

The Gainesville Plum Creek/Weyerhaeuser Chamber PAC

by Stand By Our Plan

On August 5th of 2016, the Gainesville Chamber of Commerce formed a Political Action Committee (Gainesville Regional Business - PC, Inc.), the purpose of which is to get rid of progressive and environmentalist office holders.

The PAC raised over \$130,000 in the last two weeks before the primary election.

The PAC targeted for defeat County Commissioners Mike Byerly and Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson, and School Board Chair Eileen Roy. All won their re-election.

This was a bad start for the Chamber PAC. They now plan on raising 2 million dollars to defeat progressive and environmental office-holders and candidates in 2017-2020.

We should not give our business to these companies that work against us.

Here is the list of these companies - and a few individuals - trying to undermine our local government, with the amounts each paid (so far) to do so:

Causseaux, Hewett & Walpole. Inc.	15,000	
Central Florida Drywall And Plastering,	2,000	
Charles Perry Partners, Inc.	15,000	
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Gainesville No. Commercial Park	500	
Kad Holdings, LLC	500	
Kokomo Key Properties, Inc.	1,000	
Southern Equity Investments, Inc.	1,000	
Concept Development, LLC	10,000	
Contemporary Management Concepts, LLLP	5,000	
Elrad, Randi K.	5,000	
Eye Associates Of Gainesville, LLC	5,000	
First Street Group, LC	1,000	} at same address
G.P. Materials, Inc.	2,500	
Pritchett Trucking, Inc.	2,500	
Pritchett, Phillip W.	2,500	
Healthcare Risk Management, LLC	1,000	
Howard Hodor Family, Ltd	1,000	
Kanapaha LLLP	10,000	} at same address
Lee, II L. Valentine	500	
Lee, Lewis S.	1,000	
Preserving Rural Property Values	5,000	
Scherer Construction Of North Florida, Inc.	10,000	
Watson Construction Company, LLC	7,500	
Watson Equipment LLC	3,750	
Weyerhaeuser	15,000	

The free market can only work after something bad happens, when the market gets to react. And of course, the segment of the market least able to vote with their money are those with the least money to vote with.

— The Digital Cuttlefish



THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN CONTROL PEOPLE IS TO LIE TO THEM.
You can write that down in your book in great big letters.

— L. Ron Hubbard

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

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN

Graham Nash

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

Chorus:

Teach your children well
Their fathers' hell
Will slowly go by
And feed them on your dreams
The one they pick's
The one you'll know by
Don't you ever ask them why
If they told you you would cry
So just look at them and sigh
And know they love you

And you of tender years
Can't know the fears
That your elders grew by
So please help them with your youth
They seek the truth
Before they can die

Oh teach your parents well
Their children's hell
Will slowly go by
(continue chorus)

The first word we should hear after the
statement "free speech is important"
is "therefore". It is not "but".

— Charlie Klendjian

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

Stephen Stills

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

Chorus:

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

Chorus

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

Chorus



IT'S SO EASY

Buddy Holly / Norman Petty

It's so easy to fall in love
It's so easy to fall in love
People tell me love's for fools
Here I go breaking all the rules
Seems so easy
Yeah, so doggone easy
Oh it seems so easy
Yeah where you're concerned
My heart can learn
It's so easy to fall in love
It's so easy to fall in love

Look into your heart and see
What your lovebook has set aside for me
It seems so easy
Yeah, so doggone easy
Oh it seems so easy
Yeah where you're concerned
My heart can learn
Oh it's so easy to fall in love
It's so easy to fall in love

It seems so easy
Oh so doggone easy
Yeah it seems so easy
Oh where you're concerned
My heart can learn
Oh it's so easy to fall in love
It's so easy to fall in love
It's so easy to fall in love
It's so easy to fall in love
It's so easy to fall in love
Oh-ooh It's so easy to fall in love

HERE COMES THE SUN

George Harrison

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

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT LOVE IS

Alex Parks, Judie Tzuke, Graham Patrick Kearns

I want to know what love is,
I want you to show me
I want to feel what love is,
I know you can show me

Lyrics continue on next page...

*Well, you've got to remember that if you use a slippery-slope argument once,
you'll end up using it for absolutely everything.*

— James Moar

BLOWIN' IN THE WIND

Bob Dylan

How many roads must a man walk down
Before you call him a man?
How many seas must a white dove sail
Before she sleeps in the sand?
And how many times must the cannon
balls fly
Before they're forever banned?
The answer my friend is blowin' in the
wind
The answer is blowin' in the wind.

How many years can a mountain exist
Before it's washed to the sea?
How many years can some people exist
Before they're allowed to be free?
And how many times can a man turn his
head
Pretending he just doesn't see?
The answer my friend is blowin' in the
wind
The answer is blowin' in the wind.

Yes, how many times must a man look up
Before he can see the sky?
How many ears must one man have
Before he can hear people cry?
And how many deaths will it take till he
knows
That too many people have died?
The answer my friend is blowin' in the
wind
The answer is blowin' in the wind.



WAR IS OVER

John and Yoko

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

IMAGINE

John Lennon

Imagine there's no heaven
It's easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky
Imagine all the people living for today

Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion too
Imagine all the people living life in peace

Chorus:

You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will be as one

Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people sharing all the world

Chorus

ANTICIPATION

by Carly Simon

We can never know about the days to come
But we think about them anyway, yay
And I wonder if I'm really with you now
Or just chasin' after some finer day

Anticipation, anticipation
Is makin' me late
Is keepin' me waitin'

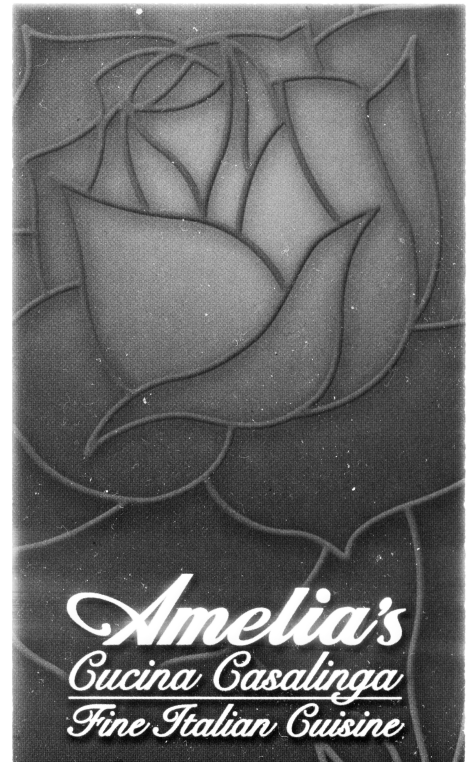
And I tell you how easy it feels to be with you
And how right your arms feel around me
But I, I rehearsed those lines just late last night
When I was thinkin' about how right tonight might be

Anticipation, anticipation
Is makin' me late
Is keepin' me waitin'

And tomorrow we might not be together
I'm no prophet and I don't know nature's ways
So I'll try and see into your eyes right now
And stay right here 'cause these are the good old days

(These are the good old days)
And stay right here 'cause these are the good old days
(These are the good old days)
(These are the good old days)
(These are the good old days)
(These are.....the good old days)

THINK - It's not illegal yet
—Bumper sticker



*When you deal
with ANY brilliant
man, some of his
ideas may scare
you. When you
deal with a
determined
ignoramus—some
of his ideas may
scare you. But the
scariness has a
very different
feeling.*

— CJ Cherryh

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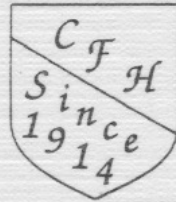
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A Democratic victory would not change the world, but it would at least slow the berserk white-trash momentum of the bombs-and-Jesus crowd. Those people have had their way long enough. Not even the Book of Revelation threatens a plague of vengeful yahoos. — Hunter S. Thompson

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Smaller footprints on an overburdened Earth

by Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson

Energy and water are two of our most complicated resources presently needed for survival. Our needs for each are interwoven with every facet of our existence. When cold, we turn on the heat; when thirsty, we drink. However, our tolerance for heat and cold is often regulated by our thermostat instead of our clothing, and we use our drinking water for grass.

