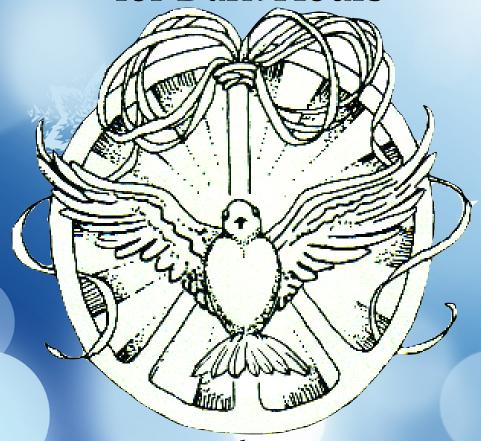


Music & Cheer for Dark Hours



December 17th, 2016, 8:00 PM at and co-sponsored by the

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP OF GAINESVILLI

Gainesville Veterans for Peace Activities in 2016:

Veterans for Peace Chapter 14 finished 2015 with another outstanding concert put on by our musical veterans and friends. Thanks to Bill Hutchinson, Scott Camil and all the VFP minions for all they do on the Winter Solstice Concert! We were hopeful for a good new year going into 2016. We started working on the Peace Poetry Contest and Peace Scholarship program. Teachers were already calling Scott about Peace Poetry. See Peace Poetry article, page____). We planned to meet and march in the Martin Luther King Parade on January 18th and we began to share our proceeds from the winter solstice concert with local activist organizations. (see Financial Report article, page

In February, the Peace Poetry contest kicked into high gear with emails going out to teachers with instructions and guidelines for the contest. Members Scott Camil and Paul Ortiz contacted the Alachua County School Board to insure that peace poetry contest information would be shared with the teachers. Paul let Santa Fe College know that three of their students received scholarships last year and we were offering two again this year. In February VFP also began attacking the thorny problem of what to do about several other events in May. The Peace poetry awards were scheduled for May 14th (see Peace Poetry, article page__ and VFP scheduled Speaker David Swanson, author of War is A Lie, to Gainesville to speak at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Saturday, May 21st. VFP joined its associate group Veterans For Common Sense in hosting Swanson in Florida with travel money and an honorarium.

May events were very successful with children reading their winning Peace Poems at the awards ceremony on May 14th and David Swanson

speaking about his book and the fight for peace on May 21st. His book *War Is A Lie* is on sale at the VFP table. Scott



was interviewed by three television stations, the *Alligator* and the *Sun* about the Memorial Mile, unable to occupy its traditional location due to road changes and repairs. The community support behind the display was made obvious. While several sites were offered as alternatives, they did not meet the requirements: A mile of uninterrupted roadway with grass for tombstones; sidewalks for visitors; publicly accessible bathrooms; and sentry tent spaces for guarding the tombstones and interacting with visitors are all required. We are hoping to return to NW 8th Avenue this coming year even though our display space has been greatly restricted.

In April, Jeffrey Pufahl, Visiting Assistant Scholar at the Center for Arts in Medicine and a theater person, met with Vets for Peace to share information about the Telling Project. This project works with Veterans to tell their stories. It starts with interviews of the veterans which are then performed in "Verbatim Theater." Scott Camil represented VFP in performances this fall to a series of sold-out audiences. Some of the other vets who performed have also joined Vets for Peace. This theater performance is in the tradition of Vets for Peace's efforts to educate the public on the realities of war and share the war experiences of veterans. We have done in past years by organizing and participating in Vets Speak Out and Winter Soldier.

Tonight's Program:

(may include but not limited to)

PROCESSIONAL WARM-UP

Mark Billman * Cathy DeWitt

PEACE POETRY WINNERS

Anjali Lloyd * Willa Rudenstein * Hannah Strong

CHEROKEE PEACE CHANT

Georg Suzuki

DRUMS OF PEACE

Rob Rothschild * Paige Allison * Jared Boock Bill Hutchinson * Bob McPeek * John Chambers * Robert Clark

JOHN CHAMBERS and FRIENDS

Iohn Chambers * Mark Billman * Bill Hutchinson

LAUREN ROBINSON & MARISSA VARIO

JANET and MAGGIE RUCKER

KEVIN O'SULLIVAN

TALKING STICK

Keith Peters * Richard Bassil * Jon Alexander * Walter Jones * Mark Jacoby

BUTTONVILLE

 ${\it Raven * John Smith * Tom Nelly * Carylee Pennington * Japhy Pennington}$

INTERMISSION

THE ERASABLES/RELICS CONGLOMERATE

Janet Rucker * Cathy Dewitt * Michelle Ott * Dan Tampas * Fagan Arouh Bob McPeek * Alan Hill * Brad Bangstad * Rob Rothschild * David Ottenberg

A CHOIR OF HEAVENLY SEMI-ANGELS

Bob McPeek * Rob Rothschild * Brad Bangstad * Dan Tampas * Alan Hill Michelle Ott * Mark Billman * Cathy Dewitt * Jolene Stone-Jones Bill Hutchinson * Janet Rucker * Maggie Rucker * Fagan Arouh * David Ottenberg and YOU

(and Master of Ceremonies - Bob Treadwater)

Interpreter for the Deaf: Diane Delage

Peace Helmet Award



Over the last 30 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 30 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 thirty 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.)

2015 Peace Helmet Award Recipients: Debora Hendrix - Videographer Dianne Delage - Solstice Signer

2014 Peace Helmet Award Recipients: Ruth Steiner - Memorial Day Sidney Wade - Peace Poetry Contest

2013 Peace Helmet Award Recipients:
Doris Nabuis - VFP • Gloria Summers - VFP
Paul Ortiz - Samuel Proctor Oral History Program
Richard Hudgens - VFP • Nic Vera - VFP

2012 Peace Helmet Award Recipients:Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville,Social Justice Council - Alice PrimackDavid Pokorney - Website and Photography

2011 Peace Helmet Award Recipients: Jessica Newman - Peace Poetry Contest, Penrod Award

Ann and Phil Haisley - Books Inc - Book Lovers' Cafe

Virtual Peace Helmet to the Occupy Movement everywhere

2010 Peace Helmet Award Recipients:
Sheila Payne - Peace Poetry Contest, Penrod
Award
Charlie Scales - Hyde and Zyke



THORNEBROOK VILLAGE 352.372.2752 2441 N.W. 43rd St., Suite 11A . Gainesville, FL 32606 2009 Peace Helmet Award Recipients: Kirk Anthony - MFSO Jacque Betz - Code Pink Sue Faulk - VFP Craig Nikolaus - VFP Peter Theoktisto - Everyman Sound -Solstice Bob Tomashevsky - VFP

... continued on second page following →

Special Thanks to —

The Members & Supporters of Veterans for Peace Bill Hutchinson • Diane Delage • Ken Cornell McIntyre Stained Glass • Angel Gardens • Linda Kemp Peter Theoktisto of Everyman Sound Company Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville Samuel Proctor Oral History Program • Paul & Laura The UUFG Social Justice Council • Civic Media Center Zot Lynn Szurgot • Actors Warehouse • Anita Sundaram Tuesday afternoon peace picketers • Whistleblowers

Veterans for Peace thanks

Linda Kemp

for the beautiful artwork on the cover of this program.

