Republicans anymore in the nation's capital, just millionaires.

Elliott

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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.

- 4. Jackson Browne

Envision the Impact of Sprawl on Our Rural Communities

By Whitey Markle, Marihelen Wheeler, and Dave Wilson

While the concept of "rural clusters" was incorporated into the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan in 1984 to help limit infill development in outlying communities, a proposal to undermine such protection was presented at the Oct. 22 County Commission meeting.

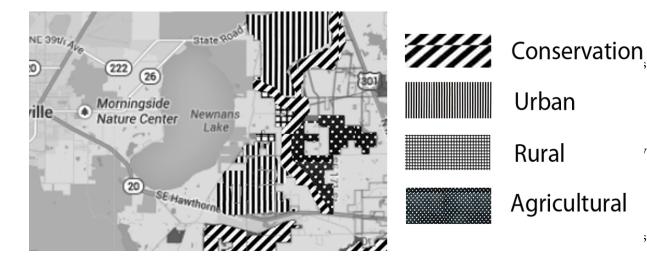
After several dozen citizens from these 13 communities (including Melrose and Windsor) spoke against the changes, the proposal was tabled and a small victory was won. However, Plum Creek's Envision Alachua project lurks in the wings as a much larger problem.

While the promoters of this massive project talk about high-end manufacturing jobs (where a handful of engineers monitor the activities of sophisticated robots), their real objective is a housing development on a scale approaching The Villages.

This project is so large its boundaries will encroach on the communities of Rochelle, Grove Park, Campville, Orange Heights and Windsor. 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



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 the 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.

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,



so they feel obliged to provide the housing. The bottom line: Once the wild areas are gone, they are gone.

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.



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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



"You people kinda *specialize* in farce down there in D.C., don't you?"
"Not on purpose..."

— Donald E. Westlake

(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."

"Ah. That's closer."

— Lois McMaster Bujold



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

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

- Steven Brust

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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.



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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 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.

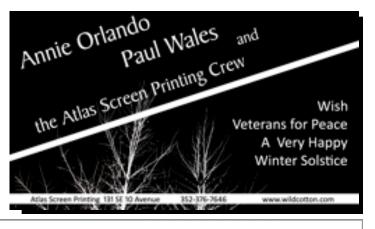
The Founding Fathers warned us of the danger to our freedom that the wealthy, and their corporations, would pose. It is why we fought a war against the British royalty and their corporations, who controlled our economy, and our chance for the self determination of our fledgling Nation. All of this corruption 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



The function of freedom is to free someone else.

— Toni Morrison

The Law Office of Bill Salmon

Salutes the diligent work of the

VETERANS FOR PEACE

in pursuit of peace and justice.

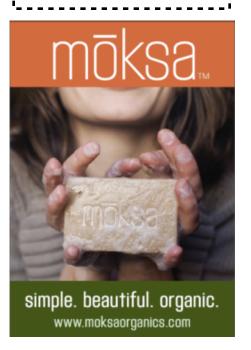
We believe that an understanding point of view and acceptance of the views of others is paramount for the future.

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In a democracy, you say what you like and do what you're told. - Dave Barry



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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



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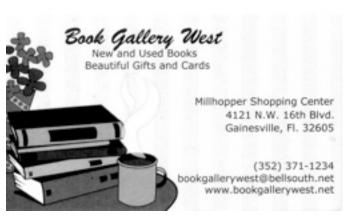
The Myth of American Exceptionalism

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 among nations to pay a great price for the progress of human freedom and dignity. This is who we are. That's what we do as Americans."

Appealing to national uniqueness has been used by all expansionist empires. We drove westward with "Manifest Destiny" covering our war crimes against Native Americans. The Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, British, French (etc) would simultaneously kill off native populations while



"bringing the light of Christ to Darkness" Lofty socialist slogans veiled Lenin's crimes and today giant red billboards of state slogans written in Burmese and English dot the landscape of Myanmar.

Nor is Obama's nationalist appeal unique here. Hillary Clinton, who supports our current wars: "We are the indispensable nation. We are the force for progress, prosperity, and peace." Henry Kissinger was on the same page when he stated that our foreign policy decisions were for "the well-being of all mankind," and "Americans have always seen their role in the world as the outward manifestation of an inward state of grace."

Do not enquire of the locals in Afghanistan, Iraq, Cuba, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Greece, Indonesia, Chile, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Iran, Libya, Guatemala, Haiti, Cambodia, Chile, Angola, Lebanon, or East Timor (etc.) if our interventions were a force for progress, prosperity or peace.