I work for the Sierra Club on springs protection, but I write today as a citizen of Florida with a global perspective. During the past four years, while trying to stop the Sabal Trail gas transmission pipeline from burying itself into the Floridan Aquifer, I have found myself in the middle of the most politicized of movements, protecting clean fresh water for the future of Florida by opposing a fracked gas pipeline next to of our water supply. There is an overwhelming need for residents to be empowered to be stakeholders in our environment, to recognize assaults on our planet, and become proactive, not reactive, to protect what little remains due to our human folly.



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John Muir and other founding members of the Sierra Club could not have possibly known the physical challenges that humanity would endure in the future; however the human condition itself has the same predisposition; to love, to want and to survive.

It is imperative to become advocates for our water, as water is life and we love water. Our powerful government with all of its laws and codes continues to side with shortsighted greedy corporations. We could learn a lot from the Native American concept of the next seven generation stewardship, how what we do today may affect the next 7 generations.

How much does one want? How much does one eat? How much is wanted to be comfortable? How much do I take today so that the next generation has their needs met? Humans are not the only species that use this great Earth; why do we as a species continue to be the most destructive?

Nature must be considered as a host that sustains all life forces. Everything we do in terms of our consumer dollars must be evaluated and scaled back if we are to have any lasting changes to the dismal direction humans have followed. Everything takes water and energy: the clothes you wear, the transportation you use, the construction materials with which we build our homes, the food we consume, etc. Do we need 20 shirts, multiple vehicles, big houses, prepackaged foods, etc?

Create smaller footprints. Use less of everything, especially any man-made chemicals in the food you consume, the artificial beauty you manifest in your

If we do not fix the problem of corporate influence in politics, we can fix almost no other serious problem facing the country.

— Ed Brayton

person and personal space, and the need to have excessive comforts. The U.S. is one of the few, if not only, countries to have garage sales: a telltale sign that we suffer from over-consumption. Our landfills are overburdened with broken throwaways. Our chemical uses are rampant with toxic ingredients that pollute our waterways.

Some naysayers are threatened by the action of reducing our dependence on fossil fuels; they spew that we will return to the Stone Age. I say we must be mindful of the indigenous cultures and take only what we need and use less of everything, thereby protecting the most vital life force of all - our fresh water.

Don't Get Left Out In the Cold... Join Us!

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We seem to have a compulsion these days to bury time capsules in order to give those people living in the next century or so some idea of what we are like. I have prepared one of my own. In it, I have placed some rather large samples of dynamite, gunpowder, and nitroglycerin. My time capsule is set to go off in the year 3000. It will show them what we are really like.

-- Alfred Hitchcock

*Power always thinks it has a great soul and vast views,
beyond the comprehension of the weak.*

— John Adams



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No society can surely be flourishing and happy, of which the greater part of the members are poor and miserable. It is but equity, besides, that they who feed, clothe and lodge the whole body of the people, should have such a share of the produce of their own labour as to be themselves tolerably well fed, clothed and lodged.

— Adam Smith



one people
one planet
one future

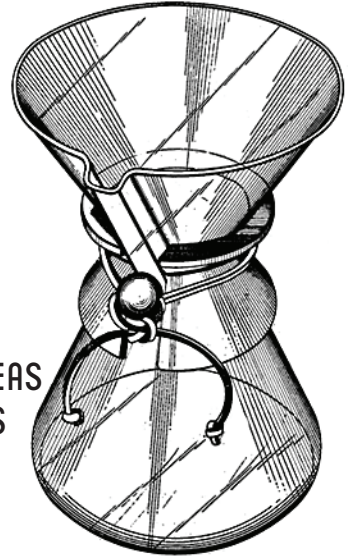
*... all
conservatives
think everyone
else in their
movement is the
sucker.*

— Rick Perlstein

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**You have the freedom
to choose your beliefs,
but not the freedom
to choose your facts.**

— Yemisi Ilesanmi

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**Deliver us from the
hypocrisy of attempting
to sound reasonable
while being
unreasonable.**

**— US Senate chaplain
Barry C. Black**

In memory: Local activist Zot Szurgot

by Bill Stephenson and Chris Zurheide



Zot Lynn Szurgot died on September 7th, her car struck by a truck that ran a red light near Hazlehurst, Georgia, where she was helping to build a 450-acre solar array.

A skilled and meticulous union electrician, Zot consistently spoke up for environmental concerns, the homeless, the Occupy movement, LGBTQIA issues, Black Lives Matter, organized labor, peace and justice groups, and etc.

A magical, creative, brave, and beautiful person with an enormous and infectious laugh, she will be missed intensely by the innumerable friends, colleagues, and comrades she cultivated throughout her remarkable life.

Zot grew up in Indiana near Lake Michigan and Chicago. From an early age, she experienced herself more as a girl than a boy. An initial spur to activist thought was her experience of industrial and agricultural pollution in the area. She was drawn toward a by-the-book environmental science career until a mentor was fired for investigating and warning of a tainted water supply.

In her college milieu in Bloomington, Zot loved embracing fascinating people and ideas. Later she lived for a time in India, in Boston, and in Nicaragua during the Sandinista period. She has been a beloved part of the Gainesville community for decades.

"I first remember meeting Zot at a Labor meeting. But after that, I seemed to see her smile everywhere because, well, she WAS everywhere. She practiced solidarity with a faithfulness I can only hope to emulate. She also practiced the art of warm welcome with a gracefulness I seldom encounter. In conversation, she had this soft, approachable openness about her--as though she was weighing carefully all you said without judging you," said Kimberly Hunter.

"Zot was a wise, supportive, fun, and earnestly cheerful friend despite her own struggles with depression. With her enthusiasm for learning, she was widely read in topics like evolutionary biology, mythology, and space physics besides diverse areas of movement activism, so our conversations tended to be fascinating, rambling, and educational," said Chris Zurheide.

"Zot, by being unapologetically ambiguous, helped all of us in [our Bloomington] social whirl understand that we had a spectrum within which we lived and that we chose: it wasn't as binary as male-female, or heterosexual-homosexual. Zot was my touchstone for gender complexity, from the mid-80s until now. S/he was a proud complexifier. S/he was the human who embodied activism and constructive struggle. S/he was someone who I was so glad to have known, and who made me laugh uproariously. Zot was a joyful warrior for justice," said Michael Jon Jensen.

THOSE WHO ARE EASILY SHOCKED SHOULD BE SHOCKED MORE OFTEN.