CELESTIAL WIND

Folk Harps & Carving John Chambers

352-481-5856 Gainesville, Florida

everyman sound company, inc.

944 SE 4th Street, Gainesville, FL 32601 Sound Reinforcement Rentals ♦ Concerts ♦ Sales Peter Theoktisto (352) 373-0788

- White House Comment Line: (202) 456-1111
- Secretary of State Comment Line: (202) 647-6575
 Doctors Without Borders: 1-888-392-0392
- Congressional Switchboard: (202) 224-3121
- Red Cross/Red Crescent: 1-800-HELP-NOW (435-7669)
- Oxfam America: 1-800/OXFAM-US (693-2687)

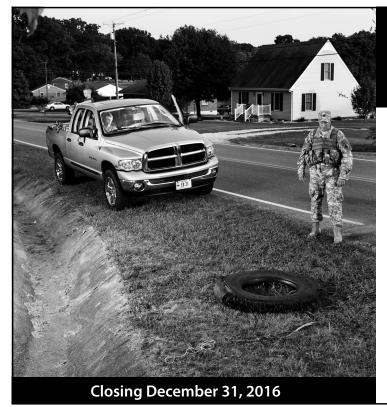
2008 Peace Helmet Award Recipients:

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

Other Years:

Mary Bahr - Web Master Norman Balabanian - VFP Pierce Butler - VFP Scott Camil - VFP John Chambers - VFP Joe Courter - Gainesville Iguana Jim Creaven - VFP John Fullerton - VFP Bill Gilbert - VFP John Hawkins - VFP Dave Henderson - VFP Stephen Hunter - VFP Bill Hutchinson - Maestro Marybeth Hyer - VFP Bobby Ing - VFP John Koch - VFP Julie Netzer - VFP Bill Salmon - VFP Sherry Steiner - VFP Bill Warrick - VFP Charles Willett - VFP In fact, it's remarkable how consistently things that are officially going so well are actually going so badly.

Tom Engelhardt,



Aftermath

The Fallout of War—America and the Middle East

"...After coming back home, you think about Afghanistan and how it was driving there compared to here. Occasionally it will go through your mind, driving down the road, to look out for IEDs. It's an instinct that is hard to turn off..."

— Inactive Duty Sergeant First Class Mike Sprouse



Jennifer Karady, Inactive Duty Sergeant First Class Mike Sprouse, Virginia Army National Guard, veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, with wife, Tammy, and children, Peyton and Colin; Madison Heights, VA, August 2006

The deterioration of every government begins with the decay of the principles on which it was founded.

– Charles-Louis de Secondat, Baron de La Brède et de Montesquieu



WILLIAM EARL HUTCHINSON

CURATOR

OPENING IN 2017 AT SOUTH MAIN AND DEPOT AVE. SEE YOU THERE.

CALL BILL AT (352) 318-2633 MEMORYCURATOR@GMAIL.COM

you can say whatever you like so long as it is strictly true - nobody will ever take you seriously.

- [attributed to] Edward Abbey?

2016 Alachua County Peace Poetry Contest

by Jessica Newman

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

We received more than 260 entries this year. A panel of English graduate students at



... continued on second page following →

the University of Florida (Erin O'Louanaigh, Nick Pierce, and Paul Roberts), led by Dr. Sidney Wade, judged the entries based on their message and creativity, and issued first, second and third place awards by age group (ranging from kindergarten to twelfth grade).

The 32 winning poems and honorable mentions were published in the 2016 Peace Poetry Contest booklet (available at vfpgainesville.org), and poets were invited to share their poems aloud at the Peace Poetry Reading/Reception held at the end of the school year at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. We were thrilled that so many of the poets and their families were able to participate this year in the reading and that Gainesville's own Mourning Glories were able to contribute live music.

Nothing in life is to be feared.

It is only to be understood.

— Marie Curie

Radiant Hands, Inc.



Our mission is to empower women by providing spiritual, emotional, and financial support.

www.RadiantHands.org

Peace For The World

Anjali Lloyd 2nd grade, Hidden Oaks Elementary

I wish for a world with no hate.

A world whre people do not use their differences as bait.

A world where people take the time to talk even if it makes them late.

A world where people of all races and religions see each other as a mate.

A world where people of all colors and gender are valued at the same rate.

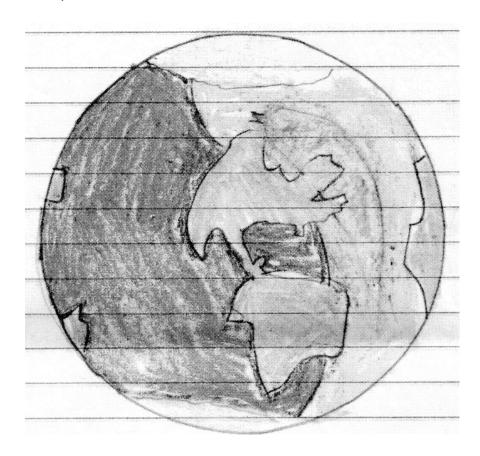
A world with no war or bombs or abuse, leading to an awful fate.

A world where people do not talk bad about each other and instead stop to chat at the gate.

A world where people say Hi, Hello, Good bye, Have a Great Day, mate!

A world where people set a date to understand each other, and agree not to hate.

This is my view of peace for the world.



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, many of them from new schools that had never participated in the contest before. 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 2017 Peace Poetry Contest, email vfppeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com for more information or call Sheila Payne at 352-373-3435. We will publicly announce the contest to all schools, teachers, and administrators in Alachua County no later than February.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with the orchestration of the contest, particularly with publicizing the call for poems and spreading the word about the contest. We are also looking for student musicians and performers to perform at the Peace Poetry Reading in May. If you'd like to For high-schoolers
considering not registering
for the Selective Service as
is currently mandated: call
1-800-379-2697 or go to
www.nisbco.org.
Already in the service,
but want to know your rights?
call the GI Hotline at
1-877-447-4487 or go to
www.girightshotline.org.

get involved, email vfppeacepoetrycontest@ gmail.com or call Sheila Payne at 352-373-3435.

