

28th Annual  Winter Solstice

# PEACE CONCERT

Music & Cheer  
for Dark Hours



December 20th, 2014, 8:00 PM

at and co-sponsored by the

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
FELLOWSHIP OF GAINESVILLE

# Gainesville Veterans for Peace Activities in 2014:

Before the year 2014 began, another well-attended Winter Solstice Concert was held for the first time in a while on the actual solstice, Saturday, December 21st. The volunteers did a great of running the event which is a great big party that VFP members and their community partners love to attend every year.

January 2014 began with a review of that event and planning VFP events for the new year plus direction of donations from our fundraising at the solstice. About half the money raised goes to fund VFP events, and the other half goes to support local and national progressive organizations. Our mission to affirm *"our greater responsibility to serve the cause of world peace"* guides us in all these endeavors. VFP was described by one anonymous donor at the solstice concert last year as the Gainesville progressive movement's United Way.

Locally our donations included The Alachua Labor Party, the Civic Media Center, *The Gainesville Iguana*, the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program and the Home Van. Nationally we donated to the Manning Defense Fund, Courage to Resist, and Shepherds for Lost Sheep, who provide service dogs for free to veterans. In addition, the Gainesville chapter actively supports the national organization of Vets for Peace by insuring that all our veteran members are able to pay the national dues each year. VFP Gainesville has both members who are veterans and therefore eligible for national membership and supporting members who are not vets but who are welcome as local members. You, too, are welcome to join us!

In February, work began on our next major event, the Peace Poetry Contest, which is open to all school children in Alachua County. Children write poems with the theme of peace, which are judged by UF poetry professor Sidney Ellis and her graduate students. The winners are invited to

an event held May 10th this year at the UU church where the children read their poems musicians play

and a reception is held for the families. The poems are published in a book each year and some of them will be read tonight at the Winter Solstice as well. In addition to the poetry contest, VFP offered a peace scholarship and will do so again this year. It will be awarded at the Peace Poetry ceremony in May.

In March, VFP participated in the Penrod Awards given to outstanding community activists each year and Scott Camil spoke about his experiences in the early '70s with the Gainesville Eight. VFP Members also began to participate in the protests against militarization of drone technology lead by local activist Fay Williams.

In April we got an update from Nancy Shebeneck about the Veterans' Farm sponsored by the Beltram Peace Center. Vets for Peace has supported this project from its beginnings with both funding and advice and technical support. The Farm is a place for Veterans to recharge. It now has a caretaker vet and will be used by the Warrior Institute, a Gainesville organization that provides biofeedback and recreational therapy for veterans. VFP voted in March to donate 1000 dollars to the farm to help improve the buildings. See more about the Farm at their blog at <http://shebfl.wordpress.com>. Planning also began in earnest for our Memorial Day display on Eighth Avenue.

In May the job pace quickened as we planned for two major events in one month. Peace poetry submissions had been received and the award



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 McPeck \* John Chambers*

*Kim Ricks \* Robert Clark \* Bill Moran*

### *JOHN CHAMBERS AND FRIENDS*

*John Chambers \* Mark Billman \* David Beede \* Bill Hutchinson*

### *LAUREN ROBINSON & MARISSA VARIO*

### *PEACE POETRY WINNERS*

*Abdulrahman Abdullah \* Darian Pisano \* Mya McAfee*

### *PATCHWORK*

*Cathy Dewitt \* Janet Rucker \* Jolene Stone Jones \* Annie McPherson*

### *KEVIN O'SULLIVAN*

### *OTHER VOICES*

*Fagan Arouh \* Alan Hill \* Michelle Ott \* Dan Tampas*

### *INTERMISSION*

### *THE ERASABLES/RELICS CONGLOMERATE*

*Janet Rucker \* Cathy Dewitt \* Michelle Ott \* Dan Tampas \* Fagan Arouh*

*Bob McPeck \* Ron Thomas \* Brad Bangstad \* Rob Rothschild*

### *A CHOIR OF HEAVENLY SEMI-ANGELS*

*Bob McPeck \* Rob Rothschild \* Brad Bangstad \* Dan Tampas*

*Michelle Ott \* David Beede \* Mark Billman \* Cathy Dewitt \* Natalie Jones*

*Bill Hutchinson \* Janet Rucker \* Maggie Rucker \* Fagan Arouh*

*and YOU*

*and Master of Ceremonies - Bob Treadwater*

*Interpreter for the Deaf: Diane Delage*

# Peace Helmet Award



Over the last 28 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 28 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 28 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, please let us know, we apologize.)*



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## 2013 Peace Helmet Award Recipients:

Doris Nabuis • Gloria Summers  
Paul Ortiz - Samuel Proctor Oral History Program  
Richard Hudgens • Nic Vera

## 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  
Café  
Virtual Peace Helmet to the Occupy Movement  
everywhere

## 2010 Peace Helmet Award Recipients:

Sheila Payne • Charlie Scales - Hyde and Zeke

## 2009 Peace Helmet Award Recipients:

Kirk Anthony - MFSO • Jacque Betz - Code Pink  
Sue Faulk • Craig Nikolaus  
Peter Theoktisto - Everyman Sound  
Bob Tomashevsky

## 2008 Peace Helmet Award Recipients:

Denny Bellesheim • Dottie Burnham  
Louis Clark - Bio-Graphix • Rob Hopkins  
Gil Marshall • Ku Wang

## Other Years:

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



# Special Thanks to —

The Members & Supporters of Veterans for Peace  
Bill Hutchinson • Civic Media Center  
McIntyre Stained Glass • Angel Gardens • Linda Kemp  
Peter Theoktisto of Everyman Sound Company  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville  
Samuel Proctor Oral History Program  
The UUFG Social Justice Council  
Steven Poe • Helen Warren • Randy Wells  
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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☎ Oxfam America: 1-800/OXFAM-US (693-2687)

# Alachua County 2014 Peace Poetry Contest

by Jessica Newman

This year, Veterans for Peace organized the Fifth Annual Peace Poetry Contest, inviting all students in Alachua County schools to submit poems based on what peace means to them.

We received more poetry submissions than any previous year of the contest — approximately 400 entries. A panel of English graduate students at the University of Florida (Elaina Mercatoris, Erin Jones, Tara Tatum, Sam Grenrock and Paulette Bane), 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 21 winning poems and honorable mentions were published in the 2014 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.

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 a student who would like to submit a poem to the 2015 Peace Poetry Contest, email [vfpppeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com](mailto:vfpppeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com) for more information. We will publicly announce the contest to all schools, teachers, and administrators in Alachua County in early February.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with the orchestration of the contest, particularly with publicizing the call for poems and designing the Peace Poetry book and certificates.

If you’d like to get involved, email [vfpppeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com](mailto:vfpppeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com).

To see photos from the 2014 reading and to enjoy all winning poems published in the Peace Poetry booklet, visit the Veterans for Peace website at [www.vfpgainesville.org](http://www.vfpgainesville.org).

***Teach every child you meet the importance of forgiveness. It's our only hope of surviving their wrath once they realize just how badly we've screwed things up for them.*** — Anonymous




The award winning ***Star Center Children's Theatre*** is a 501c 3 not for profit organization. Founded in 2000 by Artistic Director, Rhonda Wilson. The mission of the Star Center is to provide arts education and performance opportunities to area youth and families. The Star Center offers a season of shows throughout the school year. Our Super Smart Summer Camp combines academics with music, dance, art, multi-media and drama.

The theater's home is in the ***Actors' Warehouse*** located in Downtown Gainesville. To volunteer, donate or find out more about our programs visit [starcentertheatre.org](http://starcentertheatre.org) or call 352-222-3699.



## A Change

Fathers and brothers,  
Sisters and mothers,  
Husband and wife,  
All of these people living a normal life.  
They laugh and smile like everyone else,  
But what they buy our country, no store sells.  
One day war has been declared,  
The faces of these people are definitely not scared.  
The camouflage uniform is worn with pride,  
Soldiers put their own life on the line.  
The call for war has begun,  
Songs of victory have been sung.  
Missiles and bullets find their mark,  
Dust and smoke color the field dark.  
Many have fallen, many suffer from wounds,  
Bloodied faces do not hide their gloom.  
War hangs in the air like an overcast sky,  
When war occurs, people ask why.  
Why wage war when you can befriend each other?  
The problem today is that we think we don't need one another.  
We all see the flaws that others possess,  
But we all don't notice we cause each other distress.  
If we all could combine and unite,  
What would be the use to fight?  
Great people have been lost to war,  
So why do we have the hunger for more?  
Countless rulers and presidents have passed,  
Yet peace is not showing signs of coming fast.  
Nonviolence is just a theory today,  
But rather violence is the largest obstacle in our way.  
We don't realize what war does to us,  
How it corrupts us,  
How it changes us,  
How it makes us hate each other.  
We see innocent people killed because of beliefs,  
Everyone involved never receiving relief.  
Countless people have been symbols of peace,  
But when will these conflicts ever cease?  
The day we see the person next to us and see how beautiful humans are,  
The day we see how war gives scars,  
The day we see that peace isn't far,  
Is the day that defines who humans are.



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calmness, clarity, and tranquility  
to all people of goodwill  
this Hanukkah, Christmas,  
and Kwanzaa Season!!!

N. Albert Bacharach, Jr.



# Peace on Earth

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**When will our consciences grow so tender that we will act to prevent human misery rather than avenge it?  
— Eleanor Roosevelt**

# Memorial Mile 2014

by Scott Camil

2014 was the eighth 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.

In 2013, the City of Gainesville decided to test narrowing of this small section of NW 8th Ave., with the intention of evaluating the impact on traffic flow and safety. We supported this calmer plan to narrow the 3/4 mile stretch. The Gainesville City Commission voted on December 4th, 2014 to 4-lane NW 8th Avenue between 34th St and 23rd St. with a new design that will take away the grass median strip between the sidewalk



and road that we have used since 2007 to erect our Memorial Day weekend tombstone display.

We picked 8th Avenue as our Memorial Mile for several reasons. We were looking for a place that was about 1 mile long, not in front of peoples' homes, with no side streets cutting through the display. We needed a grass median at least 36 inches wide. We needed parking and use of bathrooms. Westside Park is perfect. It is easy for walkers to come back to the park to rest. We get a good amount of traffic on 8th Ave.

This area is a park environment and was meant to be so. It has Westside Park, Loblolly Woods and Hogtown Creek. The two schools, Littlewood Elementary School and Westwood

Middle School, are further reasons to make this a slow traffic area to protect our children.