— MAE WEST



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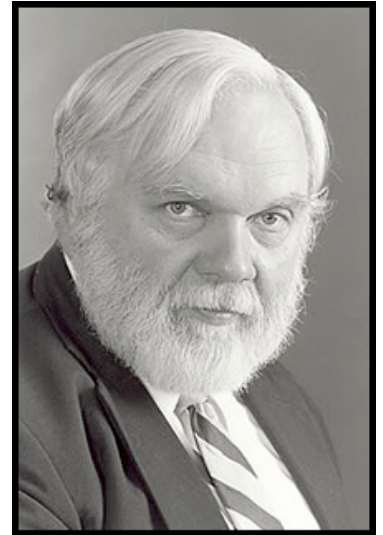
John Moore, professorial veteran for peace

adapted from *Gainesville Sun* obituary page of August 16, 2016

Dr. John Hartwell Moore, Research Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at the University of Florida, passed away peacefully on August 10, 2016, surrounded by his family. He was born on February 27, 1939, in Williston, North Dakota, and was raised by his mother and his maternal grandfather in Paragould, Arkansas. John was an outstanding student and worked as a seasonal farm worker picking cotton, a radio announcer, and a snake catcher for Marlin Perkins at the St. Louis Zoo. He was also an Eagle Scout. At the University of Arkansas, he served as editor for the student-run newspaper and yearbook, and was a member of several honor societies as well as Sigma Chi Fraternity. He also sang with the University Music Department's Schola Cantorum. In the summers, he worked as a surveyor for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Arkansas swamps.

After graduating with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering, John worked for Procter and Gamble in St. Louis before volunteering for the U.S. Army. He served in both Korea and Vietnam, attaining the rank of Second Lieutenant, before his honorable discharge in 1964. In March of 1965, John was among 25,000 people who marched on Montgomery, Alabama, in support of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1967, he enrolled at New York University studying Anthropology, which he became interested in while serving in Vietnam. In New York, he was an active member and leader in the Ethical Culture Society and Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

After graduating with his Ph.D. in Anthropology with a focus in Native American studies in 1974, John taught at Albion College in Michigan and the University of Oklahoma, where he became Chair of the Anthropology Department. He worked with



organizations he felt passionately about, including the Prisoners' Progress Association, the Texas Farm Workers Union, and the Native American Rights Fund.

John was an expert witness in many trials, litigations, and other legal proceedings on behalf of Native Americans. John's work with Native American tribes led to numerous honors. Perhaps John's greatest efforts were devoted to the descendants of the Sand Creek Massacre in their ongoing attempt to secure reparations promised by the U.S. government in 1865.

In 1993, John moved his family to Gainesville to accept the position of Chair of Anthropology Department at the University of Florida. He served in that capacity until 1998 and retired in 2010. He was elected CLAS President Pro tempore in 2006 and won numerous national academic honors.

**CHILDREN BROUGHT UP IN A DARK BOX LEARN
TO LIVE IN A DARK BOX. CHILDREN BROUGHT UP
IN THE LIGHT LEARN TO ILLUMINATE THE WORLD.
— PZ MYERS**

As a scholar, John authored five books, three computer programs, 22 book chapters, and 42 articles in respected journals. He conducted additional fieldwork in Mexico, Nicaragua, Korea, and China. John was also involved with NASA's space colonization feasibility project. He was awarded multiple major grants from the National Institutes of Health, National Endowment for the Humanities, and the National Science Foundation. He also authored the petition for federal recognition of the Pamunkey tribe of Virginia, which was recently granted.

John, a devoted and caring family man, is survived by his loving wife, Shelly Arlen, as well as his son, Jeremiah (Kara) of Deltona, daughters Jessica Heft (Jordan) of Nashville, and Alexandra Moore of Tallahassee, grandchildren Allison Moore and Caleb Heft, and in-laws Ann and Jim Call of Gainesville. Memorial donations may be made to the Friends of Anthropology Fund at UF (anthro.ufl.edu/alumni-and-department-support/donations) and the Civic Media Center, 433 S. Main St, Gainesville, FL 32601 (www.civicmediacenter.org).



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Why, of course, the lie that we're here to uplift our poor black brothers instead of to rob them. I suppose it's a natural lie enough. But it corrupts us, it corrupts us in ways you can't imagine. There's an everlasting sense of being a sneak and a liar that torments us and drives us to justify ourselves night and day. It's at the bottom of half our beastliness to the natives. We Anglo-Indians could be almost bearable if we'd only admit that we're thieves and go on thieving without any humbug.

— George Orwell



*Peace begins
with a smile.*

~ Mother Teresa

The Eye of a Soldier

Hannah Strong

Grade 10

Newberry High School

The thunder of bombs and artillery shells exploding slowly deafens me
My body tenses as the piercing sound of bullets fly through the air
My ears scream from the nearby rockets and grenades exploding
I pray to hear the sound of combat aircraft flying overhead.
The smell of stale earthen dust engulfs me
Men around me reek of BO
The metallic smell of blood still burns my nostrils.
The aroma of diesel fuel makes my head spin.
I lick my lips to moisten my dry, tasteless mouth.
Grit rubs my gums raw, causing the taste of salty blood
I can still taste disgusting metal and smoke from the last bomb.
I feel like a hand is gnawing at my stomach as it growls.
I look over and my eyes scream at the sight of lone body limbs.
My eyes try to adjust to all the bullets soaring by my head.
All around me, soldiers are desperate, tired, and afraid.
I am surprised my eyes can still see.
Something flies by me;
I feel a burning sensation.
One last thought overtakes me,
“Why not peace?”

For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.

— Nelson Mandela

Broken Promises

by Doug Bernal

As we look forward to the new year, many of us also look forward to the bittersweet news that Veterans for Peace Chapter 14 will once again be able to show Gainesville the Memorial Mile. While our members are thankful to once again share with the community a display that up until last year had been happening annually since 2007. Few people thought back then that the display would still be needed ten years later. As I think about the more than 6,888 tombstones that we will place this upcoming Memorial Day weekend, it becomes hard to hold back the tears.

2007 was the year I joined the US Army. Working a job that paid slightly more than minimum wage and wanting to change my life while making a difference in the world, I spoke to a recruiter. I was shocked by what had happened in Abu Ghraib the year prior, and in my own mind I decided the best way to combat that was to join as a Military Policeman and make sure the right thing was being done. The recruiter promised me that I could. I was not only poor and hopeful in 2007, I was also extremely ignorant.

After training in Missouri, I was stationed in Fort Hood, Texas in August of 2007. I deployed to FOB Prosperity in Baghdad, Iraq on September 23rd of the same year. I worked in a Detainee Holding Area Annex, which was more or less a

two-week jail for Iraqis picked up in the area. That's when my view of our mission began to rapidly crumble. My first month, I learned that most of the detainees brought to us were either fathers who had their families threatened and given a cellphone to call in when troops were passing by, or that they were members of local gangs upset at Coalition presence interfering with their drug trafficking. The images I had seen so often over the years of Al-Qaeda terrorists made for a miniscule part of the population.

My second month, I learned that during detainee releases, our unit would not free the individuals where they were picked up. Instead, we would drop Sunnis off in Shiite neighborhoods and vice versa. The drop-offs only occurred when the detainees were found not to have committed a heinous crime and were no longer needed for intelligence. Their pleading to us and our interpreter was usually met with our 'terp telling them to shut up before we shot them in the street.