To see video and photos from the 2016 reading and to enjoy all of the winning poems published in the Peace Poetry booklet, visit the Veterans for Peace website at www.vfpgainesville.org.

Poems by tonight's winner-readers are on pages 9, 24, and 59.

ALACHUA COUNTY LABOR COALITION

Health care for all - Right to a job at a living wage - Right to organize, bargain, and strike!

www.laborcoalition.org 352-375-2832

Kicking Ass with the Working Class!

In our personal ambitions we are individualists. But in our seeking for economic and political progress as a nation, we all go up, or else we all go down, as one people.

— Franklin D. Roosevelt





QUALITY APPAREL & DESIGN

www.printingiscool.com

You're not supposed to be so blind with patriotism that you can't face reality.
Wrong is wrong, no matter who says it.

— Malcolm X

KIND AUTO REPAIR

Where you get more than a mechanic, you make a friend!

VON "ASPEN" RUDER

Master Mechanic & Protagonist

4502 NW 6 Street Gainesville, FL 32609 MV# 89513

352-283-0135

amputeerockclimber@gmail.com A.S.E. Certified since 1985



Subscribe to The Gainesville LGUANA

progressive newsletter and calendar of events.



Magazines, video and audio tapes, progressive books & newspapers.
Come see what we have.
Become a member.
Become a supporter!



Civic Media Center & Library, Inc. 433 South Main Street Gainesville, FL 32601 (352) 373-0010 www.civicmediacenter.org

Memorial Mile 2016

by Scott Camil

We were not able to set up the Memorial Day Display in 2016 because of changes to the design of NW 8th Avenue and construction.

This November we went to 8th Ave and tested the new design.

We believe that we can set up for Memorial Day weekend 2017. We will set up just east of NW 31st St because there is no longer grass west of that location, just ugly sidewalk. On the north side of the street we have the same amount of space as in previous years, 60 inches. On the south side we will only have 36 inches to work with so the tombstones will be closer together.

The new ground is not as level as in the past. We will do our best.

2015 was the ninth 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 servicemen 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 just past 31st Street for 7/10s of a mile, then crosses to the north side



of the road and runs west back toward 31st Street. When we started this project in 2007, we did not think that we would still be involved in these wars today. In 2009, we ran out of room on the south side of the road and that is why we crossed to the north side and have started west.

The purpose of this display is to give the American public a graphic view of the cost of the U.S. 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 their loved ones. The second part of

THE MENNONITE MEETING HOUSE

1236 NW 18th Avenue



Home of **EMMANUEL MENNONITE CHURCH** and **THE BELTRAM PEACE CENTER**

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

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

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.

... continued on next page →

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
2015	2,347	4,486	6,833
2016	2,382	4,506	6,888

When you realize it's in a recruiter's interest to keep the level of wretchedness as high as possible, a lot of the "senseless" and "needlessly cruel" Republican legislation stoking all those outrage stories on HuffPo don't seem senseless at all.

— Gary Brecher

These numbers represent from Memorial Day weekend to Memorial Day weekend, not from January to December.

We did not do our display in 2016, so the 2016 numbers are from Memorial Day weekend 2015 to December 2016.

As of this printing, there are 6,888 total tombstones: 2,382 from Afghanistan and 4,506 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 445 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.

We need volunteers for this project, preferably people young enough to work in the middle of the night on their hands and knees, placing the tombstones into the ground. Would you like to volunteer?

Under Bush, 4,221 American military personnel were killed in Iraq. So far under Obama, 285 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, 630 American military personnel were killed in Afghanistan. So far under Obama, 1,756 American military personnel have been killed in Afghanistan.

In May of 2012, Obama said, "My fellow Americans, we have traveled through more than a decade under the dark cloud of war. Yet here, in the pre-dawn darkness of Afghanistan, we can see the light of a new day on the horizon", reminding us of Vietnam and the pronouncement that we can the "Light at the end of the tunnel". Four and a half years later, Obama says that our troops will not all be coming home in 2016. Obama has



Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery

The green burial option for people and pets that preserves and restores land, protects water and air, and allows for meaningful ceremonies.

<u>www.conservationburialinc.org</u> 352-317-7307

assured us that U.S. troops will remain in Afghanistan when he leaves office. While announcing that he will keep thousands of troops in Afghanistan, Obama said that he was against the idea of "Endless War".

A campaign promise of President Obama was to end the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Instead, Obama has extended the troops in Afghanistan, and sent additional troops to Iraq and new troops to Syria.

In January, we will start adding US military deaths in Afghanistan and Iraq to Trump's legacy.

"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.

Gainesville Quaker Meeting You are welcome here.



where together we seek to live lives committed to peace and justice.

Meeting Info: 352-372-1070 www.gainesvillequakers.org 702 NW 38th St. Worship each Sunday @ 11 a.m.

HOME FUNERALS

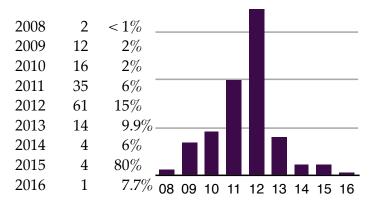
facilitated by Final Friends
We provide **free** education, guidance, and support to any individual or family that prefers to care for their own deceased loved ones prior to burial or cremation.

www.finalfriends.org

final.friends.org@gmail.com, 352-374-4478.

The total number of Coalition deaths from green-on-blue attacks for the period Jan. 1, 2008 to the present is 149. The total number of Coalition wounded is 1866.

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

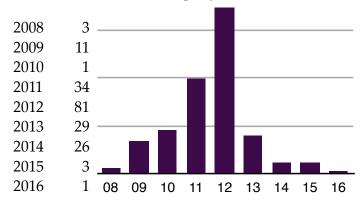


... continued on next page →

The people who glibly use the phrase "war is hell" are those for whom it is not.

– Mano Singham

Green-on-blue wounded per year:



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

Community Coalition Against War & Terrorism

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

* 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 4:30–5:30 PM: Archer Road & SW 34th Street

* 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 4:30–5:30 PM: University Avenue & W 13th Street On hold until 1/19/10



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.

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

RIGHT, AS THE WORLD GOES, IS ONLY IN QUESTION BETWEEN EQUALS IN POWER; THE STRONG DO WHAT THEY CAN AND THE WEAK SUFFER WHAT THEY MUST.