While we teetered along on the verge of another war, Russian president Putin warned in

the *New York Times* that Obama's use of exceptionalism as a war rationalization was fraught with danger, and that the religiously touched should know better. But there followed no national self-reflection as to the suitability of Obama's moral outrage over Syria's chemical weapons (CW) usage in light of our own recent past.

One example:

In 1980 the incoming Reagan administration feared the Shia revolution in Iran (that ousted our Shah) would embolden

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

the Shia majority next door in Iraq and oust our Saddam Hussein. So to (1) contain Iran and (2) serve as a warning against popular revolts overthrowing our dictators in the rest of the Third World, we and several other western countries provisioned Iraq with CW chemical agents by the metric ton to attack Iran with. For that decade, the US also provided Iraq with reconnaissance and targeting intelligence to maximize the

effectiveness of Iraq's CW warfare against Iran. Well over 100,000 Iranians were killed, including women and children in villages near those Gulf War battle sites. The United Nations Security Council stated in Resolution 3/86, "...the Council strongly condemns this continued use of chemical weapons in clear violation of the Geneva Protocol of 1925...." The United States was the only member to vote against the issuance of this statement.



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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- Massage Therapy Psych-K Hypnotherapy Meditation The program begins on Sat., Jan. 11^{th,} 2014 from 10 am to 2 pm,

and continues on the 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month.

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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 life 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,
Whoopee! 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

Well, come on generals, let's move fast; Your big chance has come at last. Now you can go out and get those reds 'Cause the only good commie is the one that's dead

And you know that peace can only be won When we've blown 'em all to kingdom come.

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

Paranoia strikes deep Into your life it will creep It starts when you're always afraid Step out of line The man comes and takes you away

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

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

faces

Sun, sun, here it comes

Sun, sun, here it comes

Sun, sun, sun, here it comes

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

DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE

Traditional

Gonna lay down my sword & shield
Down by the riverside,
Down by the riverside,
Down by the riverside
Gonna lay down my sword & shield, down
by the riverside
Ain't gonna study war no more

Chorus: I ain't gonna study war no more (6x)

Gonna walk with the Prince of Peace... Gonna shake hands around the world.... Gonna lay down those atom bombs... Gonna sing with the Vets for Peace.....

We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now.

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

WAR IS OVER

John and Yoko

A very Merry Christmas And a Happy New Year Let's hope it's a good one Without any fear. War is over if you want it... War is over now.

As many of you know, our good friend and VFP member David Gold was injured in a bicycle accident on Tuesday, December 3, 2013.

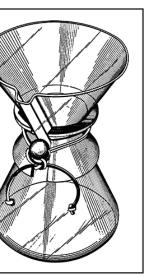
David is in the hospital with a brain injury and will have a long recovery. No visitors allowed at this time. We are happy to report that David is getting better.

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.

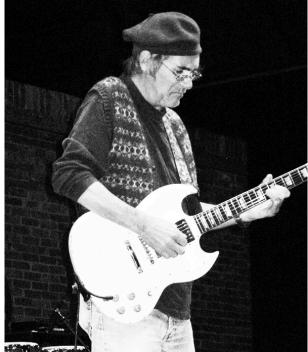
We will miss Charlie's great smile and demeanor. Our love goes out to Charlie's family, Janice his wife of 32 years, whom I have known since she was 12, and his children Rebecca and Josh.

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.

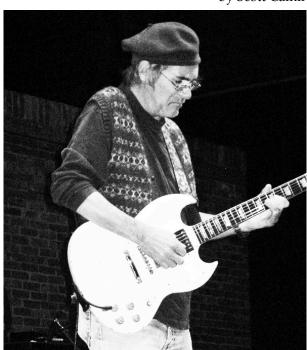
In 1990 Charlie bought Hyde & Zeke and it became the exclusive location to buy Solstice tickets.

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





Without deviation from the norm, progress is not possible.

Frank Zappa

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, freespirit... 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.

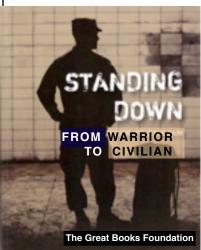
Charlie. We Miss You.

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.

Talking Service group, contact Don Smith at (352) 376-0044 or smithdc2@bellsouth.net. There is no charge.

If you are interested in participating in a

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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

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What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others. — Pericles



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Homeless Veterans

by Arupa Chiarini

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.