The third month, I learned that the enemies weren't always on the outside of our base. I had come at the end of the deployment, so our replacement unit was already cross-training with us. One of their soldiers was having a rough time. He had a family back home that was constantly

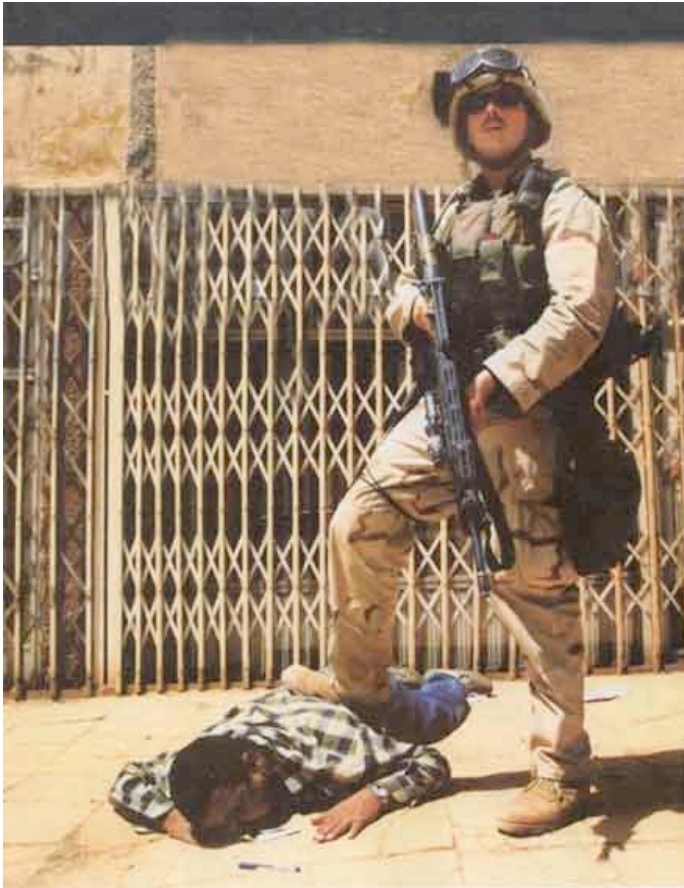
Grand-dude and I shared the bond of both having been drafted (Dad's generation was spared), and we traded Basic Training memories. Then he started to talk about combat, which he never had done before.

He started to cry—not weeping, just his eyes leaking a little, dabbing, and he delivered a slurred soliloquy about how useless it all had been— how much less freedom we had after his war, Vietnam, than before; how the government used war to increase its control over its citizens, what a fucking waste it had all been. Dad got upset with him, me headed overseas in a couple of days.

But I said it wasn't that different from what I heard in the barracks every night. Grand-dude said yeah, same-same. Soldiers aren't fools.

But we go anyhow.

— Joe Haldeman



NOT Doug Bernal

<https://matrixmasters.com/photos/Iraq01/>

contacting the unit, and a pregnant wife who was worried about his safety. He had been having trouble sleeping and reached out to his leadership to help. Their response was a lot of pushups, a lot of low crawling in gravel, and a lot of telling him just how worthless he was. After three weeks of daily harassment, he finally agreed with them about his own value and took his life.

I came back to Texas in January of 2008 for a year of training and working the road, then deployed again in January of 2009. I wish I could say that this one was better, but it was objectively worse. Telephone wires were torn down to make room for our vehicles. Iraqis walking on the side of the road were pelted with beanbag rounds while we drove by, and we shot pen flares into the grills of stationary cars. Gatorade bottles given to Iraqi children were filled with urine instead of

their namesake, and vehicles that got in our way were literally pushed off the road. One of those vehicles was a bus filled with people.

A motorcyclist would have met the same fate, but instead went into oncoming traffic and ran headfirst into a van. When the Iraqi police came by and threw his limp body into the back of their pickup, how little anyone cared finally clicked.

Our larger mission may have been to hand the country back to the Iraqi people, but on the ground the soldiers didn't care. We were away from friends and family, and many of those around me had joined out of poverty, racism or both. Angst was our illness and Iraqi anguish was our medicine. The war was a waste. I had joined to make a difference and had instead become the very evil that had drawn me into service. And I was not alone.

While I now continue trying to atone for the hurt I've caused, there are still soldiers overseas and Iraqi and Afghani citizens being caught in the crossfire. We've been in Afghanistan for 15 years, Iraq for 13. Promises have been made to our soldiers about the job they'd do. Promises have been made to our people about the wars coming to an end. Promises have been made to the people at the core of these wars about the country they will inherit. All of them have so far been broken.

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On every US Military base throughout the world we are inundated with only ONE news source: Fox News. That's it. That is all the command structures place within chow halls, coffee shops, gyms, MWR facilities, etc. The military has a majority conservative base and anyone that openly and publicly steps outside that to request that someone "change the channel" is shunned and treated like garbage.

— Paul Loebe

In 2011, a promise was made by our President that, "by 2014, this process of transition will be complete." Since then, over 700 U.S. military personnel have given their lives in Afghanistan. This year a promise was made to lower the total number of troops in the country to 5,500. Instead, Donald Trump will direct the lives of 8,400 U.S troops deployed to Afghanistan.

I am a staunch believer in supporting the soldier without supporting the war, and I feel that the best way we can support those who believe they are giving their all of our country and the freedoms we enjoy is to fight domestically for the end of this circle of suffering. 15 years is 15 too long — it's time to come home.



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For centuries we have dreamt of flying; recently we made that come true: we have always hankered for speed; now we have speeds greater than we can stand: we wanted to speak to far parts of the earth; we can: we wanted to explore the sea bottom; we have: and so on, and so on. And, too, we wanted the power to smash our enemies utterly; we have it. If we had truly wanted peace, we should have had that as well. But true peace has never been one of the genuine dreams - we have got little further than preaching against war in order to appease our consciences.

— John Wyndham

Happy Holidays
and
Thank You to
Veterans for Peace
from Mike, Busy, &
Camille Byerly

Whistleblowers Update

by Scott Camil

(This article is a greatly shortened version of an update to last year's "Whistleblower Update" story. For the full text, including the body of 2015's piece, see vfp Gainesville.org, click the "Articles" link, and scroll down to "Whistleblowers Update.")

As the Obama presidency comes to a close, the man who promised to protect whistleblowers has prosecuted and imprisoned more whistleblowers than all presidents before him combined.

Writing about his legacy on whistleblowers, Salon.com headlined an article with "Obama's unprecedented war on whistleblowers" in which they concluded, "This administration fears the noise of democracy, preferring the silence of compliance." MotherJones.com in "Obama's War on Whistleblowers" stated "his aggressive prosecution of whistleblowers is a president who believes himself above the law, and seems convinced that he alone has a preternatural ability to determine right from wrong." MoveOn.org stated, "Disturbingly, the Obama administration has criminally prosecuted more whistleblowers under the Espionage Act than all other past

administrations combined." Politifact.com investigated that charge and gave it a "true" rating.

Did you notice anything about those first three sources I just quoted? Are they right-wing conservative news sources? Hardly, they are just the opposite. Even The Huffington Post headlined "Obama Whistleblower Prosecution Leads To Chilling Effect On Press." They mention the Marine officer Franz Gayl (inadequate protection against IEDs in Iraq); Lockheed Martin project manager Michael DeKort (security flaws in the Coast Guard's Deepwater Project); Department of Justice attorney Thomas Tamm (who exposed Bush's wiretapping program) - all of whom have been prosecuted, fired, and shunned."

This year we add another noteworthy whistleblower, even though he told his share of truth - and was punished harshly for it - years ago:

Shamai Kedem Leibowitz, also known as Samuel Shamai Leibowitz, is an American lawyer and blogger who was convicted of leaking classified FBI information to another blogger.

Leibowitz pleaded guilty on December 17, 2009 to knowingly and willfully disclosing five Secret level FBI documents in April 2009 to a blogger, who then published information derived from those documents on the blog. He was sentenced on May 24, 2010 to 20 months in prison.

According to Leibowitz, "During the course of my work I came across wrongdoings that led me to conclude this is an abuse of power and a violation of the law. I reported



If you have to ask what's going on, you already know too much.