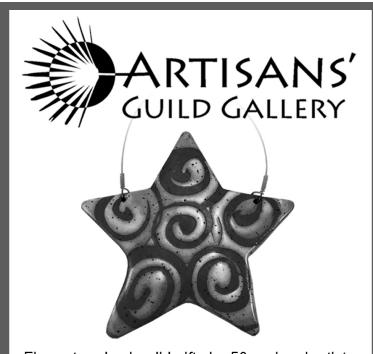
— THUCIDYDES

You asked for them, here they are:

Memorial Mile T-shirts commemorating the Veterans for Peace Memorial Day weekend display.

T-shirts \$10 at the Vets for Peace table at tonight's concert.





Fine art and splendid gifts by 50 regional artists
Park for free in the spots marked "Artisans Guild
parking" across the street at Sun Center
201 SE Second Place

The individual is handicapped by coming face-to-face with a conspiracy so monstrous he cannot believe it exists. The American mind simply has not come to a realization of the evil which has been introduced into our midst. It rejects even the assumption that human creatures could espouse a philosophy which must ultimately destroy all that is good and decent.

- J. Edgar Hoover

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

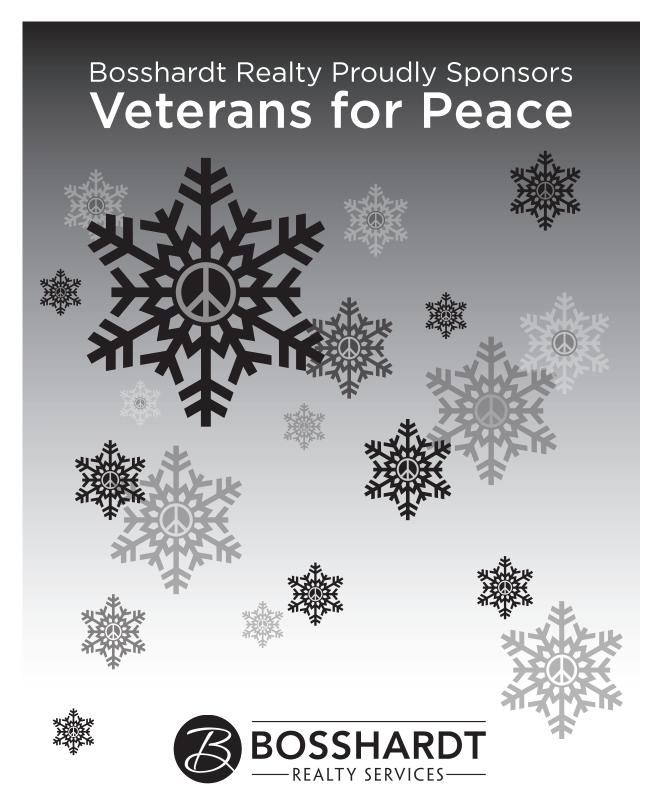
— Mahatma Gandhi

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

Paul and Marihelen Wheeler The Gestalt Center

We're at this moment in time when there's a severability between conservatism and issues. Conservatism is now expressed as an emotional sentiment. That sentiment is contempt and anger.

— Steve Schmidt



5542 NW 43rd Street, Gainesville, FL 32653 | 352.371.6100 | BosshardtRealty.com

Yet More Vets 'n' Yet More Roses

By Pamela Greenewald

The Rose Garden Angels, Inc. non-profit has seen two good solid years of rose production by 5 Veterans spanning all branches of the military. We had a gathering for the veterans last spring where they were able to meet each other and share their stories. They are really enjoying the good vibrations they receive from growing the roses and sharing the blooms with friends and family. They feel cared for in a world that does not seem to care about them anymore.

The roses are being sold in several garden centers including Garden Gate in Gainesville, Florida Garden Pit in Ormond Beach, and Lukas Nursery in Orlando. We were able to participate in the recent 2nd Annual Plant sale at Wilmott Gardens at UF last weekend.

Introducing the veteran growers in our Old Garden Rose Company:

Lorenzo Monduy, Jr. from Dunnellon Army 2004-2008: served in Iraq for 15 months-Whiskey Combat Medic

Lorenzo is a care-giver for a 90 year old man and grows micro greens commercially.



Lance Corporal Lane Harris (picture #1)
Machine gunner, 2nd battalion
7th Marines Echo Company
Lane lives in Trenton with wife, 2 yr. old
Decklin and new baby on the way on their organic
farm called Shovel and Seed. He grows vegetables
and sustainably-raised meat and eggs.



3424 W. University Ave 352-372-7482 Gainesville, FL 32607 sunflowerhealthfoods.com

Corner of University Avenue & 34th Street

I haven't encountered a case of PTSD from war deprivation.

David Swanson

Tayden Haile

Tayden served from 1998-2006 in the US Navy. He served $5\,1/2$ years aboard the USS Blue Ridge. He served one year in Bahrain, Fu Jah Ali, and Dubai, with his last tour in Mayport , Florida at SERMC. Tayden was a Boatswain mate second class petty officer surface warfare qualified. He now resides in Orange Park with his wife and 5 wonderful children. He is the youth leader at his church.





Jeffrey Buchanan (picture #2)

Jeffrey spent four years on active duty in the USAF. He was an air traffic controller & stationed in the Philippines almost two years, then in North Carolina. He got out of the military to finish school and was in the Army Reserve while completing graduate school. He stayed on in NC after graduating and taught English and workplace literacy. Presently, Jeffrey lives in Bradford County and owns an adult family care home. He houses veterans with a variety of issues requiring supervised living.

John Stewart

1997-01, U.S. Army Signal Corps. He served in Germany and the Balkans and got out as a Captain. More recently, as a civil servant John served throughout the former Soviet Union, primarily Russia and the Ukraine, the Balkan peninsula, and throughout the Middle East, Eastern and Western Europe, Saharan and sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America. John resides with his wife in Palmyra, Virginia.

Rose Garden Angels appreciates public support given to help with supplies, sales, and operations. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to PO Box 1106, Alachua, Fl. 32616.

The two most dangerous words in politics are "us" and "them".

— Laurie Penny







I wouldn't mind paying taxes ... if I knew they were going to a friendly country.

— Dick Gregory

When an election is questionable, with potential legal violations, politics MUST be put aside and the irregularities MUST be fully investigated. Regardless of party, we owe it to voters and to democracy within our Republic. The integrity of the vote speaks directly to the integrity of those who serve and the trust we ask the American public to put in our institutions.

— Sarah Palin (2014)



We must not create a nation mighty in arms that is lacking in liberty and bankrupt in resources.

