30th Annual Winter Solstice

PEACE CONCERT
Music & Cheer for Dark Hours

December 17th, 2016, 8:00 PM
at and co-sponsored by the
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF GAINESVILLE
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.

Gainesville Veterans for Peace Activities in 2016:

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continued on inside back cover...
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
John 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
Raven * John Smith * Tom Nelly * Carylee Pennington * Japhy Pennington

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 Primack
David 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

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
Congressional Switchboard: (202) 224-3121
Red Cross/Red Crescent: 1-800-HELP-NOW (435-7669)
Doctors Without Borders: 1-888-392-0392
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

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

It's a great country:
you can say whatever you like so long as it is strictly true - nobody will ever take you seriously.
- [attributed to] Edward Abbey
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 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.
Helping Hands Are Radiant Hands

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

www.RadiantHands.org
I wish for a world with no hate.  
A world where 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 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.

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
The Law Offices of
Albert & Meredith Bacharach
Rebecca Bacharach
Chaya Bacharach
Pamela Collins Dunmore
Jordan Burchell
Jemea Graham
Avigail Ruth
Archie Blair
Caleb Wood
Rachel Bennett

Wishing love, peace, joy, happiness, respect, calmness, clarity, and tranquility to all people of goodwill this Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa Season!!!

N. Albert Bacharach, Jr.
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

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progressive newsletter and calendar of events.
378-5655
www.gainesvilleiguana.org

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 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 →
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 see 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 Praire 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.

www.conservationburialinc.org
352-317-7307

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Afghanistan</th>
<th>Iraq</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>3,457</td>
<td>3,843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>4,077</td>
<td>4,577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>685</td>
<td>4,294</td>
<td>4,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1,081</td>
<td>4,398</td>
<td>5,479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>4,450</td>
<td>6,048</td>
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<td>1,973</td>
<td>4,481</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>2,211</td>
<td>4,481</td>
<td>6,692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2,308</td>
<td>4,481</td>
<td>6,789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2,347</td>
<td>4,486</td>
<td>6,833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2,382</td>
<td>4,506</td>
<td>6,888</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
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.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>&lt; 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

— Mano Singham
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 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]

**Green-on-blue wounded per year:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Wounded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)

**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

**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.

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**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
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

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

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
Bosshardt Realty Proudly Sponsors
Veterans for Peace
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 Mondy, 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.

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
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

Happy Holidays and Peace to All from 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”
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

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

Every society honors its live conformists and its dead troublemakers.

—— Mignon McLaughlin
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/
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.
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 ...

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There’s only one rule, that I know of, babies – god damnit! you’ve got to be kind.
— Kurt Vonnegut
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Liberals feel unworthy of their possessions. Conservatives feel they deserve everything they’ve stolen. — Mort Sahl

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.

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.
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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.
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.

— George Washington

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
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.
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

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It is no measure of health to be well adjusted to a profoundly sick society.
— Krishnamurti
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
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 →
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 goodwill 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.

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

**Thanks to Bill Warrick for providing – and cooking – a celebratory dinner for tonight’s musicians!**

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“Sometimes you have to pick up other people’s trash to make the world a better place.” — Bill Nye
People 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.

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

Thanks to Veterans for Peace

May Peace Prevail

Eileen and Russ Roy
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

Please support our elected representatives who fight for our future and us. We thank all of you who participated in this very important victory.

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


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

(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.)

It’s called the American Dream because you have to be asleep to believe it.

— George Carlin

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