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

Paul Krugman

Obama: Year Five – Still Disappointed

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 twoyear 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."

by Scott Camil

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

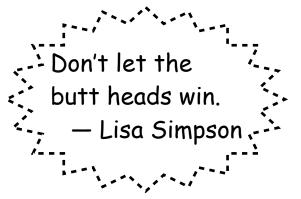
Israel, bowed to public pressure, and did not attack Syria or Iran.

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-Qaida convoy.

Jailed Yemeni journalist Abdulelah

BE RESPONSIBLE: DON'T BUY WAR TOYS!



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.

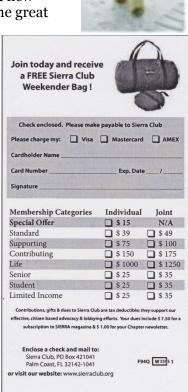
The US is still using the "double tap," which launches an initial drone strike and is then followed by a second strike that targets rescuers and first responders. The rationale behind the use of double taps is that those who converge on the scene of the initial strike must be militants themselves.

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 everyone. If vou are new to the area, let your local Chapter or Group show you around, Join today and become part of America's largest environmental organization with the most enjoyable outings.





... continued on next page →

"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

On October 29th, Representative Alan Grayson had a Congressional briefing on drone strike victims from Pakistan. Only five Congressmen attended the briefing; they were Reps. Alan Grayson (D-Fla.), John Conyers (D-Mich.), Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.), Rush Holt (D-NJ) and Rick Nolan (D-Minn.).

The U.S. corporate media did not cover the briefing. At the briefing, Pakistani schoolteacher Rafiq ur Rehman and his two children, 9 year-old daughter Nabila and 13 year-old son Zubair, gave their account of a U.S. drone attack that killed Rafig's mother, Momina Bibi, and injured the two children.

Here is the link to that briefing: http:// unmanned.warcosts.com/briefing

Guantanamo

Flexible scheduling

We still have about 162 prisoners in the US Guantanamo prison. On December 13th of this vear, Marine Major General Michael Lehnert stated that the time has come to close



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Guantanamo and that the prison "should never have been opened." Lehnert said "We squandered the goodwill of the world after we were attacked by our actions in Guantanamo, both in terms of detention and torture." Lehnert wrote in his column, "Our decision to keep Guantanamo open

... continued on second page following >

tell people that if it's in the news, don't worry about it. The very definition of "news" is "something that hardly ever happens." It's when common that it's no longer news -- car crashes, domestic violence -- that you should start worrying.

something isn't in the news, when it's so

Bruce Schneier

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.

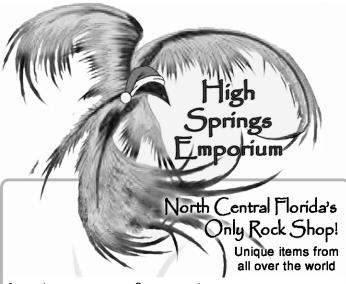
On the home front, Obama is still far right of center. His agreeing to "The Grand Bargain," which would overhaul the tax code by lowering the corporate tax rate alongside deeper social spending cuts, supports Wall Street over Main Street.

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."



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All of us who are concerned for peace and triumph of reason and justice must be keenly aware how small an influence reason and honest good will exert upon events in the political field.

— Albert Einstein

As more information isleaked 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.

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The Americans have a lot to learn.

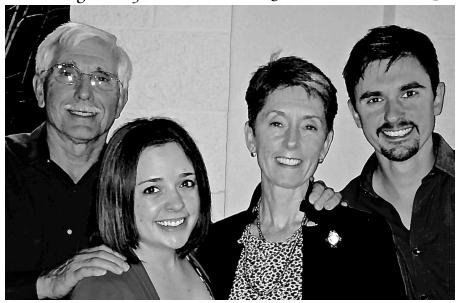
— Pakistan Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan



NAMASTE

The Bottcher Family wishes to thank Veterans For Peace for their work for Peace and Justice.

Wishing everyone Peace and Good Health in 2014!



Del, Anne, Susan & Steven

It is a little embarrassing that, after 45 years of research and study, the best advice I can give to people is to be a little kinder to each other.

AldousHuxley

Obamacare

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

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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.

... continued on next page →

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.

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."

In 2012, she published an autobiography: Classified Woman – The Sibel Edmonds Story: A Memoir.

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.