Dwight Eisenhower

Harryon and Gillian Ward

Harvey and Gillian Ward and the Sprightly Daughters

When it shall be said in any country in the world, 'my poor are happy, neither ignorance nor distress is to be found among them; my jails are empty of prisoners, my streets of beggars; the aged are not in want; the taxes are not oppressive; the rational world is my friend, because I am the friend of its happiness'; when these things can be said, then may that country boast its constitution and its government.

— Thomas Paine

United Faculty of Florida at the University of Florida is the professional association for faculty and professional staff.

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

We are a proud co-sponsor of the John A. Penrod "Brigadas" Award for Peace and Justice.

"Solidarity Forever"





Willa Rudenstine 5th grade Jordan Glen School

The way faces are colored is the way they are
People look at skin and decide to part
The skin might be different from you and me
But if you look beneath that's when you'll really see
The way that we feel isn't different
The way that we kneel isn't different
The way that we cry isn't different
The way that we die isn't different
We just need peace and try to look beneath from what we really see

Peace on Earth Begins with Birth!



Birth in the comfort and convenience of your own home

Insurance & Medicaid accepted 352 377 3879 www.midwivescooperative.com

Patriotism is your conviction that this country is superior to all others because you were born in it. — George Bernard Shaw

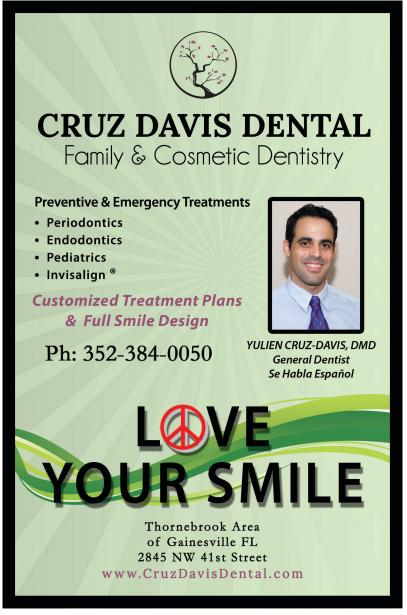


Every society honors its live conformists and its dead troublemakers.

Mignon McLaughlin

Should we allow production of missile parts at Lockheed right here in Marion County, missiles that Israel shoots into Palestine? Pete Seeger's advice for activists: "The key issues are those that are close to you, geographically as well as spiritually. If someone says, 'I want to change the world. Where do I go?' I answer: 'Stay right where you are. Don't run away. Dig in."

— Delphine Herbert



A Significant Victory at Standing Rock

On Sunday, Dec. 4, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced it would not grant an easement to allow the Dakota Access Pipeline to cross under Lake Oahe in North Dakota near the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe reservation. This announcement is a significant victory, though not a final one.

The Oceti Sakowin - Seven Council Fires - the proper name for the people commonly known as the Sioux - and Indigenous people from across the U.S. initiated and led months of non-violent resistance to building the pipeline near Sioux land. There is no way this victory could have been won without their determined leadership, and solemn commitment to nonviolence, which they call "Peace and Prayer."

The Standing Rock Sioux and their many Indigenous allies have inspired thousands of others to join them on the front lines at Standing Rock. Activists from a spectrum of struggles, including the peace and environmental movements to the Movement for Black Lives and Muslim civil rights, stood on the ground in solidarity. As a result, millions of people have been attracted to the cause.

The arrival of thousands of veterans to Standing Rock, covered by national and international media, almost certainly put additional pressure on the Obama administration to do the right thing. The effort and outcome thus far is an example of the power of solidarity and non-violent resistance to right injustice. The people have won an important victory the struggle.

Veterans For Peace members have had a regular presence at Standing Rock for months. At least 70 VFP and IVAW members participated in this huge (over 4,000) veterans' convergence and most will remain for several more days, despite -27°F temperatures.

Upon arrival, over a dozen US veterans formally asked for forgiveness and healing from the Lakota people, victims of many US military atrocities: see indiancountrymedianetwork.com/news/veterans/veterans-ask-forgiveness-and-healing-standing-rock/

Congratulations are in order. We celebrate the courage of the Indigenous resistance and the many who stood in solidarity, including VFP members, but the struggle is far from over. The announcement from the Army Corps of Engineers does not rule out approval in the future. Openness to alternative routes may end with the Trump Administration.

Veterans For Peace understands that the road to peace is Peace at Home and Peace Abroad. We will continue to stand in solidarity with oppressed and marginalized people who face economic and social attacks that suppress and exploit their communities. VFP will continue our mission to resist militarism at home, work to abolish war around the world and call for and build peaceful means to end conflicts.

Many of the participating veterans have vowed to continue working with Indigenous water protectors, and have reached out to the people suffering from poisoned water in Flint, Michigan.

— Adapted from the Veterans for Peace Web site: www.veteransforpeace.org/our-work/position-statements/significant-victory-standing-rock/

All the problems we face in the United States today can be traced to an unenlightened immigration policy on the part of the American Indian.

— Pat Paulsen

The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program

Wishing you peace and comfort this holiday season



Our mission is to gather, preserve, and promote living histories of individuals from all walks of life.

The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program teaches students, independent scholars, and community organizations how to bring history to life. Our Veteran's History Project is a part of this commitment. Since 2000, volunteers and coordinators have been capturing the experiences of military veterans. With over 300 interviews in our collection, oral history interviews encompass a range of military conflicts, including veterans from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, military operations in Central America, the Gulf War, the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, and more.

Would you like to add a voice to our collection? If you or someone you know is interested in donating an oral history to the Veterans History Project, please call SPOHP at (352) 392-7168 or email VHP Coordinator Ann Smith (asmith360@aol.com) for more information.



Think About This

by Harry Patterson Alachua County Green Party

A few days after Thanksgiving, a dear friend of mine posted a quote on Facebook (some of you may have heard of Facebook, ha, ha), that went something like this: "Remember to support the banks and corporations this Christmas, in their continued efforts to enslave mankind, by spending money you haven't got on things you don't need." After she implored us to "Think about this", I humorously chided her for asking people to think, "Because it hurts their brains."

Of course, there is a lot of truth in what she posted, and I'm certainly not the first one to notice that we've largely become a nation of unthinking consumers. Corporations and the corporate media have fed us a steady diet of "Shop 'till you drop" propaganda, and even in the face of the events of 9/11, President George W. Bush urged us to "Go shopping." I can't help but believe that if you're reading these words right now, you're one of the people that are more aware of the effect your lifestyle has on our planet. None of us are perfect, however, and there's always room for improvement. We can't go on living as though we have another planet to go to if we destroy this one.