— Jerry Adler

these violations to my superiors at the FBI who did nothing about them. Thereafter, to my great regret, I disclosed the violations to a member of the media.” See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shamai_Leibowitz

We could not find new information on the **three drone operators** who went public on the crimes of that operation.

Samuel Provance, who as a sergeant in US Army Military Intelligence revealed the role of official interrogators in the Abu Ghraib abuse scandal, and testified to Congress about the abuses there and efforts to cover them up, continues to speak out.

In 2016, *Voices of the Iraq War: Contemporary Accounts of Daily Life (Voices of an Era)*, was published with a chapter by Samuel Provance titled: “Abu Ghraib, A Guard’s Perspective.”

We could not find new information on NSA whistleblower **Thomas Drake**.

The long and continuing public saga of Julian Assange began when he founded WikiLeaks.org to publicize whistleblowers’ revelations, including reports of US atrocities in Iraq which brought him hostile attention from the Obama administration. He has spent years in asylum provided by the

Ecuadorean embassy in London, with many agreeing that US political pressure denies him any chance of a fair trial on sexual assault charges brought in Sweden in 2010.

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February 5, 2016 - A UN rights working group says its investigation found that Assange is being arbitrarily detained by the governments of Sweden and the United Kingdom.

May 25, 2016 - A Swedish court upholds the arrest warrant for Assange, with a Swedish prosecutor saying there's still probable cause to prosecute him on a rape allegation and that "the risk of him evading justice is still large."

July 22, 2016 - WikiLeaks releases nearly 20,000 emails from Democratic National Committee staffers. The leaked emails appear to show the committee favoring presumptive Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton over Bernie Sanders during the US presidential primary. On July 29, Assange tells CNN's Anderson Cooper that the email release was timed to coincide with the start of the Democratic National Convention.

September 15, 2016 - WikiLeaks announces via Twitter that "If Obama grants Manning clemency, Assange will agree to US prison in exchange -- despite its clear unlawfulness," referring to Chelsea Manning, the imprisoned former Army intelligence analyst convicted of violating the Espionage Act.

September 16, 2016 - A Swedish appeals court states again that the arrest warrant for Assange on allegations of rape still stands. This is the eighth time the European arrest warrant has been tested in a Swedish court. All eight judgments have gone against Assange.

November 6, 2016 - Two days before the US presidential election, WikiLeaks releases a new trove of emails apparently hacked from the Democratic Party.

November 14, 2016 - WikiLeaks tweets that Assange is giving a statement in the presence of a Swedish prosecutor regarding allegations he sexually assaulted two women in the country six years ago. (www.cnn.com/2013/01/18/world/julian-assange-fast-facts/)

A former Icelandic minister has claimed that the FBI attempted to frame Julian Assange during a mission to Iceland.

Ögmundur Jonasson, who currently serves as a member of the Icelandic Parliament, said US authorities told him in June 2011 that hackers were trying to destroy software systems in the country.

The authorities said there was an "imminent attack" on Iceland's government databases and that the FBI would send agents to investigate.

Jonasson said he was immediately skeptical of the FBI's intentions.

"I was suspicious," he told Katoikos, "Well aware that a helping hand might easily become a manipulating hand!"

Jonasson said it was only when a "planeload" of FBI agents arrived in August that he realized the true reason for their visit.

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It is not enough to be a democratically elected president... you must behave yourself as such and not attack democratic institutions or the separation of powers.
— Otto Reich (to Hugo Chavez)

The former minister claims the FBI was seeking Iceland's "cooperation in what I understood as an operation set up to frame Julian Assange and WikiLeaks."

Jonasson said he immediately told the FBI agents to leave the country.

The Clinton campaign has accused Assange of working with Russia to aid the Trump campaign; Assange denies this.

www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4021166/Former-Icelandic-minister-claims-FBI-tried-frame-Julian-Assange.html

...

John Napier Tye is a former official of the U.S. State Department who came forward in 2014 to publicize electronic surveillance practices of the U.S. government under Executive Order 12333, signed by President Ronald Reagan and amended by President George W. Bush.

November 2nd 2016

Tye writes article warning President Obama to make changes before Trump takes office. His three recommendations are: "First, he should



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service to the cause of world
peace.

- Adrian Hayes-Santos

amend the executive order and require the NSA to delete all U.S. person data as soon as it is collected, as recommended by his own Review Group on Intelligence and Communications Technologies. (Today U.S. person data is stored for five years and searched by domestic law enforcement agencies like the FBI. "U.S. person" means any individual within the borders of the United States, or a U.S. citizen anywhere in the world.) President Obama should leave a

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**I'M NOT SO SURE THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES
IS TO GO AROUND THE WORLD AND SAY, "THIS IS
THE WAY IT'S GOT TO BE."**

— GEORGE W. BUSH



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public trail of legal determinations on the issue that will be difficult for Trump to undo.

Second, Obama should educate all of Congress—not just the intelligence committees—in a far deeper way about precisely how much American data is collected, and how it is treated, with comprehensive secret briefings. Most members of Congress still know far too little about the particulars to properly legislate in this area. Congress and the judiciary, together with the executive branch, should establish clear, universal standards for U.S. person data.

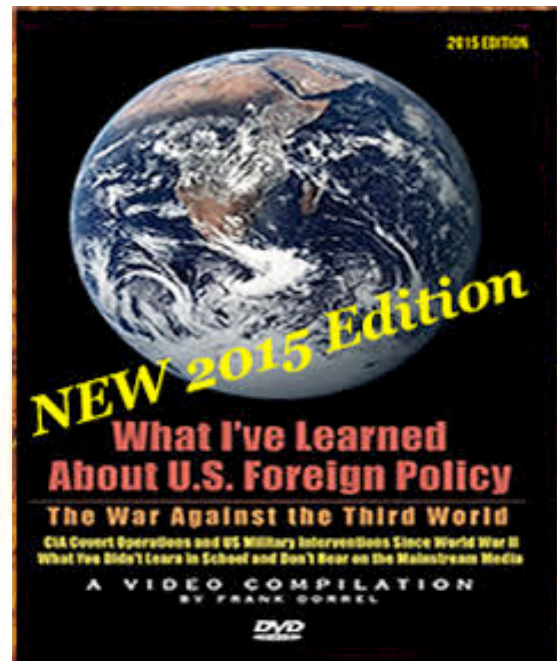
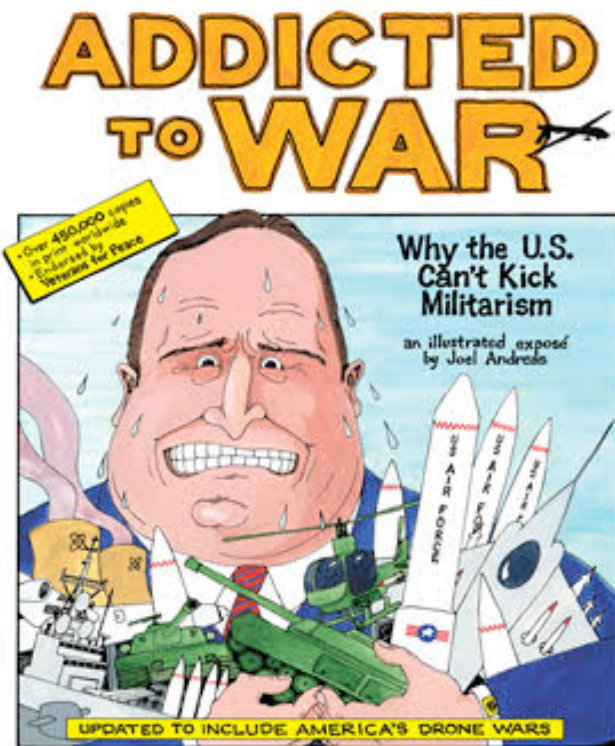
Finally, the president should come clean with the American people about just how much of their data is “touched” by U.S. intelligence agencies. Without that, there can’t be proper democratic debate and oversight.”

http://www.slate.com/articles/technology/future_tense/2016/11/we_can_t_trust_trump_with_today_s_nsa.html

John Kiriakou, a former CIA officer, spent more than two years in prison (plus three months of house arrest) for revealing that the Agency tortured detainees with waterboarding.