Mayor Braddy and Commissioners Hinson-Rawls, Chase, and Carter, decided that this 3/4 mile strip needed to be 4 lanes. They used the argument that 4-laning 8th Ave. and reducing the speed limit would be safer than 2 lanes. In my experience, when you add lanes to a road, it increases the

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speed on that road. Four lanes also makes it harder for people to cross the street, especially at 31st St.

The real reason that the mayor and the majority of the commission wanted to go back to 4 lanes had nothing to do with safety, it was purely political, it was a message to their tea party supporters that they were now in control of the city commission. They envision a future Gainesville that looks more like Orlando than Gainesville - all asphalt and cement.

We are greatly disappointed. We thank Commissioners Poe, Warren and Wells for trying to preserve the calmer 2-lane plan that would have left the grass median which we use for the tombstones.

The mayor also said that work toward a 4-lane configuration should be started immediately and that the rest of the work will begin in May. I called the City manager to find out if we would be able to have one more year or if the work in May will stop us from getting a permit for the display. On the 11th of December, I received an e-mail from Teresa Scott, Director of Public Works for Gainesville. In the e-mail she said, "Construction will not begin on NW 8th Avenue until sometime after the Memorial Day weekend; possibly mid-summer 2015. So, I see no reason why you cannot continue with the Tombstone Display for Memorial weekend in May 2015." So as it now stands, Memorial Day weekend 2015 will be the last year that we have our display on NW 8th Ave.

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	3,457	3,843
2008	500	4,077	4,577
2009	685	4,294	4,979
2010	1,081	4,398	5,479
2011	1,598	4,450	6,048
2012	1,973	4,481	6,454
2013	2,211	4,481	6,692
2014	2,308	4,481	6,789

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None are more hopelessly enslaved, than those who falsely believe they are free. —Johann von Goethe

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

As of this printing, there are 6,834 total tombstones: 2,351 from Afghanistan and 4,483 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 386 tombstones 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 8 service members per month, we will need to build 96 tombstones for Memorial Day 2015.

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?

2013, was the first year of no deaths in Iraq and we were hoping for a trend. Unfortunately two American Marines have died so far this year in Iraq.

Under Bush (8 years), 4,221 American military personnel were killed in Iraq. So far under Obama

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Already in the service, but want to know your rights? call the GI Hotline at 1-877-447-4487 or go to [www.girightshotline.org](http://www.girightshotline.org).

(6 years), 262 American military personnel have been killed in Iraq.

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 (6 years), 1,678 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.

WASHINGTON — President Obama decided in recent weeks to authorize a more expansive mission for the military in Afghanistan in 2015 than originally planned, a move that ensures American troops

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**— REBECCA SOLNIT**

will have a direct role in fighting in the war-ravaged country for at least another year.

Mr. Obama's order allows American forces to carry out missions against the Taliban and other militant groups threatening American troops or the Afghan government, a broader mission than the president described to the public earlier this year, according to several administration, military and congressional officials with knowledge of the decision. The new authorization also allows American jets, bombers and drones to support Afghan troops on combat missions.(NYT 11-21-14)

"Green on Blue" is the name given to insider attacks against coalition forces by the Afghan security forces. These attacks accounted for 6% of coalition casualties in 2014.

The total number of Coalition deaths from green-on-blue attacks for the period Jan. 1, 2008 to the present is 144. The total number of Coalition wounded is 183.

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

Year	Wounded	Killed	%age
2008	3	2	< 1%
2009	11	12	2%
2010	1	16	2%
2011	34	35	6%
2012	81	61	15%
2013	29	14	9.9%
2014	26	4	6%

Read more: [www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2012/08/green-on-blue\\_attack.php](http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2012/08/green-on-blue_attack.php)

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

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

*Friends Declaration of 1661*

## **Gainesville Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)**

Meeting Info:

352-372-1070 or

[www.afn.org/~quakers](http://www.afn.org/~quakers)

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*Firstday (Sunday)*

*Forget the debate on Syria, we need a debate on why we're always debating whether to bomb someone. Because we're starting to look not so much like the world's policeman, but more like George Zimmerman: itching to use force and then pretending it's because we had no choice.*

— Bill Maher

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

**My strong view is that  
we are not going to  
succeed simply by  
piling on more and  
more troops.**

**— Barack Obama**

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the best treat of  
the year,  
Winter Solstice.*



*Sally  
and  
Josh*

“Translator, explain this word ‘peace.’”

Translator: “This is incredible, but the closest approximation we can get from our instruments is that the members of this species were so accustomed to slaughtering each other that they had to employ a special word to designate the intervals when the slaughter had ceased.”

— Bob Shaw

To learn who rules over you , simply find out who you are not allowed to criticize.

— Voltaire

**Force and mind are  
opposites; morality  
ends where a gun  
begins.**

**— Ayn Rand**

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**— MALALA YOUSAFZAI**

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# *The John A. Penrod “Brigadas” Award for Peace and Justice*



## **International Brigade, Spanish Civil War (1936-1937)**

by Jessica Newman

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 invasion led by General Francisco Franco and supported by Nazi Germany and Italy, in what many consider the prelude to World War II.

In his day, Jack Penrod worked with the Steel Workers Organizing Committee and helped

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

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

Last year, the award went to two recipients who each received \$1000 — Robbie Czopek and Jeremiah Tattersall. Robbie co-founded the Food Not Bombs chapter in St. Augustine before moving to Gainesville, where he organized with Gainesville Industrial Workers of the World and the Civic Media Center (CMC). As CMC co-coordinator, Robbie played a pivotal role in shaping the face and direction of the CMC in its then-new location, and continued to ensure the

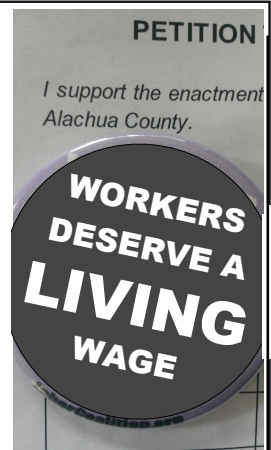
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*A person who does not concern himself with politics has already made the political choice he was so anxious to spare himself: he is serving the ruling party.*

— Max Frisch

success of this community treasure as a sole coordinator through the fall of this year, before he moved out West.

Jeremiah Tattersall has been active in numerous radical movements including Students for a Democratic Society and the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. He was a key leader in the task force that led to the historic Wage Recovery Ordinance in Alachua County, protecting workers from stolen and withheld wages. Jeremiah continues his track record of labor activism as a coordinator for the AFL-CIO, promoting community involvement as well as organizing graduate students and faculty in UFF — the faculty union that Jack helped found.

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](http://www.vfpgainesville.org).

"Violence never brings permanent peace. It solves no social problem: it merely creates new and more complicated ones. Violence is impractical because it is a descending spiral ending in destruction for all. It is immoral because it seeks to humiliate the opponent rather than win his understanding; it seeks to annihilate rather than convert. Violence is immoral because it thrives on hatred rather than love. It destroys community and makes brotherhood impossible. It leaves society in monologue rather than dialogue. Violence ends up defeating itself. It creates bitterness in the survivors and brutality in the destroyers."

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

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---

... in the post-9/11 years, no application of power seemed to work for Washington. No enemy, no matter how minor, weak, ill armed, or unpopular could be defeated. No jihadist group wiped out. Not one.

---

— Tom Engelhardt

---



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Look, the world is a complicated place.  
I mean, there's Us *and* Them.

— Modusoperandi



**one people  
one planet  
one future**

# Vets 'n' Roses

By Pamela Greenewald

*"Hearts starve as well as bodies; give us bread, but give us roses."*

James Oppenheim, "Bread and Roses"

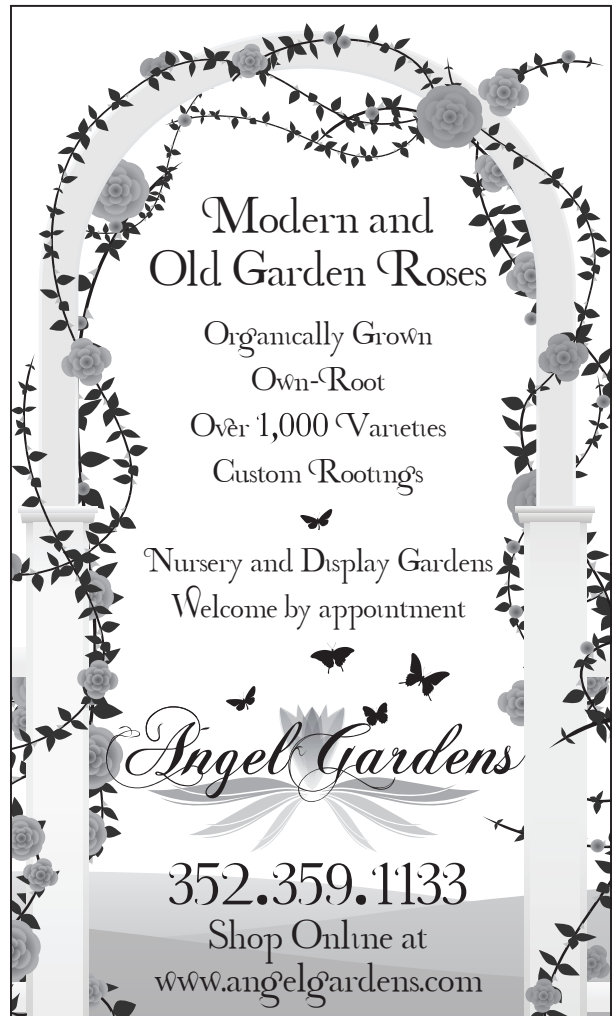
Garden Angels, inc. is a not-for-profit (501c3) corporation whose purpose is to use horticultural therapy for mental and physical healing working with Veterans suffering from PTSD and other disabilities. Our headquarters is located in Alachua, Florida. We raise funds for the non-profit through donations, grants, and our wholesale rose company entitled "The Old Garden Rose Co."™ The proceeds from the sale of these easy-care, organically-grown roses go to support and help sustain our programs.

While the healing power of the Rose is pervasive in how it touches nearly every part of a person, perhaps the most remarkable aspects of this flower are found in its ability to affect the heart and spirit. Long praised for its anti-depressant qualities and ability to open the heart, it has been used across the world to raise the spirits and heal broken hearts. An amazingly uplifting herb, it is often used as an antidepressant / anti-anxiety agent. It has a profound opening effect on the heart and is a deeply nourishing tonic for the nerves. It is equally as effective when working with the plant itself.

I cannot think of any past time more healing than growing roses. There is something absolutely enchanting about this species because it holds the place of the highest form of being that the plant

kingdom has to offer. Roses respond quickly to nurturing and they let us know how they are feeling, giving us back many times the love we bestow upon them, adding healing vibrations of the highest electrical frequency known in the plant kingdom (320MHz). Thus we are able to raise our own vibration into a healing state from being with roses. We are working with all phases of rose growing from cuttings.