With all we see happening around us, I see an urgent need to seriously rethink our society, both here and around the world. What will it take to save our planet, and what will it mean to our lives? There are many things we can start doing immediately, as individuals, while other things will require actions by our governments, and on a global scale. This will require a

personal commitment to change, as well as a united effort to make government responsive to the needs of our planet.

All that being said, I present you with this partial list of what I think needs to change: reorganize the way we live, by promoting cities built on a smaller footprint, and phasing out suburbia; transform our transportation systems, with efficient mass transit between communities; more trains and fewer cars and planes; more walking and biking in cities; end our obsession with cars; institute a carbon tax to promote renewable energy and stop burning oil and gas; end wars of choice, and drastically cut the military "defense" budget, the world's biggest polluter; change the way and what we eat, with more organic vegetables and less meat, not fast "junk" food, but "slow" nutritious food, locally produced to reduce truck shipping; end our "disposable" society, and promote quality-made items, built to last, and repairable; reverse the

... continued on second page following →



Acupuncture Physician Tai Chi - Qi Gong Instructor

STEPHEN SCHACHTER, A.P.

ACUPUNCTURE CLINIC OF GAINESVILLE (352) 375-7577

Steve@StephenSchachter.com

4140 NW 27th Lane, Suite D - Gainesville, Florida 32606

There's only one rule, that I know of, babies – god damnit! you've got to be kind. — Kurt Vonnegut

Sometime Painted Table → The Painted Table → Table → The Painted Table → Table

Quality, Affordable Antiques, Collectibles and Recycled Treasures,

Furniture • Antique & Vintage Jewelry Books • WWII & Military Collectibles Old Paper, Coins & Artifacts • Glass Ceramics • Clothing • Maps

10% Off With This Ad!

352-371-1555 · Mon-Sat 10-6

2441 NW 43rd Street • Gainesville • Shoppes of Thornebrook

Southeast Sharpening Service & Supply, Inc.

Specializing in wood- and metal-working tools. We also sharpen scissors, knives, and garden tools, etc.

Visit our website at southeastsharpening.com 352-331-3704

Locally owned and operated. Serving our community over 25 years.

Be Responsible: Don't Buy WAR TOYS!

destruction of our forests and plant more trees; truly commit to cleaning up our oceans, rivers and springs, with quality public water systems and bottled water banned; promote world-wide family planning and free birth control, with a goal of zero, or negative, population growth; bring back deposits on bottles and cans to encourage maximum recycling; end junk mail; build smaller, energy efficient housing to last, and use less air conditioning and heat; do away with grass lawns, replacing them with vegetable gardens and xeriscaped yards; reduce retail consumerism of clothing, furniture, housewares, disposable diapers, electronics and gadgets, etc.; establish a local/state public bank, with the profits returned to the community.

As I said, this is only a beginning, a partial list, and I'm sure you can add many more ideas. Will the banks and corporations be happy with these changes? I doubt it. Will this transformation disrupt and inconvenience our lifestyles. Probably. Do all our conveniences and all the "stuff" we have make our lives happier or healthier? It doesn't appear so. Is there an alternative that will result in a sustainable planet? Not that I can see. Are you willing to make the changes that will preserve this world for future generations? As my friend said, "Think about this."

While you're considering all these important matters, be sure to share the joy this season promises, with families, friends and those less fortunate.



Liberals feel unworthy of their possessions. Conservatives feel they deserve everything they've stolen.

- Mort Sahl



The Law Office of Bill Salmon

Salutes the diligent work of the

VETERANS FOR PEACE

in pursuit of peace and justice.

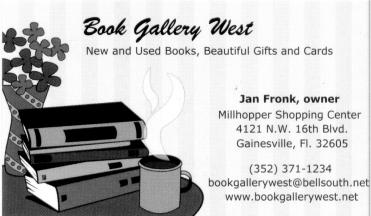
We believe that an understanding point of view and acceptance of the views of others is paramount for the future.

3rd Annual Peace College Scholarship For Alachua County Students

by Paul Ortiz

Gainesville Veterans for Peace Chapter 14 announces its third annual Peace Scholarships College for the spring of 2017. We are awarding two college scholarships of \$500 each for high school seniors, college students or adults with a commitment and leadership in activities involving: peace & social justice, conflict resolution and/or nonviolent social change.

Veterans for Peace created these scholarships to give financial support to students who are planning careers in pursuit of a world of social justice and equity. University of Florida student Mariana Castro, a community activist, and president of UF CHISPAS, was a recipient of one of the 2016 Peace Scholarships. In explaining the impact of the scholarship, Mariana notes, "To me receiving the Veterans for Peace Scholarship meant that there are people in our community who truly believe in helping change and shape our society for the betterment of all. There are not many scholarships such as VFP Peace Scholarship



because work for social justice is often overlooked in our world."

Mariana writes: "It's tough being a college student and fighting for your community and overall peace. We don't get graded for our movement-building work, and we don't get graded for our campaigns. As an immigrant advocate and social justice activist I feel blessed to have received this opportunity that will help me continue with my college education." Ms. Castro's narrative is an important reminder that while we often say, "Another World is Possible," we must provide tangible alternative funding to people who want to pursue peace and social justice in a society that is heavily based on funding war and violence.

... continued on second page following →

Produce
Meats
Seafood
Natural Foods
Plants

Family Owned & Operated Since 1951

515 N.W. 23rd Ave. • Gainesville, FL 32609
Phone (352) 372-1741 • Fax (352) 372-1199
wards@wardsgainesville.com • www.wardsgainesville.com

My first wish is to see this plague to mankind [war] banished from off the earth, and the sons and daughters of this world employed in more pleasing and innocent amusements than in preparing implements and exercising them for the destruction of mankind.

— George Washington

Thank you, Vets for Peace. Blessed are the Peacemakers!

— Ken & Angela Cornell



The majority of Veterans for Peace scholarships awarded thus far have gone to first-generation college students as well as to community college students. Financial need in an era of crushing student debt is a major theme of the Peace Scholarship program. Doug Bernal is an Iraq War veteran who explains the economic challenges facing student veterans: "Like many newly separated veterans, I struggled financially for

quite some time after leaving the service. Unsure of where I wanted to go in life and lacking the confidence to pursue higher education, I found myself taking on more debt as time went on. When I finally decided to pursue school, it was



difficult to purchase books and pay bills while waiting for my GI Bill benefits to come through. I didn't initially have the grades for financial aid, so the VFP scholarship was instrumental in getting me the books I so desperately needed and putting me on a path to a successful college experience."

