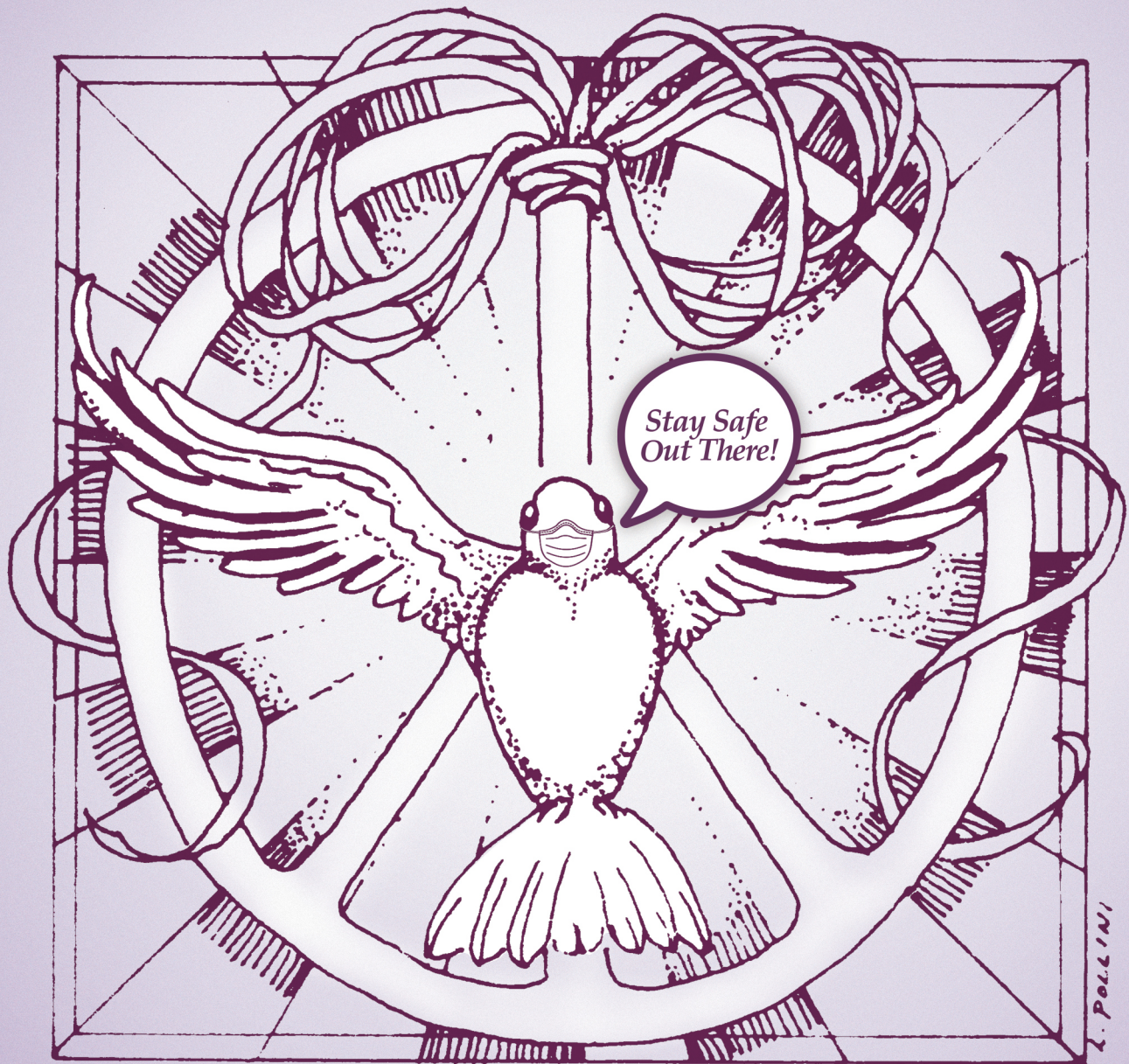


35th Annual  Winter Solstice

PEACE CONCERT

Music & Cheer



December 18th, 2021, 8:00 PM

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship | Gainesville, FL

Gainesville Veterans for Peace Activities in 2021

by Mary Bahr

Vets for Peace celebrates its 35th year of Solstice Winter Concerts this year. And we are doing it in person with some inside seating plus outdoor festival seating and streaming available for those who are still staying home. Wherever you are, we are celebrating the turning of the year together. May it be a good one!