**I refuse to live in a country  
like this, and I'm not leaving.  
— Michael Moore**



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An exciting part of our program involves hybridizing (breeding) roses. Seed grown from any hybrid rose that is not a Species rose will always be a new rose different from the parent just as our children are not clones of ourselves. Any of the new seedlings that show promise may be registered, duplicated and named after a loved one or in the case of Veterans, a fallen comrade. We will begin with developing a new rose to honor each of the 5 men lost in the Battle of Alpha North as well as a rose named for Alpha North.

*"To create a little flower is the labour of ages."*  
William Blake (1757- 1827)

Pamela and James Greenewald of Angel Gardens are the founders of Garden Angels.

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YOU  
VETERANS

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*It always feels good to do what is right.*

— Sarah Palin

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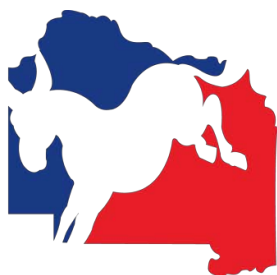
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Either you repeat the same conventional doctrines everybody is saying, or else you say something true, and it will sound like it's from Neptune.

— Noam Chomsky

Democracy is a process by which the people are free to choose the man who will get the blame.

— Laurence J. Peter



— ★ ★ —  
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***Thank You, Veterans for Peace  
for working over 28 years to  
encourage Peace and Harmony.***

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The obscure we see eventually. The completely obvious, it seems, takes longer.

— Edward R. Murrow

# Development: “Turning it all around backwards”

People say they care about the future, but its not true. They're thinking about the money, how they are going to live in a good house and an easy life. Its not real. Its all in a dream. Its not going to be like that forever. Its all going to turn around.

If you dig down two or three feet down into the earth you go back maybe a thousand years. You dig into the earth you dig up the past, and build house up on top of the earth you dig up. All this digging that's what we're doing, turning our Mother backwards into her old age

The Elders tell us you see a dry spot on your skin where you did not take care of it. Some of the Earth is now desert because years ago it was abused. The whole earth is going to be desert. Now there are just a few areas left. You see the other planet in space and its all desert. Someday another planet will look at us and we will be all desert.

If we are going to live in a new way, we should leave the earth alone so that life can continue and the earth can continue to

Bobby Billie during 1994 Walk For The Earth support us. But the bigger house one after another, the bigger machine, the money is not going to do anything for us. Only the earth can do something for us, the trees and water and air.

We all get a right heart and mind if we walk together so we can come together for the future.

That is my vision. All of us have visions. We come together ,we walk together, we share what we know and what we have. The message comes to us all the time every day. Put it together and bring it out and you have a good message we call love and care for the whole people and for all the creation of the earth.

When we come to the balance of the mind we can leave some things alone. We can control our minds, what we see, what we hear. You cannot blame the tobacco, its not the leaf. Its not the water, not the food, its not the creator. We are the ones killing ourselves. It's the people.

Look ahead every time you make a step.

*I don't believe in optimism. I believe in optimal behavior. That's a different thing . . . Action is hope. At the end of each day, when you've done your work, you lie there and think, Well, I'll be damned, I did this today. It doesn't matter how good it is, or how bad – you did it. At the end of the week you'll have a certain amount of accumulation. At the end of a year, you look back and say, I'll be damned, it's been a good year.*

— Ray Bradbury

# Plum Creek 2014

by Stand By Our Plan

The Plum Creek real estate investment trust has reportedly burned through more than \$10 million over the past three years on a public relations campaign to orchestrate support for their proposal to build a sprawling new city on their timberlands in rural eastern Alachua County. That money has bought Plum Creek a large professional staff; hundreds of public presentations; countless individual lobbying meetings with leaders in local government, business, and nonprofit communities; a carefully screened and managed “citizen task force” to rubber-stamp their proposal; lavish contributions to local charitable organizations; nonstop advertising, and the docile media coverage it buys; and the obligatory yard-signs and free T-shirts.

Despite all this (or perhaps because of it), several recent opinion polls indicate it isn’t working. The advertising mythology created by Plum Creek runs something like this:

*Plum Creek’s extensive land holdings and corporate resources have enabled them to develop a plan for the future development of eastern Alachua County that will result in “smarter growth” and enhanced environmental protection. Unjust economic imbalance between west and east will be redressed, good-paying jobs will be made available to relatively unskilled workers, and historically down-trodden east Gainesville will be rejuvenated.*

**These claims are easily refuted, point by point.** A superior, publicly vetted blueprint for the future growth of our community already exists: the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan. The environmental consequences of Plum Creek’s

development plans will be disastrous, and the land they promise to “conserve” is, in fact, largely undevelopable or already under permanent conservation easement. Their proposed development is 10-15 miles from east Gainesville, and will drain investment away from all parts of the city, as sprawl always does. And despite Plum Creek’s overt race-baiting, this issue has nothing to do with civil rights or economic justice.

Peel away the advertising, and Plum Creek’s proposal is just traditional land speculation on a grand scale. It serves only the interests of their shareholders. Our community can do better.

**What’s next?** After exhaustive review, Alachua County staff recently issued a robust recommendation of denial for Plum Creek’s application, citing numerous concerns with environmental impacts, poorly planned growth, provision of public services, and a general lack of data and analysis to support Plum Creek’s claims.

Usually, the next step would be for the application to go to public hearings, first with an advisory Planning Commission, then the Alachua County Commission. Instead, Plum Creek has promised to overhaul their application and resubmit it early next year. Staff will then review it once again, and issue another recommendation.

A citizen organization, Stand By Our Plan, has played a vital role in organizing people, raising awareness of the county’s Comprehensive Plan, bringing the issue to the forefront of local elections, and watch-dogging Plum Creek’s claims and activities. Visit our website at [StandByOurPlan.org](http://StandByOurPlan.org) to learn more, and to get involved.

When plunder becomes a way of life for a group of men living in society, they create for themselves, in the course of time, a legal system that authorizes it and a moral code that glorifies it.

— Frédéric Bastiat



# The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program

at the University of Florida



*Happy Winter Solstice to Veterans for Peace  
from all of us at the University of Florida's  
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The **Samuel Proctor Oral History Program** at the University of Florida is pleased to announce "Gator Tales," a School of Theatre & Dance production from the College of Fine Arts. "Gator Tales" is based on oral history interviews from SPOHP's African American History Project, and will run for two weeks, February 13-22, 2015. For more information, visit <http://oral.history.ufl.edu>.

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Fox ... How IS it that a network's cartoons are more intelligent than its news?

— jes



**The Alachua County Green Party**


Wishes to extend our hope for all the Joy the Season brings, and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year for you and your families. Many thanks to the Veterans For Peace, and to all the other groups working to make this dream a reality. Especial thanks to Scott Camil for your support of our Green Party.

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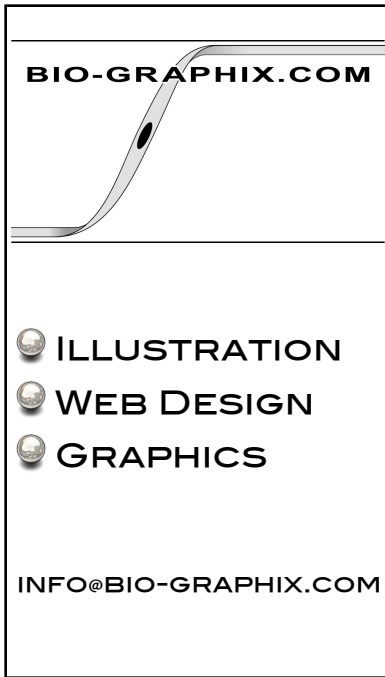


*In America, if you want a successful career in politics, there is one subject you must never mention, and that is politics. If you talk about standing tall, and it's morning in America, and you press the good-news buttons, you're fine. If you talk about budgets, tax reform, bigotry, and so on, you are in trouble. So if we aren't going to talk issues, what can we talk about? Well, the sex lives of the candidates, because that is about the most meaningless thing that you can talk about.*

— Gore Vidal

Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot un-educate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore. We have seen the future, and the future is ours.

— Cesar Chavez



## Seasonal Pome

-arupa

Peace, may we have peace,  
Republicans, Democrats,  
Black, white, Chinese,  
Vegans, locivores,  
folks selling barbecue  
From backs of trucks on country roads.  
May we have compassion,  
For doctors and dentists and hookers,  
And chief financial officers,  
For gated communities and homeless shelters,  
For law enforcement officers, for thieves,  
For all who breathe the free air around us,  
For all who feel the sun and rain on their weary backs.  
May there be candles,  
Menorah candles,  
Kwanzaa candles,  
Christmas candles,  
Candles adding their soft light  
To the gentle beams of the Solstice moon.  
May there be light,  
May there be peace,  
May we love one another.

*American politics is largely  
governed by the logic of the  
playground.*

— Amanda Marcotte



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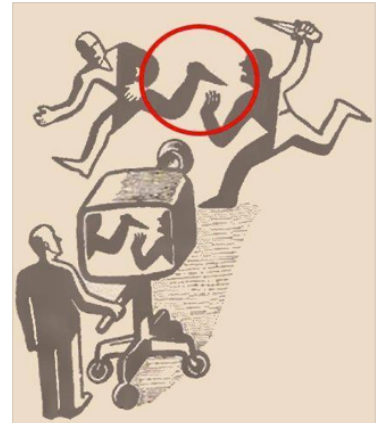
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*The purpose of government is to enable the people of a nation to live in safety and happiness.*

*Government exists for the interests of the governed, not for the governors.*

~ Thomas Jefferson

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# Move to Amend Gainesville 2014

by Harry Patterson

Season's Greetings from the members of Move To Amend, Gainesville! As we take a break from the hectic election cycle, leading up to the recent November election, it gives us time to reflect on how we got to where we are, and where we go from here.

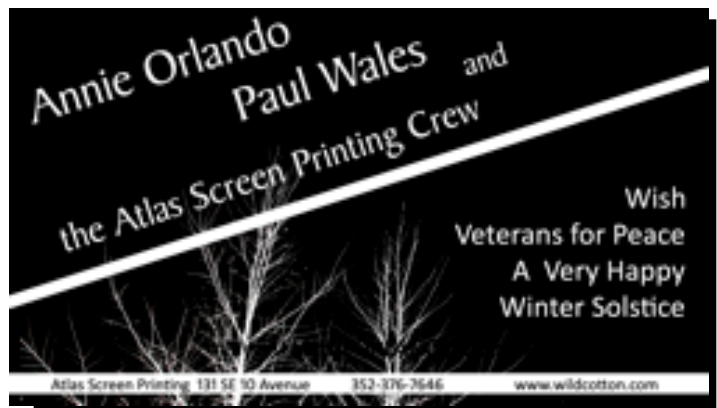
First of all, we would like to thank all of you who made Alachua County Question # 2, the "corporate personhood" and "money as speech" issue, such a resounding success. The victory, by a nearly 72% to 28% margin, shows broad, bipartisan support for changing the way we elect our representatives. This is the only way we can change the direction our country is headed, and we need the continued help and support of people of all political stripes. A Constitutional amendment to insure the sovereignty of the American people is the only remedy left to us.