You will find, as you look back upon your life, that the moments that stand out are the moments when you have done things for others. — Henry Drummond



The Flanagan Companies, Inc. ** Tim Flanagan, Owner New Residential, Remodeling, Light Commercial 352-336-0743 ** theflanagancompanies.com

By creating this scholarship, Veterans for Peace is attempting to follow the example of Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai who has urged the US to end 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 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 2017-2018 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 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, 2017. The deadline for the scholarship application is April 15, 2017

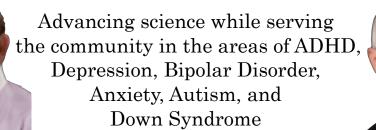
Peace Scholarship recipients will be announced at the Gainesville VFP Peace Poetry Awards Ceremony in May. For questions, contact Paul Ortiz at: ortizprof@gmail.com or 352-373-3435.

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



SARKIS CLINICAL TRIALS

611 NW 60th St., Suite C Gainesville, FL 32607 Telephone: (352) 333-0094



Gender, Justice, and the U.S. Military

by Doug Bernal

While we listen to wonderful music and reflect on what peace means to each of us, I feel it's important to remember the sacrifices many military members have made and continue to make in their attempts to bring peace. Supporting the soldier without supporting the war is always an option, and many soldiers face their most difficult struggles off of the battlefield.

During my eight years in the U.S Army, I witnessed and experienced sexism from and directed to both genders: male to female, female to male, and same-genders against each other.

Male soldiers made sexist comments, females soldiers were not allowed to do certain jobs and were pushed, even at the recruitment office, into administrative jobs. Remarks ranged from lying about relations with a woman, to their sexual

identity, their promiscuity, or patronizing them by purposely assigning lighter duties, or giving them strictly inside work.

Army policy reinforced and continues to reinforce inequality. Equal Opportunity (EO) and sexual assault awareness training usually equated to a message of, "men are rapists, including the soldiers in here. Guys, watch out for other guys and stop them before they do something dumb." The only thing the Army taught was that guys are naturally rapists, and you should stop your male buddy before he acts on his urges. Responsibility was taken away, and the only guilt given to the criminal was giving a brief overview of what could happen if they were caught. It was disgusting, and it did nothing to prevent or catch



investigator / owner Lic.# A2400153

www.stfinvestigations.com

phone: 352.380.0292 cell: 352.262.0232 email: stficu@yahoo.com

In Memory of Warren Lane

Therapeutic Spa & Health Center

2441 NW 43rd Street, Suite 3A
Gainesville, Fl 32606

352.378.8125

thefloatinglotusspa.com
floatinglotusspa@gmail.com

MM 18362

predators; it reinforced them and their behavior while taking power away from the victims.

The Army physical fitness test has different standards for males and females, with higher standards for males. This reinforces an already male-dominated profession by giving male soldiers a way to say they do more than females, while also causing resentment that females do not have to do the "same amount of work." I am by no means implying that female soldiers should be required to perform more than they do already, but I am saying that if the military wants the attitude and resentment from this to stop, then they need to have equal standards regardless of gender. If not, then they continue to reinforce the divide every time someone takes a physical training test.

Each unit in the Army has an "EO Rep" that soldiers are supposed to talk to if they have an issue with discrimination, and a "SHARP" rep that they may talk to for issues with sexual harassment or assault.

The problem is that the soldiers put in these positions were not usually those who wanted or would be the best at the job, but rather whom the platoons would like to give up for the job. This left units with people who didn't care, underperformed, or were incompetent. And those people were who soldiers were supposed to look

to for help and guidance if someone harasses them, treats them unfairly or assaults them. While there are other options for soldiers, many victims do not feel safe or comfortable going to authorities or seeking medical attention, with one major fear being repercussion. There was policy in place designed to prevent any negative treatment in response to complaints, but in practice it did not work. Other times, soldiers were effectively quarantined from the unit for fear of spreading dissent.

The Army has not made sexism or sexual assault less severe, but it has made it so people know how to do it without punishment. The culture is so prevalent that even if a male wants to report something, he's probably reporting it to an acquaintance of the perpetrator. Majority rules, and the majority wants to keep things internal and soldier on. The military needs to select third parties with no personal ties to the soldiers if there is any hope of holding perpetrators accountable, so those reporting can feel safer knowing someone has their back when their fellow soldiers do not.

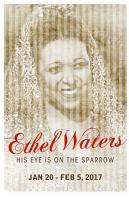
It is no measure of health to be well adjusted to a profoundly sick society.

— Krishnamurti



608 N. Main Street
Gainesville, FL 32601
352-376-8561
www.actorswarehouse.org
actorswarehouse.fla@gmail.com













I don't know of a single thing in our report that should not be public after ten years.

— Thomas Kean, chairman of the 9/11 Commission

Citizens Overwhelm Corporation

Plum Creek/Weyerhaeuser update

by Scott Camil

In January 2014, we had a meeting to discuss what to do about Plum Creek's (PC) plan to destroy wetlands, the wildlife corridor, the rural way of life that many of our citizens enjoy, and the Alachua County Comprehensive plan.

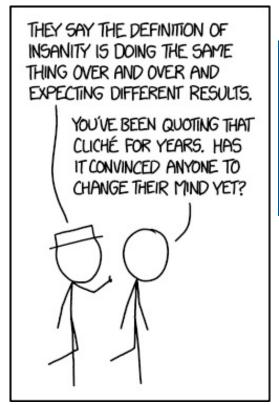
Commissioner Mike Byerly, members of Suwannee-St. Johns Sierra Club Group (SSJ) executive committee, and other environmentalists attended the meeting.

We decided to form a new organization to educate the community about the devastating effects of the proposed PC plan and to protect the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan that protects our environment and rural way of life.

We decided on the name Stand By Our Plan. We spent the next two years raising awareness and educating the public.

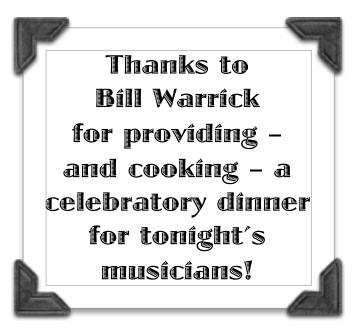
The Alachua County Comprehensive Plan is as close as we can get to a political consensus and compromise in our community. The product of many years of citizen advisory committee deliberations, workshops, public hearings, and legal challenges, then formally adopted and continually revised by an elected county commission, it provides a carefully considered blueprint for future growth in the unincorporated areas of our county. It balances the public interest with the rights of property owners by directing

... continued on next page →



- Randall Munroe, xkcd.com





growth to appropriate areas and protecting public health, neighborhoods, farms, wetlands, and significant natural areas.