VFP held its first meeting in 2021 on January 6th. Here are some of Scott Camil's comments on the events of that dark day.

"As you know, besides our meeting on Wednesday, January 6th, there was also the attempted coup by many Republican representatives and their supporting violent veditious insurrectionists, which included law enforcement and members of our military...They violated their oath of office at the least...They fomented distrust in and undermined our traditional peaceful transition of government... The fallout continues as many violent unpatriotic traitors are identified and arrested.

We all saw the difference between the way that the police treated the peaceful Black Lives Matters demonstrators and the way they treated the white traitors. White privilege was in full view."

On January 6th, Vets for Peace celebrated another successful Winter Solstice Concert. We shared our success with local organizations like the Alachua County Labor Coalition, the Civic Media Center, and national organizations like Courage to Resist. The money earned at our yearly concert is shared with the peace and justice community and used to fund VFP projects all year long. Thank you for your generosity!

We began to plan our Peace Scholarships and decided to do another virtual Memorial Mile with the many workers whose work has made it possible over the years. In February, Scott invited the workers to make a one to two-minute video about what the Memorial Mile means.

Scott reminded us at our February meeting that January 31st and February 1-2 were the 50th anniversary of the Winter Soldier Investigation. Waging Nonviolence described Winter Soldier, which Scott Camil participated in:

"John Kerry and Jane Fonda were both in Detroit, for the groundbreaking Winter Soldier Investigation. Nowadays, both are making headlines with actions on the climate crisis, but in February 1971, they were organizing with equal passion against a war. It should be seen as one of the proudest moments of their lives.

Neither were the stars of Winter Soldier: that honor goes to the more than 300 veterans who had crowded into the Howard Johnson hotel to bear witness to the fact that the Vietnam War was one long war crime."

In March, Melanie Hagen of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America gave an informative presentation on preventing veterans' suicide. About eleven veterans commit suicide using a firearm every day,

and veterans who keep guns in their homes are more at risk. The "Red Flag" law in Florida allows family members to get a court order to restrict someone's access to firearms temporarily.

The VFP peace picketers continued their regular Tuesday vigil through the winter of 2021. They gathered outdoors on the corner of 43rd Street and 16th Ave every Tuesday from 4:30 to 5:30 with antimilitarism messages and VFP banners. This picket is their 18th-year protesting war and militarism.

Work on the Memorial Mile presentation continued through March and April. One of our solstice musicians, Bob McPeck, and our videographer, Rob Rothschild, started to put together the video. In April, more people sorted photos and put together narratives about different parts of the Memorial Mile. They included the story of messages written by family and friends on tombstones. They told the story of the peace ribbon quilt project, which memorializes both American soldiers and Iraqi and Afghan civilians. And Cost of War shows how we pay for war in dollars, environment, health, democracy, and blood. The Memorial Mile story is coming together, worked on by many hands. Vets for Peace is paying our professional videographers to put together the final work with your money from our Winter Solstice Concert.

In May, Paul Ortiz announced three outstanding winners of the Peace Scholarships who received 1,000 dollars.

The Memorial Mile presentation, after many hours of work, is posted on the VFP website at <http://www.vfpgainesville.org/> where you can see it today!

After time off for good behavior over the summer, VFP met in September to plan this concert. At first, we planned another virtual show. Then, as infection rates fell, the Unitarians voted to open their sanctuary to masked, vaccinated visitors. So we have an in-person concert this year with some indoor seating, some outdoors, and streaming offered for those who stay home.

International Day of Peace was celebrated for a second year at the Harn by raking peace symbols into the sand of their Japanese Garden. VFP tabled at their reception for peace groups who participated in the ceremony.