The margin of victory on our local straw ballot, however, only points up the disconnect between our national leadership, and the will of "We, the People." In a recent vote in the US Senate, to show support for overturning the Supreme Court's "Citizens United" decision, every Democrat and Independent voted for the measure, while every Republican voted against it. Locally, principled conservatives recognized the corruption of our Federal electoral process and the need for reform, and yet their leadership in Congress was united in opposition to reform, because those lawmakers actually represent corporate interests, instead of those of the voting public. When those legislators are successful in helping corporate interests to win, it is "We, the People", and our Republic, that suffer.

And so, our task has been laid out for us. We must build a coalition of educated, involved citizens that will ultimately influence our State legislature to join with the 16 other states that have united to ask for a Constitutional amendment. By the time you're reading this, an amazing 81 year-old woman, Rhana Bazzini ([ingrannydfoosteps.org](http://ingrannydfoosteps.org)) will have completed a 400-mile walk from Sarasota to Tallahassee. She is emulating Doris "Granny D" Haddock, who, at age 89, had previously crossed the entire country from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C. in 14 months (1999-2000). Both these arduous walks were designed to call attention to campaign finance reform. This should give all of us reason to reflect just how actively we need to fight for this cause, because, if our Republic is to survive, failure is not an option. So get involved, spread the word, and make a difference!

Find us on the web ([www.movetoamend.org](http://www.movetoamend.org)) or Facebook.

Best wishes for peace in the New Year,  
Move To Amend, Gainesville



Republicans and Democrats do not have a corner on the possibility market. — Alan Bean

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and acceptance  
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**Thank you,  
Veterans for Peace.**

**All the best,  
Rob and Lou Hyatt**



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will have you hating  
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being oppressed,  
and loving the people  
who are doing  
the oppressing."**

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Post-1980 America is a land in which it is impossible to engage in a discussion about a System with college-aged people without inevitably and almost immediately devolving into mini-soliloquies on Good and Bad choices. Why have so many kids? Why did he start drinking? And they signed a contract without reading the whole thing! Everyone knows not to do that. This is what I mean when I describe college students, when I'm forced to generalize, as extremely conservative. They aren't necessarily hardcore political conservatives in the context of Washington politics, but they have thoroughly internalized the message that their parents and the media have been hammering them with since birth: everything that happens to you is your fault.

— Ed

# 2015 Peace Scholarships for Alachua County Students

by Paul Ortiz

Gainesville Veterans for Peace Chapter 14 announces its annual Peace Scholarships for the spring of 2015. We are awarding two scholarships of \$500 for high school seniors, college students, or adults 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 world of social justice and peace. While we often say that "Another World Is Possible," we must provide tangible alternatives in a society that is based on funding war and state violence.

As a veterans' organization, we recognize that for many individuals, military service is a matter of economic security and the only pathway available for working class students in pursuit of a college education. By creating this scholarship, Veterans for Peace is attempting to follow the example of 2014 Nobel Peace Laureate Malala Yousafzai, who has recently urged the US to end

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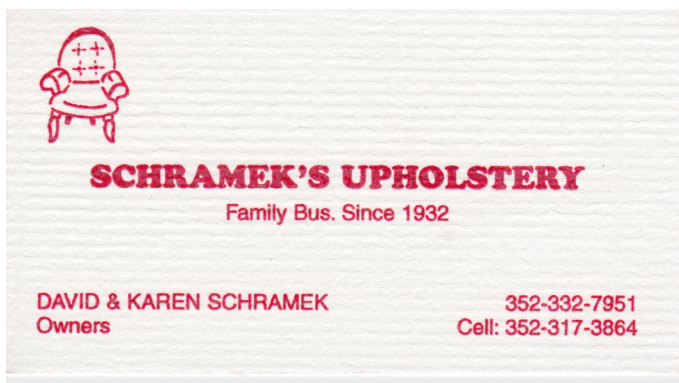


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wars and to refocus on education as a tool of economic justice and peace.

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 either be: 1) a high school senior planning to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school in the United States for the 2015-2016 academic year; or 2) a college student currently enrolled and in good standing; or 3) an adult student enrolling in higher education who needs financial assistance.

Peace Scholarship applicants will also be asked to provide a brief autobiographical statement and evidence of leadership and/or



Either the United States  
will destroy ignorance or  
ignorance will destroy  
the United States.

— W.E.B. Du Bois

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. We will start accepting applications on March 1, 2015. The deadline for the scholarship application is April 2, 2015.

Peace Scholarship recipients will be announced at the Gainesville VFP Peace Poetry

*Come dine on table 9\**

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The full announcement and instructions for applying may be found on our web site, at [www.vfpgainesville.org](http://www.vfpgainesville.org).



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# The Christmas Truce of 1914

Courtesy of [www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/christmas-truce-of-1914](http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/christmas-truce-of-1914)

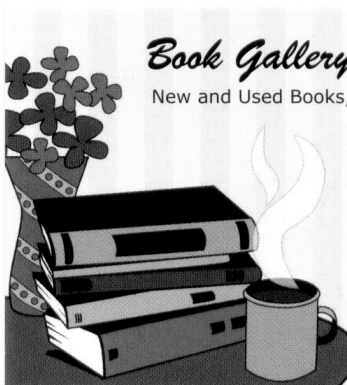


During World War I, on and around Christmas Day 1914, the sounds of rifles firing and shells exploding faded in a number of places along the Western Front in favor of holiday celebrations in

the trenches and gestures of goodwill between enemies.

On Christmas Eve, many German and British troops sang Christmas carols to each other across the lines, and at certain points the Allied soldiers even heard brass bands joining the Germans in their joyous singing.

At the first light of dawn on Christmas Day, some German soldiers emerged from their trenches and approached the Allied lines across no-man's-land, calling out "Merry Christmas" in their enemies' native tongues. At first, the Allied soldiers feared it was a trick, but seeing the Germans unarmed they climbed out of their trenches and shook hands with the enemy soldiers. The men exchanged presents of cigarettes



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*As children, we have imaginary friends. We grow up and we replace them with imaginary enemies.*

*— Patrick Hardin*

and plum puddings and sang carols and songs. There was even a documented case of soldiers from opposing sides playing a good-natured game of soccer.

Some soldiers used this short-lived ceasefire for a more somber task: the retrieval of the bodies of fellow combatants who had fallen within the no-man's land between the lines.

The so-called Christmas Truce of 1914 came only five months after the outbreak of war in Europe and was one of the last examples of the outdated notion of chivalry between enemies in warfare. It was never repeated—future attempts at holiday ceasefires were quashed by officers' threats of disciplinary action—but it served as heartening proof, however brief, that beneath the brutal clash of weapons, the soldiers' essential humanity endured.



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During World War I, the soldiers on the Western Front did not expect to celebrate on the battlefield, but even a world war could not destroy the Christmas spirit.

See more at: [www.veteransforpeace.org/our-work/remembering-christmas-truce/](http://www.veteransforpeace.org/our-work/remembering-christmas-truce/)

*Come, come my conservative friend, wipe the dew  
from your glasses and see that the world is moving.  
— Elizabeth Cady Stanton*

---

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**“True Peace is merely not the absence of war,  
it is the presence of justice.” Jane Adams**

*Tonight's songs may include,  
but are not limited to...*

## WE CAN WORK IT OUT

Lennon/McCartney

Try to see it my way,  
Do I have to keep on talking till I can't go on?  
While you see it your way,  
Run the risk of knowing that our love may  
soon be gone.

We can work it out,  
We can work it out.

Think of what you're saying.  
You can get it wrong and still you think that  
it's all right.  
Think of what I'm saying,  
We can work it out and get it straight, or say  
good night.

We can work it out,  
We can work it out.

Life is very short, and there's no time  
For fussing and fighting, my friend.  
I have always thought that it's a crime,  
So I will ask you once again.

Try to see it my way,  
Only time will tell if I am right or I am  
wrong.  
While you see it your way  
There's a chance that we might fall apart  
before too long.

We can work it out,  
We can work it out.

## 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*





## PEACE TRAIN

Cat Stevens

Now I've been happy lately,  
Thinking about the good things to come  
And I believe it could be,  
Something good has begun

Oh I've been smiling lately,  
Dreaming about the world as one  
And I believe it could be,  
Someday it's going to come

Cause out on the edge of darkness,  
There rides a peace train  
Oh peace train take this country,  
Come take me home again

Now I've been smiling lately,  
Thinking about the good things to come  
And I believe it could be,  
Something good has begun

Oh peace train sounding louder  
Glide on the peace train  
Come on now peace train  
Yes, peace train holy roller

Everyone jump upon the peace train  
Come on now peace train

Get your bags together,  
Go bring your good friends too  
Cause it's getting nearer,  
It soon will be with you

Now come and join the living,  
It's not so far from you  
And it's getting nearer,  
Soon it will all be true

## HERE COMES THE SUN

George Harrison

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



Now I've been crying lately,  
Thinking about the world as it is  
Why must we go on hating,  
Why can't we live in bliss

Cause out on the edge of darkness,  
There rides a peace train  
Oh peace train take this country,  
Come take me home again

*Lyrics continue on next page...*

## EVERYDAY PEOPLE

Sylvester Stewart

Sometimes I'm right and I can be wrong  
My own beliefs are in my song  
The butcher, the banker, the drummer and  
then  
Makes no difference what group I'm in  
I am everyday people, yeah, yeah

There is a blue one  
Who can't accept the green one  
For living with a fat one  
Trying to be a skinny one  
Different strokes  
For different folks

And so on and so on  
And scooby dooby dooby  
Oh sha sha  
We got to live together

I am no better and neither are you  
We are the same, whatever we do  
You love me, you hate me, you know me and  
then  
You can't figure out the bag I'm in  
I am everyday people, yeah yeah

There is a long hair  
That doesn't like the short hair  
For being such a rich one  
That will not help the poor one  
Different strokes  
For different folks

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*We are what we pretend to be,  
so we must be careful about  
what we pretend to be.*

— Kurt Vonnegut

And so on and so on  
And scooby dooby dooby  
Oh sha sha  
We got to live together

There is a yellow one  
That won't accept the black one  
That won't accept the red one  
That won't accept the white one  
Different strokes  
For different folks

And so on and so on  
And scooby dooby dooby  
Oh sha sha  
I am everyday people

It Takes a Lot of Turning Points To Go In a Circle

— Peter Van Buren

## LONELY PEOPLE

Daniel M. Peek & Catherine L. Peek

This is for all the lonely people  
Thinking that life has passed them by  
Don't give up until you drink from the silver cup  
And ride that highway in the sky

This is for all the single people  
Thinking that love has left them dry  
Don't give up until you drink from the silver cup  
You never know until you try  
Well, I'm on my way yes, I'm back to stay  
Well, I'm on my way back home, hit it

This is for all the lonely people  
Thinking that life has passed them by  
Don't give up until you drink from the silver cup  
And never take you down or never give you up  
You never know until you try

## 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.

## LESLIE DUNCAN'S LOVE SONG

Love is the opening door  
Love is what we came here for  
No one could offer you more  
Do you know what I mean?  
Have your eyes really seen?  
  