In 2011, Plum Creek created the Envision Alachua Task Force and began working on a plan to develop its lands in eastern Alachua County. This would require massive changes to the county's comprehensive plan, sparking significant opposition by environmentalists and rural citizens.

In February of 2016, Plum Creek and Weyerhaeuser merged into one company, (PC/W). Also in February, the county held 3 special meetings on whether or not to approve Plum Creek/Weyerhaeuser's plan. The reason that there were 3 meetings is that there had been a huge outpouring of citizens who wanted to speak on this issue.

Each person got up to 3 minutes to speak and more than 200 people gave their testimony over a span of 3 days and more than 11 and a 1/2 hours. Those speakers who supported the comprehensive plan outnumbered the pro-PC/W plan by more than 3 to 1. These speakers

represented a cross-section of our community, young, old, students, retired people, urban and rural, a cross-section of backgrounds and income. All of these people have one thing in common; they want to protect our rural way of life, our environment, and the comprehensive plan that protects both.

The PC/W side is primarily made up of special interests, Plum Creek staff, paid consultants, the Chamber of Commerce, Envision task force members, the builders' association, and a sprinkling of people from groups and organizations that received money from PC.

PC/W is having a hard time in Alachua County - they are used to having their way. They use money, propaganda, manipulation, and deception to get what they want.

On page 1 of their PR book, in the introduction, the first sentence says, "Plum Creek initiated the Envision Alachua planning process in response to a request from Alachua County". The very first sentence starts with a deception - there was no request from Alachua County.

The deception continues, from their tightly controlled and carefully choreographed meetings trying to manufacture consent, to giving money to worthy causes and organizations in order to buy good will and political influence. They pander to low-income folks, feigning concern for wage disparity, while we all know that they don't really support a true living wage.

They act like they believe their own propaganda. They promise opportunities for east Gainesville, while their own map shows that their land is further away from east Gainesville than existing economic and educational opportunities that are much closer and have public transportation.

SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO PICK UP OTHER PEOPLE'S TRASH

TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.

— BILL NYE

They don't understand our citizens. As much as people hate taxes, our citizens have voted to tax themselves every time there has been initiative on the ballot to raise money in order to invest in our community, buy land, and put it into conservation.

This is the big difference between us. They are motivated by greed and think that they can buy everyone off.

They believe that accumulation of wealth is what life is about so they have a hard time when they come up against a culture that is motivated by quality of life, not greed. Our folks can't be bought.

PC/W understood that our County Commission would decide this issue. Their strategy was to try to change our county commission by replacing environmentalists. Since 2012, they have been trying to knock Mike Byerly off the commission.

The main issue of the 2014 County Commission race was the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan versus the PC/W plan. Ken Cornell won that election, beating PC/W's Task Force member Pastor Kevin Thorpe. Ken supported the comp plan and Pastor Thorpe supported Plum Creek's plan.

This year, Kevin Thorpe ran again, this time going after Mike Byerly's seat. Mike Byerly won the election.

Mike and Ken have been unyielding in the protection of our environment and comprehensive plan. They have been very outspoken on this issue.

School Board member Eileen Roy, who also serves on the Planning Commission, voted to recommend that the county not approve PC/W's plan. She too had an opponent, Juliun Kinsey, another Task Force member. She also won her election.

Thanks to Veterans for Peace May Peace Prevail Eileen and Russ Roy

On March 1st the County Commission voted on Plum Creek's plan. The vote was 3-2 to deny Plum Creek's plan. The commissioners who voted to deny were Mike Byerly, Ken Cornell, and Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson. The commissioners who voted for Plum Creek and against Alachua County were Charles "Chuck" Chestnut IV and Lee Pinkoson.

This was an enormous victory for the citizens of Alachua County and our environment. Rarely do citizens win a victory over a multi-billion dollar corporation.

In February of 2016, Plum Creek and Weyerhaeuser merged into one company, so they now have more resources for their next attempt to have their way with our county. We will remain vigilant.

... continued on next page →

People seem to listen to you more when you've got a bagful of cash.

— Tom Donohue, President & CEO of US Chamber of Commerce

Please support our elected representatives who fight for our future and us.

We thank all of you who participated in this very important victory.

(See the following URLs for more details, and "The Gainesville Plum Creek/Weyerhaueser Chamber PAC" in this program for an update on current plans of the Chamber and PC/W.)

Ron Cunningham - Boycott the Chamber: www.gainesville.com/opinion/20160819/ron-cunningham-boycott-chambers-checkbook-democracy

Sun editorial - Big money drowns out Voters www.gainesville.com/opinion/20160810/editorial-big-money-drowns-out-voters-voices

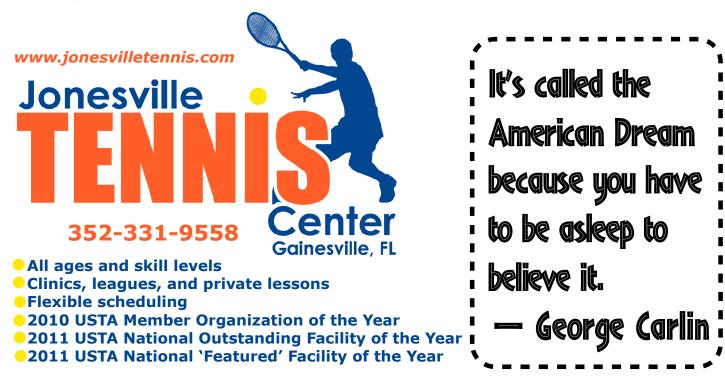
Thomas Hawkins - Chamber creates political arms race www.gainesville.com/opinion/20160818/thomas-hawkins-chamber-group-creates-political-arms-race

Sun article - first money from chamber PAC to local candidates: www.gainesville.com/news/20160820/first-money-from-chamber-pac-flows-to-local-candidates

Sun article - Chamber announces PAC and \$2 million www.gainesville.com/news/20160805/group-aims-to-push-business-friendly-candidates

Chamber's first announcement of PAC - www.gainesville.com/news/20160606/chamber-to-wade-deeper-into-local-state-politics

Be sure you read this - www.gainesville.com/opinion/20160810/larry-keen-chamber-group-seeks-compliant-officials



Speaking of the need for citizen participation in our national politics in his final State of the Union address, President Obama said, "Our brand of democracy is hard." A more accurate characterization might have been: "Our brand of democracy is cold hard cash."

— Nomi Prins