In October, VFP heard a presentation from Paige Allison about the Deer Hart Lodge, a 5-acre retreat center off Hawthorne Road created for veterans and their supporters. The Lodge is a non-profit project aimed at healing the wounds of war, based on Buffalo Medicine and Edward Tick's approach to helping veterans. VFP plans to support this project in the coming year.

And finally, here we are for a celebration of another year working for peace and justice on Earth. *Thank you all for being a part of the VFP journey!*

Tonight's Program:

(may include but is not limited to)



PRE-SHOW WARM-UP

Cathy DeWitt, Mark Billman

CHEROKEE PEACE CHANT

Georg Suzuki

DRUMS OF PEACE

John Chambers, Rob Rothschild, Paige Allison, Bill Hutchinson, Robert Clark, David Beede

JOHN CHAMBERS

David Beede, Mark Billman

CATHY AND THE NEWCOMBS

Larry Newcomb, Jake Newcomb, Cathy DeWitt

REED FRANKLIN

POLYPHANY

Bob McPeck, Faye Baird, Fagan Arouh, Ric Kaestner, Aaron Culverson

QUARTERMOON

Carylee Pennington, Japhy Pennington, Tom Nelly, Raven, John Smith

*******Intermission*******

OTHER VOICES

Michelle Ott, Dan Tampas, Fagan Arouh, Alan Hill

A CHOIR OF HEAVENLY SEMI-ANGELS

You Know Who You Are

Master of Ceremonies—Bob Treadwater

Signer for the Deaf —Diane Delage

Peace Helmet Award



Over the last 34 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.

We started giving this award out publicly at the Solstice in 2008.

For the past 34 years, these stained-glass Peace Helmets have been created for us exclusively by McIntyre Stained Glass Studio. We are very grateful to Mary and Mike for their partnership with VFP. Not only did they make our Peace Helmets they also sold half of the tickets for each Solstice concert.

Mike and Mary are retiring, we will miss this partnership and we wish them the best.

→ 2020 Peace Helmet Award Recipients:

Greg Mullaley - All around help, whatever I need
Pablo Ortiz - Flies in from Washington State every year to help on Memorial Mile
Lisa McGaughran - Photographs all of our events & Volunteers for whatever we need

→ 2019 Peace Helmet Award Recipients:

Janet Davies - Memorial Mile - Afghanistan 2001-2007
Jack Eisenfeld - All around help, whatever I need
David & Judy Gold - Keep track of visited tombstones and place a flag on each one on Memorial Mile
James Ingle - Brings IBEW 1205 every year to help on Memorial Mile

→ 2018 Peace Helmet Award Recipients:

John and Jane Bishop - Special needs
Susan Hudgens - Great Ideas, Memorial Mile, Solstice
Rob Rothschild - Solstice Music, Setup and Takedown

→ 2017 Peace Helmet Award Recipients:

Doug Bernal - VFP Vice President is an integral part of all of our projects
Ken Cornell - Memorial Mile, Winter Solstice and anything else that I need help with
Roberta Gastmeyer - Memorial Mile, Winter Solstice, Sierra Club and anything else that I need help with



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→ 2016 Peace Helmet Award Recipient:
Stefan Broadus - Memorial Mile 2016

→ 2015 Peace Helmet Award Recipients:
Deborah Hendrix - Our Videographer
Dianne Delage - Our Solstice Signer

→ 2014 Peace Helmet Award Recipients:
Ruth Steiner - Memorial Mile
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
Anne and Phil Haisley - Book Inc - Book Lover's 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

→ 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 - Databases | **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** - Solstice
Marybeth Hyer - VFP | **Bobby Ing** - VFP | **John Koch** - VFP | **Julie Netzer** - VFP | **Bill Salmon** - VFP | **Sherry Steiner** - VFP | **Bill Warrick** - VFP | **Charles Willett** - VFP

Peace Helmet Award Recipients over the last 34 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.)