Love is the key we must turn  
Truth is the flame we must burn  
Freedom the lesson we must learn  
Do you know what I mean?  
Have your eyes really seen?

The sad thing is that we cannot change unless we survive.

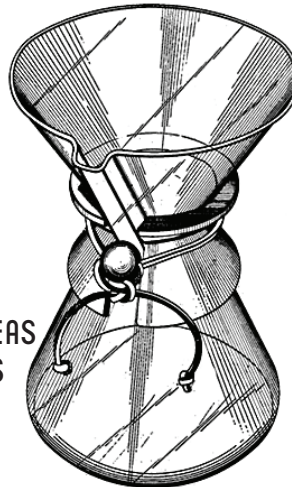
But in order to survive, we must first change.

— Michael Swanwick

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**Pete Seeger has died. No, I said that wrong — read that amazing obituary, and you realize that Pete Seeger has lived.**

— PZ Myers

# Beltram Peace Center 270

by Nancy Shebeneck

## *Eternity of Nature*

*The eternity which I detect in Nature I  
predicate of myself also.*

*How many springs I have had this same  
experience! I am encouraged, for I recognize  
this steady persistency and recovery of Nature  
as a quality of myself.*

Henry David Thoreau

Source: Journal entry 1856



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**Peace hath higher tests of manhood  
than battle ever knew.**

**— John Greenleaf Whittier**



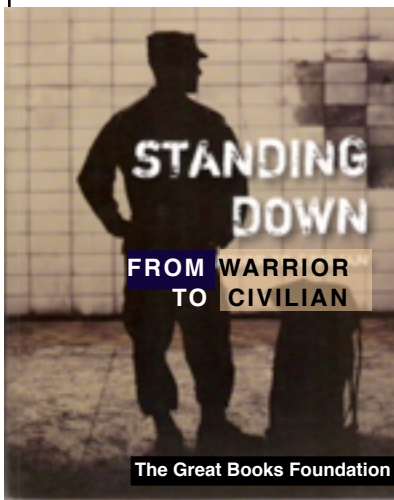
## Beltram Peace Center 270

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**Patriot: The person who can holler the loudest  
without knowing what he is hollering about.**

**— Samuel L. Clemens**

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A man in a suit and tie with badges showing he's a veteran knocks on the door. With a slip in his hand he tells my mother something. Sadness fills me suddenly. I know something, that I don't. I see a tear drip down my mother's face, and the man leaves. She turns around and mumbles. She looks at me, sadness in her eyes. She tells me my dad, the dad I played ring-around-the-rosy with, was shot and in the hospital. I immediately ask when I can see him. She answers, "Now, we'll see him now."

As we drive, I sob a bit, but I keep quiet. I don't want to upset my mother more and make her cry. I hate seeing her cry. When we reach the hospital, we go in. My mother asks the nurse in the red and white cap where my dad is. When I see him, he's hooked up to wires and monitors, but he is alive and the war is over, so I have peace.

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*... you were not destroying their  
strategic tents with your tomahawk  
cruise missiles, they were  
destroying your million dollar  
missiles with tarpaulin and sticks.*

*— Avicenna*

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Larry [Summers] leaned back in his chair and offered me some advice. ... He teed it up this way: I had a choice. I could be an insider or I could be an outsider. Outsiders can say whatever they want. But people on the inside don't listen to them. Insiders, however, get lots of access and a chance to push their ideas. People — powerful people — listen to what they have to say. But insiders also understand one unbreakable rule. They don't criticize other insiders.

— Elizabeth Warren

# Torturers Are U.S.

by Scott Camil

On December 9th, the United States Senate Select Committee on Intelligence released a 525-page portion of the 6,700 page report on the CIA's detention and interrogation programs under President George W. Bush. The report is commonly known as the **CIA Torture Report**. The report consisted of key findings and an executive summary of the full report. The rest of the report remains classified.

References to Britain's intelligence agencies were deleted at their request from the report. It is clear that the report was sanitized to conceal the way US allies became involved in the global kidnap and torture program. There is no reference at all of the British territory of Diego Garcia, used by the US as a military base.

The report paints a portrait of the CIA as an agency gone rogue. It, along with two private contractors, skirted congressional oversight by lying about the severity of the torture techniques being employed, and the value of the information that was gathered in the process.

In an introduction to the release, Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), the chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, writes that the detention

and interrogation program was conducted in "violation of US law, treaty obligations and our values." She adds: "it is my personal conclusion that, under any common meaning of the term, CIA detainees were tortured. I also believe that the conditions of confinement and the use of authorized and unauthorized interrogation and conditioning techniques were cruel, inhuman and degrading. I believe the evidence of this is overwhelming and incontrovertible."

A quick overview of what the report contains can be found in the Senate Intelligence Committee's 20 findings:

- #1: The CIA's use of its enhanced interrogation techniques was not an effective means of acquiring intelligence or gaining cooperation from detainees.
- #2: The CIA's justification for the use of its enhanced interrogation techniques rested on inaccurate claims of their effectiveness.
- #3: The interrogations of CIA detainees were brutal and far worse than the CIA represented to policymakers and others.
- #4: The conditions of confinement for CIA detainees were harsher than the CIA had represented to policymakers and others.
- #5: The CIA repeatedly provided inaccurate information to the Department of Justice, impeding a proper legal analysis of the CIA's Detention and Interrogation Program.
- #6: The CIA has actively avoided or impeded congressional oversight of the program.
- #7: The CIA impeded effective White House oversight and decision-making.
- #8: The CIA's operation and management of the program complicated, and in some



**America is the awesomest country in the history of ever, except for what we do when we think nobody's looking.**  
— Hercules Grytpype-Thynne

# BE RESPONSIBLE: DON'T BUY WAR TOYS!

We Americans have no  
commission from God to police  
the world.

- President Benjamin Harrison

cases impeded, the national security  
missions of other Executive Branch  
agencies.

#9: The CIA impeded oversight by the CIA's  
Office of Inspector General.

#10: The CIA coordinated the release of  
classified information to the media,  
including inaccurate information  
concerning the effectiveness of the CIA's  
enhanced interrogation techniques.

#11: The CIA was unprepared as it began  
operating its Detention and Interrogation  
Program more than six months after being  
granted detention authorities.

#12: The CIA's management and operation of  
its Detention and Interrogation  
Program were deeply flawed throughout

*... continued on next page →*

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**We got more information out of a German general with a game of chess  
or Ping-Pong than they do today, with their torture.**

**— Henry Kolm, WWII interrogator**

the program's duration, particularly so in 2002 and early 2003.

#13: Two contract psychologists devised the CIA's enhanced interrogation techniques and played a central role in the operation, assessments, and management of the CIA's Detention and Interrogation Program. By 2005, the CIA had overwhelmingly outsourced operations related to the program.

#14: CIA detainees were subjected to coercive interrogation techniques that had not been approved by the Department of Justice or had not been authorized by CIA Headquarters.

#15: The CIA did not conduct a comprehensive or accurate accounting of the number of individuals it detained, and held individuals who did not meet the legal standard for detention. The CIA's claims about the number of detainees held and subjected to its enhanced interrogation techniques were inaccurate.

# Peace on Earth, thank you Veterans

- Lydia Ragone



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#16: The CIA failed to adequately evaluate the effectiveness of its enhanced interrogation techniques.

#17: The CIA rarely reprimanded or held personnel accountable for serious and significant violations, inappropriate

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2. No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat or war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture.

3. An order from a superior officer or a public authority may not be invoked as a justification of torture.

— United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Article 2, signed by President Ronald Reagan and ratified by the US Senate

The routine use of torture lowers the moral caliber of the organization that uses it and corrupts those that rely on it.  
— Human Resource Exploitation Training Manual (prepared by CIA, used at US Army's School of the Americas)

Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy Holidays



The Moreno  
Family

activities, and systemic and individual management failures.

#18: The CIA marginalized and ignored numerous internal critiques, criticisms, and objections concerning the operation and management of the CIA's Detention and Interrogation Program.

#19: The CIA's Detention and Interrogation Program was inherently unsustainable and had effectively ended by 2006 due to unauthorized press disclosures, reduced cooperation from other nations, and legal and oversight concerns.

#20: The CIA's Detention and Interrogation Program damaged the United States' standing in the world, and resulted in other significant monetary and non-monetary costs.

What we have learned is that the CIA routinely lied to Congress and the Executive Branch. There is no real oversight of the CIA.

The CIA deployed the so-called "enhanced interrogation techniques" in a "near non-stop fashion for days or weeks at a time."

Prisoners including those known to be innocent were tortured.

The response from the right has been to try to make this into a partisan issue. Crimes committed by our government are crimes regardless of which party was in charge and regardless of which party is making the report public.

These crimes are in violation of international law. All of the perpetrators should be turned over to the international criminal court for trial and punishment. We cannot expect our government to really do anything to change the behavior of the CIA. There was no real secret that this was going on and it was done with a wink and nod of those in charge of oversight.



*Light out of Darkness -  
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**THE BAD THING ABOUT WAR IS  
THAT IT CREATES MORE EVIL MEN  
THAN IT CARRIES AWAY.**

**— IMMANUEL KANT**



# *Happy Holidays!*



## *The Uman Family*

*There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.* *- Elie Wiesel*

When Obama took office, many of us who were ready and waiting for all of that “Hope and Change” were deeply disappointed when Obama said, in regard to the Bush/Cheney crimes, that we would not look back, that we would look forward. Right from the start, Obama started covering up for Bush/Cheney. Presidents don’t go after their predecessors because they want to be able to have unlimited power also.