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

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, outed 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

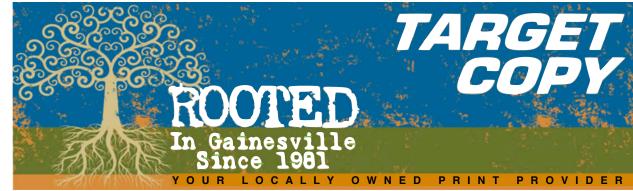
Provance was a system administrator for U.S. Army Military Intelligence at the Abu Ghraib prison who publicly revealed the role of interrogators in the abuses, as well the general effort to cover up the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse

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

itself. On September 20, 2007, Provance was given the Sam Adams Award for "integrity in intelligence" at the American University. He described missing the Army "more than anything else," and said that after having lost his friends and family, speaking to the media was not worth it on a personal level.

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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 whistle-blowers. 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.

He is the 2011 recipient of the Ridenhour Prize for Truth-Telling and co-recipient of the Sam Adams Associates for Integrity in Intelligence

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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.

(SAAII) award. "I did what I did because I am rooted in the faith that my duty was to the American people" . . . "I knew that you did not spy on Americans and that we were accountable 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 listed as unclassified, 40 percent are "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.

The whistleblowers described above are a small sampling of Wikipedia's total list (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_whistleblowers). All but one on this list are American citizens (Julian Assange is Australian).

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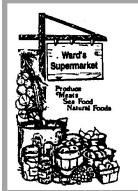
Peace Scholarship Program for Alachua County High School Students

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



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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

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— L.R. Knost

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 postal



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.

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



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— Nelson Mandela

The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace.

- Mahatma Gandhi

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

Paul and Marihelen Wheeler The Gestalt Center

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





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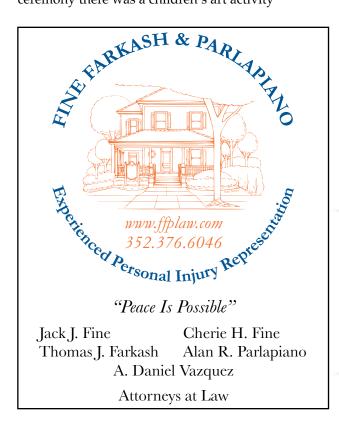
Freedom is an indivisible word. If we want to enjoy it, and fight for it, we must be prepared to extend it to everyone, whether they are rich or poor, whether they agree with us.

- Wendell Willkie

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





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Licensed Clinical Psychologist

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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.

We are making progress.

It is now more acceptable to be gay than to be a Congressman.

- Barney Frank

Tip the Scales

War is good, some people say, while in the ground, their families lay. They talk abut 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.

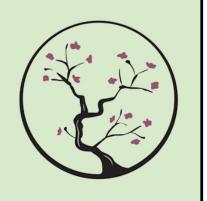
How to stop it, this terrible force, to me, there is only one true course. We must use peace to save the earth, tip the scales, embrace life's birth.

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

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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 the *Alachua County Labor Party's Committee of 100* to help their efforts to get universal health care enacted through House Bill HR676. www.floridalaborparty.org/alachua

\$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 resistors in the military. couragetoresist.org

\$500 to *Courage to Resist* for the **Bradley** Manning Defense Committee.

couragetoresist.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 diference." (Robert Greenwald)

www.bravenewfoundation.org \$500 to *The Gainesville Iguana*, Gainesville's progressive calendar and newsletter

www.gainesvilleiguana.org

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- MITCH HEDBURG

\$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

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.

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.

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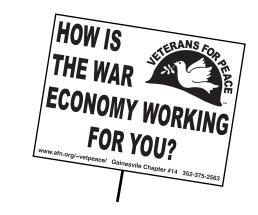
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We've lost several sponsors in the last few years - not because they've given up on working for peace, but as a result of our kleptocratic war economy that preys on all of the 99%. So, **please buy local** whenever possible, and remember the good people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

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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

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 vfpgainesville.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 Solstice 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 organizing ways to distribute information about the mistakes he made during his presidency and planning to have a large presence at his speech. VFP Chapter 14 voted to become an official partner of this project.

The 40th anniversary reunion of the Gainesville 8 acquittal was held over Labor Day. 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.



Veterans from all services and all nations (including those on active duty or in training programs) and veterans' family members are invited to join Veterans for Peace.

To learn more, call Scott Camil at 375-2563, visit www.vfpgainesville.org, email gvlvfp@ earthlink.net, write to PO Box 142562, G'ville 32614, or come to our regular meetings (7 PM, on the first Wednesday of each month) at Scott & Sherry's house - call 352-375-2563 for directions.

The Chapter has been working with the newly reconstituted Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), participating in and speaking at their rallies on Drones And 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 Celebration 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!

ALL WAR IS IMMORAL, AND IF YOU LET THAT BOTHER YOU, YOU'RE NOT A GOOD SOLDIER.

- GENERAL CURTIS LEMAY