Open Letter to the Gainesville Community:

It sounds impossible to us but it is true...

Early next year we are closing down McIntyre Stained Glass Studio & Art Gallery and retiring. For real.

We initially worked out of our home for a few years, then took a big leap of faith and opened our downtown stained glass studio in 1980 with a good bit of trepidation. At the time we didn't know if it would last six months or ten years. Nineteen years later, in 1999, we moved the shop to Thornebrook Village and added our all-local-artists gallery. It may be that Gainesville is the only place we could have made this work for nearly so long. Our community (that would

be you!) has allowed and encouraged us to pursue our passion for over 40 years. Wow! The best part of it for us has been the connections and friendships we've formed through the studio. We are unbelievably grateful for the chance to get to know and work with so many of you - the amazing artists, customers, and students who have helped and supported us for all those years.

So this is a great big "Thank You" to any and all of you for giving us this amazing experience! We're staying in town since we can't imagine any place else we'd rather live, and hope to see you around soon.

*With gratitude,
Mary and Mike McIntyre
McIntyre Stained Glass Studio & Art Gallery*

Special Thanks to:

The Members & Supporters of Veterans for Peace
Rob Rothschild • Bill Hutchinson • Bob McPeck
Diane Delage • Ken Cornell • Peter Theoktisto
McIntyre Stained Glass • Deborah Hendrix • Linda Kemp
Samuel Proctor Oral History Program • Pierce Butler
WGOT • WUBA • Roberta Gastmeyer • Chris Ott
John Papoulis • Mary Bahr • Jarred Elrod
Paul Ortiz & Sheila Payne • Sherry Steiner • East End Eatery
Joe @ Hoggetowne Music • Jane & John Bishop • Jessica Newman
Tuesday Afternoon Peace Picketers • Whistleblowers



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☎ Doctors Without Borders: 1-888-392-0392
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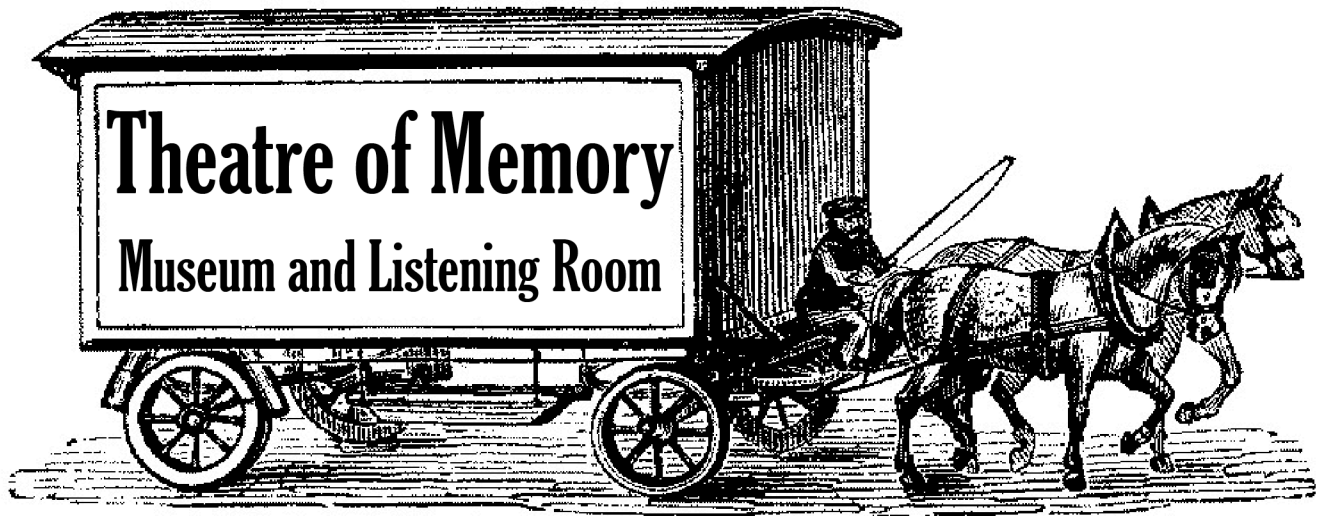
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The logo for WUBA 88.1 FM Radio Station. It features a vintage-style microphone on the left. To the right of the microphone, the call letters "WUBA" are in a large, bold, sans-serif font with a red outline. Below "WUBA" is "88.1 FM" in a similar font. Underneath that is "Radio Station" in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the station name is the tagline "Listen and be part of our community" in a smaller font. Below the tagline is the website address "www.wubaradio.org" in blue. At the bottom is the text "High Springs-Alachua and around The World". To the right of the call letters "WUBA" are three red, curved, swoosh-like lines. The entire logo is set against a white background with a red horizontal bar at the bottom.