In August of 2012, the US Justice Department announced it had ended its investigation into CIA interrogations of terrorist detainees without bringing criminal charges. The approach taken in the inquiry was not to prosecute anyone who acted in good faith and within the scope of the legal guidance given by the Justice Department’s

Office of Legal Counsel regarding the interrogation of detainees.

It was Alberto Gonzales, Bush’s General Counsel during his governorship of Texas and then Bush’s Attorney General, who oversaw President Bush’s Office of Legal Counsel. On August 1, 2002, the OLC produced the Bybee memos, a document that provided the legal framework by which previous interpretations of the Geneva Convention and the United Nations Convention Against Torture were modified to expand presidential authority to enable Enhanced Interrogation Techniques. The memo was produced in response to a specific CIA request for clarification of the standards of interrogation under U.S. law.

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Happy Holidays

and

Thank you

Veterans for Peace

The Zedalis Family

Alberto Gonzales is currently the Dean of Belmont University College of Law, in Nashville, Tennessee, where he teaches Constitutional Law, Separation of Powers, National Security Law, and First Amendment Law. Belmont University is the largest Christian university in Tennessee.

The Bybee memos, commonly called the torture memos, refer to a set of legal memoranda drafted by John Yoo as Deputy Assistant Attorney General of the United States and signed in August 2002 by Assistant Attorney General Jay S. Bybee, head of the Office of Legal Counsel. They advised the Central Intelligence Agency, the United States Department of Defense, and the President on the use of enhanced interrogation techniques: mental and physical torment and coercion such as prolonged sleep deprivation, binding in stress positions, and waterboarding, and stated that such acts, widely regarded as torture, might be legally permissible under an expansive interpretation of presidential authority during the "War on Terror."

John Yoo is currently a Professor of Law at the University of California, Berkeley.



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What we see is that at the highest levels of our government crimes go unpunished and those who helped justify those crimes get to teach law to those who will become lawyers themselves. What a terrible cycle of immorality and precedents.

After WWII, we punished German and Japanese officials for war crimes. We set international precedents. Under the Nuremberg principles, starting a war is the worst of all war crimes because all other war crimes stem from it. The Nuremberg principles also stated that following orders is not a defense for war crimes.

I think that the precedents set at Nuremberg allowed those with the power to punish those without power and not be held accountable themselves.

When I was a child my grandmother told me stories of our relatives that died in Hitler's concentration camps. I asked, "Where were the people, how did they allow this to take place?" She said that some people were cowed by fear and others were too patriotic to stand up to the government.

Now I ask us, "How did we allow this to happen and what are we going to do about it?"

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**The past is rich in lessons from which we would greatly profit  
except that the present is always so full of Special Circumstances.**

**— Mignon McLaughlin**

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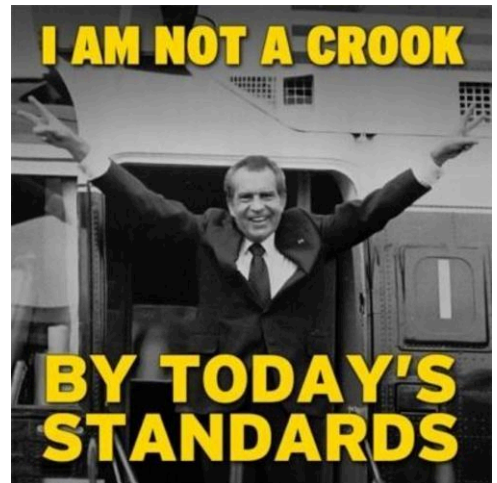
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**If you're going to tell people the truth, make them laugh, or they'll kill you.**

**— attributed to Billy Wilder (and others)**

**Happy  
Holidays  
& thank you to  
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Clovis Watson, Jr.**

# Whistleblowers Update

by Scott Camil

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.

## **Samuel Provance, United States Army**

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 itself.

On September 10, 2013, photographer Jo Metson Scott published the book, *The Grey Line*, which documents "the perspective of US and UK

soldiers who have spoken out against the Iraq War." Provance is featured on the front cover, and a synopsis of his story is in the book.

## **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.

On July 3, 2014, Drake, along with former Technical Director of the NSA William Binney, gave testimony to a German parliamentary committee investigating the NSA spying scandal. He described the close cooperation between the NSA and the German secret service BND.

**Julian Assange**, (1971-) is an Australian editor, activist, publisher and journalist. In 2006, he founded WikiLeaks, which publishes



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Individuals have international duties which transcend the national obligations of obedience. Therefore individual citizens have the duty to violate domestic laws to prevent crimes against peace and humanity from occurring.

— Declaration of the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal



submissions of secret information, news leaks and classified media from anonymous news sources and whistleblowers.

On Aug 20, 2014, a Swedish court rejected an appeal to lift Assange's arrest warrant.

On 15 September 2014, Assange appeared via remote video link on Kim Dotcom's *Moment of Truth* town hall meeting held in Auckland.

A Swedish court on Nov. 20, 2014, upheld a four-year-old order for the detention of Assange over accusations of sexual assault that inspired a lengthy legal battle before he took refuge in the Ecuadorean Embassy in London.

**John Kiriakou, Central Intelligence Agency**

**The one person who is in jail for the CIA torture is the man who tried to stop it.**

In an interview to ABC News on December 10, 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.

**And frankly, patriotism without self-awareness is way too much like white supremacy or Justin Bieber fandom for my taste.**

— Bryan Lambert

"I believe I was prosecuted not for what I did but for who I am: a CIA officer who said torture was wrong and ineffective and went against the grain."

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## **Chelsea Manning** (formerly Bradley Manning)

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 airstrike and the 2009 Granai airstrike 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 convicted of violating the Espionage Act and other offenses and sentenced to 35 years in prison.

In 2014, Chelsea Manning was awarded the Sam Adams Award by Sam Adams Associates for Integrity in Intelligence, a group of retired CIA officers. It is named after Samuel A. Adams, a CIA whistleblower during the Vietnam War, and takes the physical form of a “corner-brightener candlestick.”[2]

The **Sam Adams Award** is given annually to an intelligence professional who has taken a stand for integrity and ethics.

Icelandic and Swedish Pirate Party MPs nominated Manning and fellow whistleblower Edward Snowden for the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize. In a statement to the Nomination Committee, the Pirate Party members said Manning and Snowden “have inspired change and encouraged public debate and policy changes that contributed to a more stable and peaceful world.”

## **Edward Snowden, National Security Agency**

Booz Allen Hamilton contractor Snowden released classified material on -top-secret NSA programs including the PRISM surveillance program to *The Guardian* and *The Washington Post* in June 2013.

In May 2014, U.S. officials released a single email that Snowden had written in April 2013 inquiring about legal authorities, but said that they had found no other evidence that Snowden had expressed his concerns to someone in an oversight position. In June 2014, the NSA said it had not been able to find any records of Snowden raising internal complaints about the agency's operations. That same month, Snowden explained that he himself has not produced the communiqués in question because of the ongoing nature of the dispute, disclosing for the first time that “I am working with the NSA in regard to these records and we’re going back and forth, so I don't want to reveal everything that will come out.”

In his May 2014 interview with NBC News, Snowden accused the U.S. government of trying to use one position here or there in his career to distract from the totality of his experience, downplaying him as a “low level analyst.” In his words, he was “trained as a spy in the traditional sense of the word in that I lived and worked undercover overseas—pretending to work in a job that I’m not—and even being assigned a name that was not mine.” He said he’d worked for the NSA undercover overseas, and for the DIA had developed sources and methods to keep information and people secure “in the most hostile and dangerous environments around the world. So when they say I’m a low-level systems administrator, that I don't know what I’m talking about, I’d say it’s somewhat misleading.”

In a June interview with Globo TV, Snowden reiterated that he “was actually functioning at a very senior level.”

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*In the Obama administration's attempt to crush these young whistleblowers with espionage charges, the U.S. government is taking on a generation, a young generation of people who find the mass violation of the rights of privacy and open process unacceptable. In taking on the generation, the Obama administration can only lose.*

— Julian Assange

In a July interview with *The Guardian*, Snowden explained that, during his NSA career, “I began to move from merely overseeing these systems to actively directing their use. Many people don’t understand that I was actually an analyst and I designated individuals and groups for targeting.” Snowden subsequently told *Wired* that while at Dell in 2011, “I would sit down with the CIO of the CIA, the CTO of the CIA, the chiefs of all the technical branches. They would tell me their hardest technology problems, and it was my job to come up with a way to fix them.”

### **Alternative Christmas Message**

Snowden was chosen to give Britain’s 2013 “Alternative Christmas Message,” Channel 4’s alternative to the Royal Christmas Message by Queen Elizabeth II. The Message is normally

given by non-establishment figures. In what was Snowden’s first television appearance since arriving in Russia, the address focused on the importance of privacy and the need for an end to government surveillance. In the 1.5-minute segment he said that the recently revealed “worldwide mass surveillance,” a system resulting from teamwork between governments, the danger of which George Orwell warned in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, a novel about a society controlled by an ever-present Big Brother. The difference is, Snowden noted, that today’s surveillance capabilities far surpass those Orwell described, saying “We have sensors in our pockets that track us everywhere we go ... A child born today [will] never know what it means to have a private moment to themselves, an unrecorded, un-analyzed thought. That’s a

**We have an executive, the Department of Justice, that’s unwilling to prosecute high officials who lied to Congress and the country on camera, but they’ll stop at nothing to persecute someone who told them the truth.**

**— Edward Snowden**

# THANK YOU

**to the Veterans For Peace and the Gainesville  
community for their commitment and service to  
the cause of world peace.**



May the new year bring you peace, health  
and happiness.

---

**ADRIAN HAYES-SANTOS**

What Orwell failed to predict was that we'd buy the cameras ourselves - and that our biggest fear would be that nobody was watching.

— Keith Lowell Jensen

problem because privacy matters; [it] allows us to determine who we are, and who we want to be.” The piece was filmed, edited and produced by Laura Poitras.

### **Rector of the University of Glasgow**

On February 18, 2014, Snowden was elected as Rector of the University of Glasgow, a position widely described as symbolic. Snowden became the first American Rector in the position's 366-year history. Snowden beat three competitors and received over half of the 6,560 votes. The nomination was arranged by a group of Glasgow University students along with the help of Snowden's lawyer. Snowden was officially installed on April 23. Like past rector Winnie Mandela, Snowden will not visit the campus in person and will not be expected to fulfill his duties as rector, a job which involves representing student issues to senior management. He will serve for three years.