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John Kiriakou now maintains a great news website at www.johnkiriakou.com/news.



Chelsea Manning, earlier known as US Army PFC Bradley Manning, came to fame by releasing a trove of data, including video, uncovering multiple US war crimes in occupied Iraq. This act of truth-telling, according to an Army court-martial, merited 35 years of imprisonment, which she began to serve in 2010.

A petition requesting President Obama to commute her sentence to time served has gathered more than 107,000 signatures at [petitions.whitehouse.gov / / petition/commute-chelsea-mannings-sentence-time-served-1](http://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/commute-chelsea-mannings-sentence-time-served-1).

In July of 2016, Manning attempts suicide and receives 14 days of solitary confinement (with 7 days suspended). In September, Manning does a 5 day hunger strike to protest her treatment.

In October, Manning tries to commit suicide again. In the remaining days of the Obama

If you deny my request for a pardon, I will serve my time knowing that sometimes you have to pay a heavy price to live in a free society. I will gladly pay that price if it means we could have a country that is truly conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all women and men are created equal.

- Chelsea Manning

presidency there have been many requests to Obama to pardon Chelsea Manning before Trump takes office.

The Chelsea Manning support network maintains a very informative website: www.chelseamanning.org

National Security Agency/Booz Allen Hamilton whistleblower **Edward Snowden** remains in Russia, and has applied to President Obama for a pardon for having exposed the ongoing snooper by NSA.

We could find no new information on **Commander John Bitterman**, removed from command by the US Navy for exposing deteriorating and dangerous conditions on the USN cutter *Steadfast*.

I am also saddened by President Obama's legacy in regards to peace. As Obama's presidency ends, we find ourselves involved in more wars and conflicts than when Obama took office in

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"Peace Is Possible"

Jack J. Fine

Cherie H. Fine

Thomas J. Farkash

Alan R. Parlapiano

A. Daniel Vazquez

Attorneys at Law

2009. We are at war with Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria. We have drone wars in Pakistan, Somalia, and Yemen. We have “two advise-and-assist missions” in Cameroon and Uganda.

We expected more, much more, all of that “Hope and Change”.

But instead of prosecuting Bush for all of his transgressions, Obama said, “Let’s not look backward,” and let Bush off the hook for everything.

On Aug. 20, 2013, Obama filed court papers with the United States Department of Justice requesting that George W. Bush, Richard Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Colin Powell, Condoleezza Rice and Paul Wolfowitz be granted procedural immunity in a case alleging that they planned and waged the Iraq War in violation of international law.

Obama now leaves all of these enhanced powers to Donald Trump. Things don’t look so good for the future. On the upside, some of those citizens who slept through Obama’s transgressions are finally out in the street. We have missed them and we are sorry that it has taken Trump to wake them up.

We can thank the DNC for delivering us Trump. Oh no, it was the Russians or the FBI or the third party candidates or the Berners, everyone but themselves.

The Democratic Party has not learned anything from this election. They want business as usual, keeping the old guard and its neo-liberalism in place: Chuck Schumer for Senate minority leader and Nancy Pelosi for House minority leader; a foreign policy of regime change and an economic policy of Wall Street knows what is best and can be trusted.

One can only wonder what would have happened if Bernie Sanders had been allowed to participate in an honest primary contest. Too bad the party leaders had other plans.

This election was about change. Everyone but the DNC knew that it was time for a change. Now it looks like we will be getting a different kind of change than we need.

As Americans, we should all be ashamed of the choice that that our two leading political parties gave us. We should be ashamed that our elections are more about exclusion of voters than inclusion. We should be ashamed that we allow private corporations to control our elections with voting machines that are unverifiable and have no paper trail.

Our Electoral College is a system set up because our government does not trust us.

It’s our system and it is broken. What are we going to do about it?

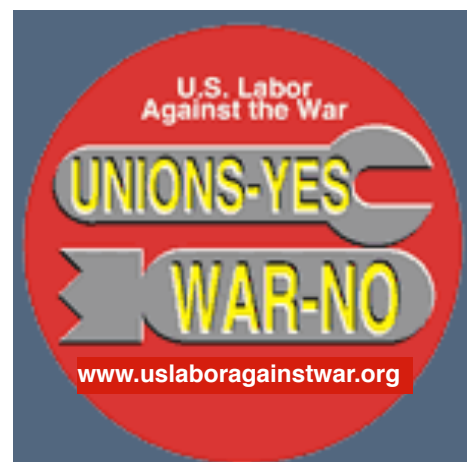


The North Central Florida Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO represents workers from all fields and professions in Gainesville, Florida and the surrounding regions in North Florida. We fight for justice, equality, work place democracy, and a decent life for working families.

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For more information, contact 352-372-6888.

“Solidarity knows no borders nor boundaries.”



Cannabis in Florida Today

by Jim Funk

Adam and Eve were thrown out of their garden, and the cannabis plant ripped from ours. In both stories, the sins of a few brought devastation for humankind. The cannabis story begins in ancient China where it produced cloth, paper, rope, food and medicine. Over millennia it spread westward and brought these products into the new world with the help of hemp (canvas) sails, rigging and caulk. From the time of its landing in the New World till being banned in 1937, cannabis was a major crop. It produced many commercial products, biofuel, plastics, and medicines. The plant that could save the planet from fossil fumes was totally banned. It had competed with the profits of the Hearst newspaper pulp wood industry, DuPont plastics, and the aspirations of Harry Anslinger, the first drug czar. He disguised cannabis under the racist name marijuana and four years after alcohol prohibition ended, that of cannabis began. Today resistance to legalization comes mainly from the pharmaceutical industry, law enforcement, the DEA, and our soon-to-be president and his administration.

Today 28 states allow a variety of conditions to be treated with cannabis. It's a 3,000+ y/o medicine which has never caused an OD death! Conditions allowed to be treated in Florida are cancer, PTSD, terminal illness, ALS, AIDS/HIV, MS, epilepsy, Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease, glaucoma, and other similar debilitating conditions.

**The only justice is
justice that we make.
— Greta Christina**

Cannabis contains molecules that stimulate receptors found in our body's endocannabinoid system. This system helps regulate most of our organs and tissues. It helps bring the body into a healthy steady state (homeostasis) which enables cannabis to safely treat an incredible number of conditions with minimal side effects. Low THC cannabis (no high) also has therapeutic effects, as does CBD oil (distilled total cannabis plant). It is legally available as a supplement, but is usually made from industrial hemp which has less CBD, and greater risk of chemical contamination.

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Cannabis is particularly restorative to nervous tissue and also has anti-inflammatory properties. It is excellent medicine for conditions that affect veterans with greater frequency: Traumatic brain injury and concussion, epilepsy, chronic pain and phantom limb pain, Parkinson's disease, PTSD, anxiety and depression, spasmodic syndromes, arthritis, and dementia.

VA doctors are not allowed to discuss cannabis treatment, and a vet might be denied use of controlled substances if they are positive for cannabis. Private physicians and self-pay is necessary for both vets and non-vets (~\$300 per

year). Florida's Amendment 2 regulations go into effect January 3rd, 2017 for non-THC cannabis (no 'high') and medical (THC containing) cannabis. A Florida citizen with a qualifying condition must be under the care of a cannabis-certified physician for 3 months prior to getting a recommendation for cannabis (approximately 200 in the state at this writing). At this time, telemedicine visits are allowed, and the patient must be 'seen' twice in the 90 days. Follow-up every 6 months is required. The physician emails a recommendation to a dispensary, which can give a 45-day supply delivered statewide.

To find certified physicians and dispensaries go to:

- * www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/office-of-compassionate-use/patients/index.html
- * weedmaps.com

Doctors and dispensary websites in the Gainesville area:

- * Justin Davis 352 641-0123 FMD.green (Telemedicine equipped) (Habla Espanol)
- * Brent Stewart 352 508-8668 comfortcompassion.com
- * DOCMJ.com 888 908-0143 (telemedicine only)

Dispensaries (that appear ready at this time) with telephone and internet access:

- * Trulieve.com 844 878-5438
- * Surtera.com 850 391-5455

Pending are:

- * CHTMedical.com
- * Knox Medical 407 654-1972 info@knoxnursery.com (dispensaries offer statewide delivery)

For those not aware of the incredible medicinal qualities of cannabis, please watch on youtube.com any of Dr. Sanjay Gupta's (Neurosurgeon and CNN chief medical correspondent) trilogy - Weed 1,2, 3



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Loyalty to petrified opinion never broke a chain or freed a human soul.

– Mark Twain

Cannabis in Florida Tomorrow

by Chris Kennard

Legalization of marijuana has done wonders for the economies of those states which have taken that step, and can do the same for Florida. Aside from the many new businesses which have opened and hired multiple workers, such states have experienced tax revenue growth while reducing police/prison workloads and expenses.

Our statewide non-partisan citizen movement Floridians For Freedom (FFF) is currently collecting signed petition forms from registered voters all over Florida for our state constitutional amendment ballot initiative, called the Right Of Adults To Cannabis.

We arose out of the Florida Cannabis Action Network when it became evident that the Florida state legislature does not function, so we must!

This new law would provide the right of adults in Florida over the age of twenty-one to possess, use and grow their own cannabis for personal use, on private property, for medicinal use, or to relax and enjoy within our own homes. Go to FloridiansForFreedom.com for copies to print, sign and mail to us.

We must collect close to one million signatures of Florida voters in order to place this issue on the ballot for all Florida voters to decide on Election Day, Nov. 6, 2018.

Our current medical system does not recognize or make use of herb-based medical remedies like cannabis, long proven to be safe and useful for patient use. Veterans who are VA patients can use cannabis in states that have passed medical cannabis. In Florida, we intend to make sure that veterans will be able to grow their own rather than be dependent upon the availability and low costs in programs designed by the state legislature and bureaucracy.

The needs and desires of millions of Florida patients who were not covered under the restricted list of patients eligible to obtain the tightly controlled cannabis products under our Medical Marijuana Amendment II have not been addressed by this new law we passed by 70% on Nov. 8, 2016. Patients must have the right to possess, use and grow their own cannabis for personal use.

Moreover, many citizens continue to be arrested, convicted and condemned for life with criminal records as felons, denied their right to vote, simply for cannabis related violations of law. Even patients in Florida, struggling to stay alive and/or to remain functioning day by day, are still being arrested.

Join with us! We need citizen volunteers to be successful!

We have groups up and running in all regions and many different counties in Florida, and more are starting up as the weeks go by.

We can be found on Facebook (Floridians For Freedom Alachua County Chapter) and our web page – and at a table outside the Winter Solstice Concert at UUFG tonight.

Christopher M. Kennard
North Central Florida FFF Volunteer Coordinator
4315 SE 10th Place Ocala, Florida 34471
(352) 375-0375 peacecmk@gmail.com
FFF Alachua or Marion County Chapter -
Facebook

To find, print out, sign, and send petitions:
FloridiansForFreedom.com.

Peace Love Light within and with us all and
always

Words no longer have meaning. — Antonin Scalia

Certified lunatics are shut up because of their proneness to violence when their pretensions are questioned; the uncertified variety are given the control of powerful armies, and can inflict death and disaster upon all sane men within their reach.

— Bertrand Russell



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Timothy Wessel, M.D.
Suzanne Zentko, M.D.



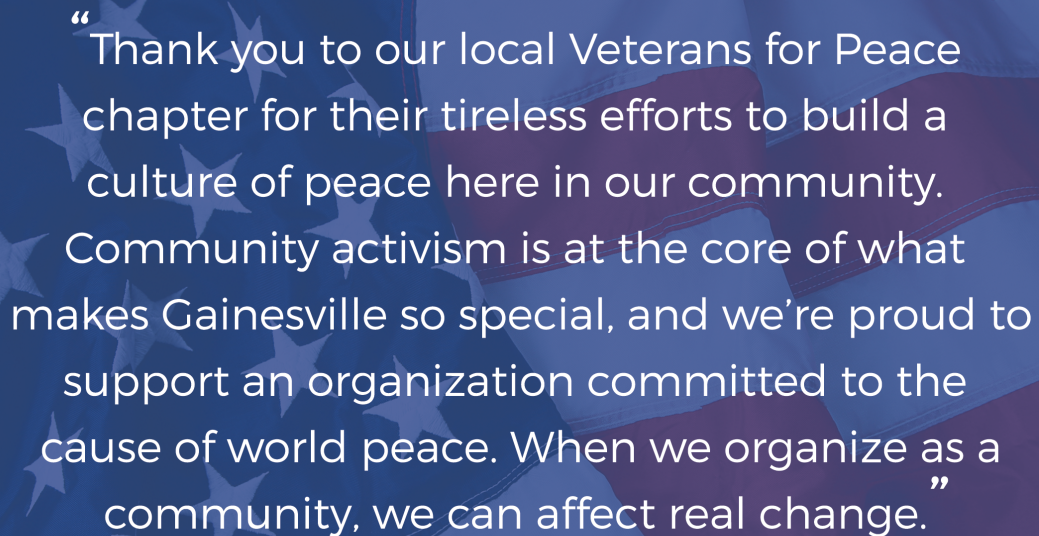
You end up with a president who can carry on perpetual wars all over the world, and a lot of them covert, without any accountability or democratic debate.

— Barack H. Obama



*From the
Curtis family*

THANK YOU TO OUR VETERANS



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

-Jay and Kathy Curtis

Happy Holidays!

International Day of Peace Celebration 2016

by Mary Bahr

International Day of Peace is celebrated each year on September 21st. It was originally organized by a Japanese mother of a victim of the nuclear bomb dropped by the US on Hiroshima at the end of World War. This is also the date for the Fall Equinox. Because the holiday fell during the week and is traditionally celebrated at noon on the 21st, we partnered with two University of Florida organizations, UF Mindfulness and UF Student CREATE.

Larry Schwandes of the Baha'i congregations, with some help from VFP member John Fullerton, prepared our international flag display, and Mary Bahr from VFP and the Unitarian congregation brought the portable peace pole for the flag ceremony. UF Mindfulness celebrated the day with an hour of meditation followed by our flag ceremony and a performance of appropriately antiestablishment music for peace by Bob McPeck and friends.

We held the ceremony on the Plaza of Americas in front of Library West on campus. Many students came to participate and many others stopped to ask about our flags lining the walkway to the library – some of them joined in as well. We held our simple flag ceremony around the peace pole at noon with participants holding the 20-plus flags brought by Larry Schwandes.