### **German “positive” Big Brother Award**

At the German Big Brother Awards gala on April 11, 2014, Edward Snowden was honored with the first-ever “positive” award, named the “Julia and Winston Award” after the two main rebellious characters in George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. The award was endowed with one million stickers calling on the German government to grant asylum to Edward Snowden. The award's organizers, Digitalcourage, made the

stickers available for free online orders to enable the public to distribute the stickers throughout Germany.

### **Ridenhour Truth-Telling Prize**

In April 2014 Snowden, together with Laura Poitras, was awarded the Ridenhour Truth-Telling Prize, given by The Nation Institute and The Fertel Foundation for transparency and whistleblowing. Snowden and Poitras each appeared on video at the National Press Club to accept the award. Snowden gave a speech and took questions from the audience, who according to *The Nation* greeted him with “numerous standing ovations.” During his speech, he questioned why James Clapper had not been reprimanded for his “famous lie,” whereas charges were filed against Snowden soon after going public as the source of the NSA leaks. He said, “When I began this, I never expected to receive the level of support that I did from the public. Having seen what happened to the people that came before, specifically Thomas Drake, it was an intimidating thing.”

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## Right Livelihood Award

In December 2014, Snowden shared a Joint Honorary Award with Alan Rusbridger, editor of *The Guardian*, from Sweden's nonofficial Right Livelihood Award Foundation.

The **Right Livelihood Award** is an international award to “honor and support those offering practical and exemplary answers to the most urgent challenges facing us today.” The prize was established in 1980 by German-Swedish philanthropist Jakob von Uexkull, and is presented annually in early December.

An international jury, invited by the five regular Right Livelihood Award board members, decides the awards in such fields as environmental protection, human rights, sustainable development, health, education, and peace. The prize money of 200,000 Euros is shared among the winners, usually numbering four. Very often one of the four laureates receives an honorary award, which means that the other three share the prize money.

It is promoted as an “Alternative Nobel Prize,” but does not have any organizational ties to the awarding institutions of the Nobel Prize or the Nobel Foundation.

On December 10th, in response to the CIA torture report, Snowden told Amnesty International via a Paris-Moscow video link, “The world cannot accept efficiency as an excuse for what is essentially ‘criminal behavior’ on the part of the CIA.”

We will bankrupt ourselves in the  
vain search for absolute security.  
—— Dwight David Eisenhower

Snowden, who still resides in Russia under an asylum request, told Amnesty International that morality cannot be tossed aside for the sake of so-called “efficiency” when it comes to the activities of the CIA.

*“A government could say that rape has a positive effect because we have a declining demographic crisis in the country... Efficiency has no place in the debate about right and wrong,”* Snowden said, agreeing to the question about whether the US is in deep moral crisis.

*“Individuals actually lost their lives – they died – after being chained to a concrete floor in an unheated room, half naked. And rather than having the officer who ordered that behavior be prosecuted, he actually received a monetary bonus from the CIA of \$2,500. These are things that leave a stain on the moral authority of the US government,”* he said.



*“Peace Is Possible”*

Jack J. Fine                      Cherie H. Fine  
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*To enrich our community with your compassionate work,*  
*And to live the values of Love and Peace*

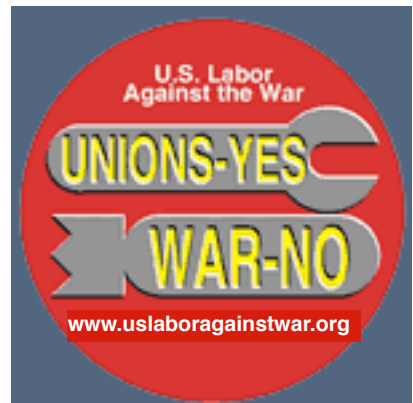


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But remember the flip side—when you blame  
the perp, you are letting society off the hook.  
— The Digital Cuttlefish

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

**— Mahatma Gandhi**

SEASON'S GREETINGS AND WISHES FOR  
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# International Day of Peace Celebration 2014

by Mary Bahr

For the second year, the Gainesville community joined thousands of communities around the world to celebrate the International Day of Peace on September 21st. Since the day fell on a Sunday this year, the celebration included a service at the local Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville along with a peace march which joined with the climate march happening around the world on the same day.

Vets for Peace combined forces with the Unitarians, members of the local Baha'i chapter who led the climate portion of the march, and with the United Nations Association of Gainesville. After the march and peace service everyone gathered in the memorial garden behind

the church for a flag ceremony led by VFP member Bill Hutchinson. Thirty-five countries, plus flags representing the Earth itself in honor of the climate march, were brought forward with flag carriers reciting the phrase "May Peace prevail on Earth."

This ceremony has been performed around the world at noon on September 21st for over 30 years. The day ended with a potluck at which the climate march in New York City was streamed for those attending. And a great time was had by all.

Next year the International Day of Peace is on a Monday. The organizers of this event invite you to join VFP and our partners in peace to plan a celebration for 2015.

*My feeling is that our leaders  
are not doing a great job in  
the arena of peacemaking so  
it is up to us.*

— Renee Hoffinger



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We had to struggle with the old enemies of peace: business and financial monopoly, speculation, reckless banking, class antagonism, sectionalism, war profiteering. They had begun to consider the Government of the United States as a mere appendage to their own affairs. We know now that Government by organized money is just as dangerous as Government by organized mob.

— Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Blessed are the  
Peacemakers.  
Thank you, Veterans.

—Ken & Angela Cornell



# Peace, Drones, Gaza, Syria, Iraq and Unreasonable Women Speaking Truth to Power

by Jacque Betz

With the generous help of Gainesville Veterans for Peace, CodePINKgainesville was able to host CodePINK's founder, Medea Benjamin, in November 2014. She gave three energizing talks during her visit and led a street demonstration and protest to Prioria Robotics, Gainesville spy-drone maker.

In her talk at Ustler Hall, UF, she inspired us with personal stories of taking numerous peace delegations to Gaza after the 2008 invasion, participating in the Freedom Flotillas. From the Egyptian uprising in Tahrir Square, to the human rights delegation in Bahrain, she has met and worked with powerful women around the world demanding peace and justice. She explained that after CIA Director John Brennan announced there were no innocent victims of U.S. drone strikes, she went to Pakistan and talked to innocent drone victims, recorded their stories, and upon return went to Brennan's house to challenge him with her findings. She also directly questioned President Obama during his 2013 foreign policy address regarding innocent people killed by U.S. drone strikes. Medea's UF talk was recorded by the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program and is available to view on YouTube.

Medea's riveting new book, *Drone Warfare, Killing by Remote Control*, is a well-researched exposé of the explosion of drones in the past few years, the current manufacturers of weaponized and spy drones, and the moral issues associated with this newly weaponized technology. Even though these new weapons systems are frightening, Medea also inspires us with strategies to end perpetual war.

**People should go where they are not supposed to go, say what they are not supposed to say, and STAY when they are told to leave.**

**— Howard Zinn**



Medea Benjamin in downtown Gainesville.



On Friday morning, the Students for Justice in Palestine, along with the Mennonites, hosted Medea in a discussion on the Palestine-Israel issue. The SJP explained the current BDS (Boycott, Divest, Sanction) campaign and Medea explained the role of the lobby group, AIPAC, and its influence on Congress. Each Congressperson is provided with an all-expenses-paid trip to Israel along with a host of other propaganda by AIPAC. The media's lack of reporting was also a lively topic. SJP provided a Palestinian lunch.

Along with Vets for Peace, Occupy Gainesville and CodePINK were about 50 strong marching from Main St. and University Ave. to Prioria Robotics (606 Depot Ave.), where we sat down at Prioria's entrance, sang, chanted and demanded a meeting with owner Brian da Frota. After 10 GPD officers arrived, da Frota said he would meet with Medea. He told her that Prioria makes spy drones for the U.S. military, including Special Forces, at \$40,000 each, and they recently signed five new military contracts. Da Frota

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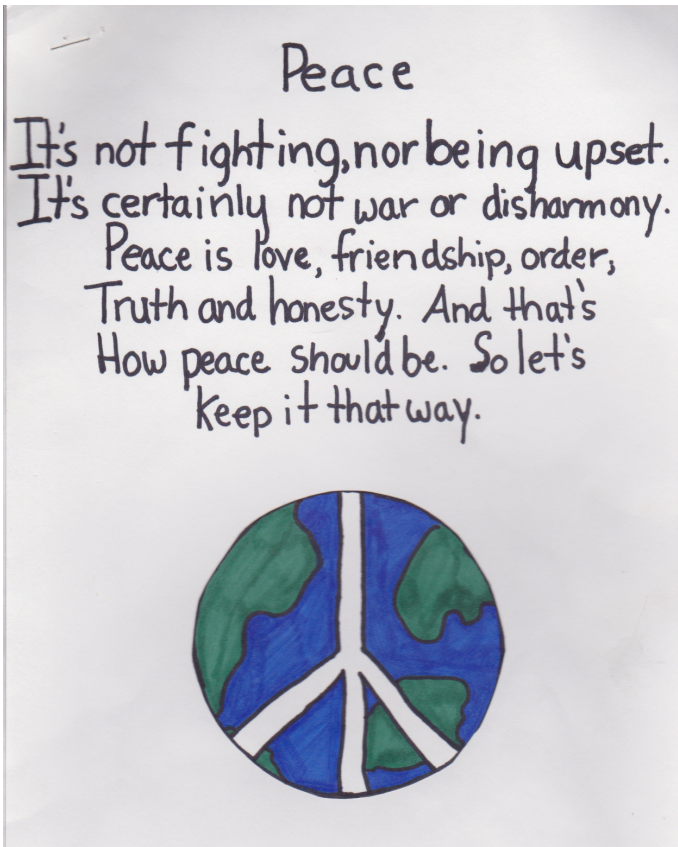
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**“Maximum security” is a prison, not a Utopia.**

**— Deacon Duncan**



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explained he is also trying to sell his drones to law enforcement agencies but they currently do not have the resources and training. He explained, "The military is the only ones with money right now."

After the protest, the CMC filled to capacity, promoted by Wild Iris Books and great food from the Samuel Proctor folks, where Medea gave an energizing account of the current global situation and her determination to end the violence and create a U.S. foreign policy that respects human rights. You can purchase Medea's books at Wild Iris Bookstore. Her articles appear regularly in The Huffington Post, Common Dreams, Alternet, and OpEd News. Occupy Gainesville recorded the CMC talk.

CodePINK was formed in 2002. It is a women-initiated grassroots peace and social justice movement working to end U.S.-funded wars and occupations, to challenge militarism globally, and to redirect our resources into health care, education, green jobs and other life-affirming activities. You can join our local chapter on Facebook at CodePINKgainesville.

Thank you Gainesville Vets for Peace.  
CodePINK loves YOU.