Our Baha'i master of ceremonies, Dr. Taraneh Darabi, former Gainesville United Nations Association president, called for each country's flag bearer to step forward and recite the phrase "May Peace Prevail on Earth." The flag ceremony was very successful as many international students joined us and were able to proclaim "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in their native tongues.

Thanks to Alice Primack and Ku Wang for providing a shuttle to campus and back home for the organizers of this event! Hope to see you next year at a flag ceremony which will fall on Thursday, September 21st. Come out and help us celebrate our common dream of world peace!

Fun fact: White people in the US used to identify as Poles, Germans, Russians, etc., not "white people."
— David Roberts

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VFP Financial Report 2016

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

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

Last year, we raised **\$14,474** from the Solstice and over the year, we have donated **\$5,640** of that money to groups we support.

We include this financial report each year so that we have full transparency with you, the people whose support makes our work possible.

We thank you.

Our donation list for 2016:

\$740 to the *Alachua County Labor Party's*

Committee of 100 to help their efforts to get universal health care enacted through House Bill HR676. www.floridalaborparty.org/alachua

\$750 to the *Civic Media Center*, an alternative library and space for progressive speakers, groups and events - www.civicmediacenter.org

\$500 to *Courage to Resist*, an organization that helps resisters in the military. couragetoresist.org/

\$750 to *The Gainesville Iguana*, Gainesville's progressive calendar and newsletter www.gainesvilleiguana.org/

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

\$500 to the *Theater of Memory*

\$200 to *Bikes 4 Vets*

www.thefreewheelproject.org/outreach

\$500 to *Cinema Verde*, <http://www.cinemaverde.org>

\$250 to *NkWanda Jah*

\$750 to *Regis Tremblay, Film Russia*

\$200 **Global Network of weapons and Nuclear power in Space**, www.space4peace.org

Total Donations = \$5,640

VFP Projects

The Peace Poetry Contest: - **\$1,526.64** (see article)

The Peace Scholarship Award - **\$1,500** (see article)

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

Total cost of VFP Projects = \$4,626.64

Other:

Veterans For Peace National - **\$1,120.00** dues www.veteransforpeace.org

VFP Magazine - **\$65**

DVDs - **\$315** - *Winter Soldier*

CDs **\$350** - *Extremist for Peace*

5th Ave Arts Festival Ad - **\$60**

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Only a fool maintains that victory is joy.
— Arturo Pérez-Reverte

Fine Print, 4 ads - \$500
 PO Box - \$86
 VFP Ads - \$400
 David Swanson travel - \$700
 David Swanson books - \$1,243.49
 UUFG Swanson event - \$100
 Gate repair - \$100
 UN Day - \$30
 Cinema Verde - \$250 - *Best Democracy Money can Buy.*
Other Costs: Total - \$5,319.49

Total spent for 2016 = \$15,586.13

Income:

Solstice 2015: \$14,474
 Books: \$632.50
 Dues: \$120
 Donations - \$350

Total income for 2016 = \$15,576.50

Balance = \$-9.63

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

We could not do this without the money that we raise from you, our friends, our guests, our supporters and our sponsors.

VFP Statement of Purpose:

We, having dutifully served our nation, do hereby affirm our greater responsibility to serve the cause of world peace. To this end we will work with others:

- 1) Toward increasing public awareness of the costs of war;*
- 2) To restrain our government from intervening overtly or covertly in the internal affairs of other nations;*
- 3) To end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons; and*
- 4) To abolish war as an instrument of international policy.*

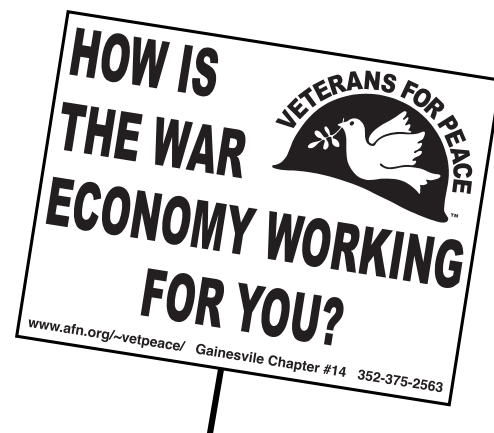
To achieve these goals, members of VFP pledge to use non-violent means to maintain an organization that is both democratic and open with the understanding that all members are trusted to act in the best interests of the group for the larger purpose of world peace.



EMILY FRANCK HOON PhD

Licensed
Clinical Psychologist

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Truth never damages
 a cause that is just.
 — Mohandas Gandhi

Support the people who support Veterans for Peace!

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

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

Page Pro-Peace Patrons

38 Actors Warehouse
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 10 Alachua County Labor Coalition
 47 Amelia's Restaurant
 20 Angel Gardens
 17 Artisans' Guild
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 53 Bageland
 50 Bead All About It
 32 Book Gallery West
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 43 Bread & Roses Women's Health Ctr
 63 The Byerly Family
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 83 Anne & Phil Haisley
 6 The Harn Museum of Art
 68 Adrian Hayes-Santos

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 84 Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville
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 52 Vine Organic Bakery & Café
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 22 The Ward Family
 32 Ward's Supermarket
 69 Helen K. Warren
 55 Wild Iris Books
 80 Marcy Wilson, AP
 65 Xerographic Copy Center

...continued from inside front cover

After a few months of time off for good behavior, VFP met again in September. Elizabeth King, volunteer coordinator for the Harn Museum, came to tell us about the current photography exhibit at the Harn (until the end of December - see page ____) called "Aftermath: The Fallout of War – America and the Middle East." Scott Camil and Bill Hutchinson spoke on a panel on "The Challenges of Homecoming" on September 25th and Paul Ortiz was the Speaker on December 8th on World War II literature with the exhibit focusing on Kurt Vonnegut.

In October, as the year began to turn around to its end, VFP began planning this concert again. The Veterans Service Office requested peace poems to print and hang on the walls at the inside facility at Kanapaha Memorial Park for Veterans Day. Peace Poetry organizer Sheila Payne emailed Kim Smith the PDF of this year's poetry book.

And in November - after the election - we all need each other and Vets For Peace more than ever. So turn down the lights and turn up the music as we celebrate the shortest day of the year in the hopes that the darkness of this time will lead us back into the light. In the words of one of my favorite solstice songs: "The world is always turning towards the morning."

**Sail on, sail on
O mighty ship of State
To the shores of need
Past the reefs of greed
Through the squalls of hate
Sail on, sail on, sail on, sail on
— Leonard Cohen**



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

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

*Love and
Peace on
Earth
from
Anne & Phil
Haisley*

ALTERNATIVE NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION & PEACE GATHERING:

December 30, 2016 — January 1, 2017

Details: go to ACTIONSouth.blogspot.com or email newsouthnetwork@gmail.com

Sponsored by: Pax Christi Florida - Nancy O'Byrne: obyrrnen@bellsouth.net, 904-461-9216; and
Anne Richter: arichter58@msn.com, 727-796-6539

Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice - Haven Whiteside: hw931@aol.com; and

John X. Linnehan: metanoia.mx@gmail.com, 352-468-1755

Ellen Thomas will give an update on the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

John X. Linnehan will present a cosmology based on Thomas Berry & Brian Swimme

Wendy Geiger will do a presentation on the Fellowship of Reconciliation and non-violence

**Fr. Bob Cushing will do a Saturday Morning Reflection outdoors, tying in
his recent pilgrimage along the El Camino in Spain.**

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

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

UU Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking

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

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