*From the  
Curtis family*

**THANK YOU TO OUR VETERANS**

“Thank you to our local Veterans for Peace chapter for their tireless efforts to build a culture of peace here in our community. Community activism is at the core of what makes Gainesville so special, and we’re proud to support an organization committed to the cause of world peace. When we organize as a community, we can affect real change.”

***-Jay and Kathy Curtis***

*Happy Holidays!*



# VFP Financial Report 2014

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 **\$11,168** from the Solstice and over the year, we have donated **\$5,550** 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 2014:

\$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](http://www.floridalaborparty.org/alachua)

\$1,000 to **Beltram Peace Center 270** BPC

270 will be a Place of Healing and Hope through Creation Care and Service to Veterans. <http://shebfl.wordpress.com/2014/11/17/from-vision-to-plan-to-reality/>

\$700 to the **Civic Media Center**, an alternative library and space for progressive speakers, groups and events - [www.civicmediacenter.org](http://www.civicmediacenter.org)

\$500 to **Courage to Resist**, an organization that help resisters in the military. <http://couragetoresist.org/>

\$500 to **Courage to Resist** for the **Bradley Manning** Defense Committee. <http://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 **The Gainesville Iguana**, Gainesville's progressive calendar and newsletter <http://www.gainesvilleiguana.org/>

\$500 to the **Samuel Proctor Oral History Project**, <http://oral.history.ufl.edu/>

\$500 to **Shepherds for Lost Sheep**, <http://www.shepherdsforlostsheepinc.org/>

\$360 to **SDS, Students for a Democratic Society**, for a grant to attend the National SDS Convention

\$250 to **Michael Clift fund**

**Total Donations = \$5,550**

## ACUPUNCTURE

in Gainesville and High Springs

Marcy Wilson, AP, DOM  
352-284-5937; [marcywilson.com](http://marcywilson.com)

Treating pain, insomnia, stress, digestive disorders, reproductive issues, allergies, etc.

Some insurance accepted.  
Special rates for veterans.

*Rich folks got your money with politics. You can get it back with politics. — Woody Guthrie*

## VFP Projects

Memorial Day weekend display: **\$895** (see article)

John Penrod Award: **\$2,000** (see article)

Peace Poetry Contest: **\$1,183.75** (see article)

It costs us about **\$1,600** to produce the **Winter Solstice** concert.

**Total cost of VFP Projects = \$5,678.75**

## Other:

Electric gate: **\$1,200**

T-Shirts: **\$603.41**

Veterans For Peace National: **\$800** dues,  
[www.veteransforpeace.org](http://www.veteransforpeace.org)

DVDs: **\$255**

Printer drum: **\$100**

Fine Print ad: **\$65**

Button blanks: **\$267.61**

Medea Benjamin air fare to Gainesville:  
**\$365**

**Other Costs: Total: \$3,656.02**

**Total spent for 2014: \$14,884.77**

## Income:

Solstice 2013: **\$11,168**

Jack Penrod Committee: **\$1,900**

Memorial Day donations: **\$895**

Buttons: **\$255**

Michael Clift donations: **\$250**

*War is a Racket*: **\$130**

Dues: **\$40**

**Total income for 2014 = \$14,638**

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.*

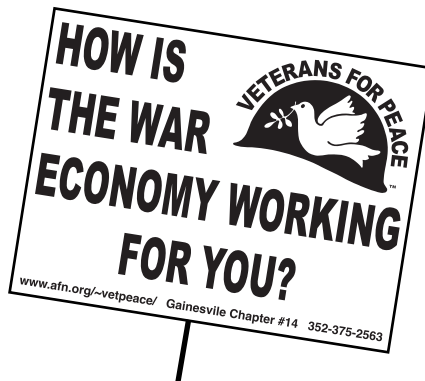


**EMILY FRANCK HOON PhD**

Licensed  
Clinical Psychologist

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2531 N.W. 41st STREET, GAINESVILLE, FL 32606  
352-375-HOON (375-4666) • FOXBRIDGE • BUILDING C



# *Support the people who support Veterans for Peace!*

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

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

Aesthetic Print & Design  
Alachua County Labor Coalition  
Alternatives  
Angel Gardens  
Artisans' Guild  
Atlas Printing  
Law Office of Al Bacharach  
Bageland  
Bert's Dry Wall  
Bio-Graphix  
David N. Bole, PhD, AP  
Book Gallery West  
The Bosshardt Family  
Café C  
Cardiac & Vascular Institute  
Celebrations Catering  
Celestial Wind  
Central Labor Council of North  
Florida  
Cinema Verde  
Citizens Co-op  
Civic Media Center  
Civilization  
John & Natalie Cornell  
The Cornell Family  
Cruz Davis Dental  
Cultural Arts Coalition  
The Curtis Family  
Democratic Party of Alachua  
County

Earth Pets  
East End Eatery / Elegant Events  
Emmanuel Mennonite Church  
Everyman Sound  
Fine, Farkash, & Parlapiano, PA  
*The Fine Print*  
The Flanagan Companies  
Floating Lotus Spa  
Florida Organic Growers  
*The Gainesville Iguana*  
Gainesville Society of Friends  
The Gestalt Center  
Gifts of Avalon  
Green Party of Alachua County  
Adrian Hayes-Santos  
High Springs Emporium  
Emily Franck Hoon, PhD  
Rob Hyatt  
Jonesville Tennis Club  
Jordan Glen School  
Linda Kemp  
Ouida McIlhenny  
McIntyre Stained Glass Studio  
Moksa Organics  
The Moreno Family  
Nana's Pet Care  
Northwest Seafood  
Occupy Gainesville  
The Painted Table  
Gunnar & Cindy Paulson

Prairie Creek Conservation  
Cemetery  
The Samuel Proctor Oral History  
Program  
Pure Energy Solar  
Radiant Hands  
Lydia Ragone  
Renaissance Jewelers  
David Robbins, RN  
Cindy Rosenfeld, DVM  
Bill Salmon, Esq  
Sarkis Clinical Trials  
Satchel's Pizza  
Stephen Schachter  
Schramek's Upholstery  
Sierra Club  
Sound Ideas  
Southeast Sharpening Service  
Star Center Children's Theater  
Stuart's Cycle  
Sunflower Health Foods  
Talking Service  
Target Copy  
Theatre of Memory  
Three Rivers Legal Services  
Tillman & Dreyfus Acupuncture  
The Uman Family  
Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Gainesville  
United Faculty of Florida  
Volta Coffee Tea & Chocolate  
The Ward Family  
Ward's Supermarket  
Helen Warren  
Rep. Clovis Watson, Jr.  
Arlene Weinschelbaum, MD  
Marcy Wilson, AP  
Xerographics  
The Zedalis Family





...continued from inside front cover

ceremony plans were finalized while the mechanics of placing more than 6,000 tombstones by the road side on Eighth Avenue Memorial Day weekend were also being hammered out. A work party produced 89 new tombstones to add to the more than 6,000 already displayed in years past. Work schedules for clean up and to crew the three booths along 8th Avenue were produced and peace poetry booklets and announcements were printed and food was prepared for the reception. May saw both of these events go off with few or no hitches due to the hard work of our volunteers, both chapter members and those of you from the community who participate each year. Thank you!

In June we met on a Saturday to clean and dry each tombstone before putting them away for the year. This prevents rusting and mold on tombstones that one wet year forced us to replace many tombstones at a cost of thousands of dollars. Over twenty members and friends put in a day together or took tombstones home to be cleaned. Thank you for all your work on this. You know who you are!

After a summer hiatus – during which some of our members attended the national Vets for Peace conference held in Asheville, North Carolina – we started out the fall season with an update on the Veterans Farm which had made improvements on the trails and done cleanup and maintenance on the building. They also received a \$5,000 grant from the Home Depot Foundation with several vets who work at a Gainesville Home Depot helping to implement the grant. The chapter also sponsored the International Day of Peace along with several other peace groups in Gainesville.

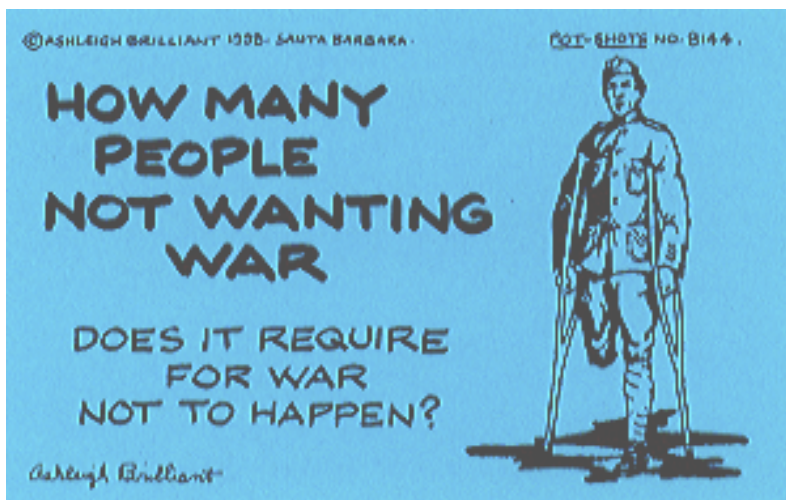
As the year wound down Vets for Peace provided Students for a Democratic Society with money to



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](http://www.vfpgainesville.org), email [gvlvfp@earthlink.net](mailto: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.

attend their national convention and attended and provided financial support for activist and writer Medea Benjamin's visit to Gainesville in November. Finally, 2015 may be our last year to do the Memorial Day display as the City is discussing plans to pave over the grassy areas along Eighth Avenue when we put our tombstones. Nationally, the chapter voted to support Project Renew which would clean up Agent Orange sites and remove unexploded ordnance in Vietnam. And so the fight for a more peaceful world goes on. We hope you will join us in the struggle in 2015 and beyond.



# ALTERNATIVE NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION & PEACE GATHERING:

December 30, 2014 — January 1, 2015



**Details:** go to [ACTIONSouth.blogspot.com](http://ACTIONSouth.blogspot.com) or email [newsouthnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:newsouthnetwork@gmail.com)

*Sponsored by: Pax Christi Florida Nancy O'Byrne: obyrrnen@bellsouth.net - 904-461-9216.*

*New South Network of War Resisters, Coleman Smith - 828-301-6683*

*Trident to Life in the the Southeast and Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice*

**Bruce Gagnon will return to speak on the politics of the space program,  
Obama's "Asia pivot," US plans for global domination, and more.**



***Celebrate with us the peace we all know is our birthright.***

Social Justice Council  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP  
OF GAINESVILLE



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

UU Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking

***Join us at UUFG any Sunday at 11am for Services.***

**website: <http://uufg.org/>**