“But the thing about remembering is that you don’t forget.”

— Tim O’Brien

Alachua County Peace Poetry Contest

by Scott Camil

Reading all of the poems submitted to the Peace Poetry Contest each year is one of the enjoyable projects that we look forward to. We love to see what our future leaders think about Peace.

Veterans For Peace did not have a Peace Poetry contest this year. We were asked by the teachers to hold off because they were so busy adjusting to changes due to the Covid Pandemic. *Fear not! We'll be sharing excellent new selections from 2020 participants throughout this program—we hope you all enjoy!*

Hopefully in the future, things will get back to normal and we can resume this extremely rewarding program.



Tina Certain
Board Member

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PEACE

*Peace is eating, eating is fun.
I like a hot dog with a delicious bun.
But don't pollute, it's toxic.
Soon it'll turn chaotic.
Plastic is bad, it makes animals sad.
It makes animals die.
Soon the ocean will be dry.
Don't kill deer because they are the ones with fear.
It's against the law to kill, so be aware.
Be good to the Earth and nice to the trees.
Once in a while they'll give you a breeze.
Don't waste paper, energy, and don't use trucks with smoke,
Soon the whole world will be broke!*

Simka Cruz-Davis, Grade 3, Jordan Glen School

Veterans for Peace thanks

Linda Kemp

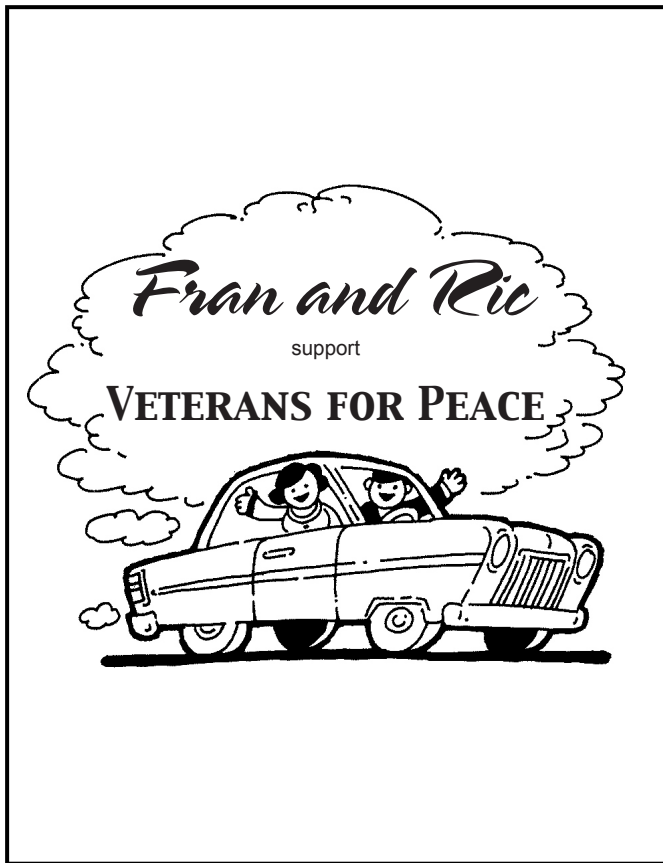
*for the beautiful artwork
on the cover of this program.*

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WIND**

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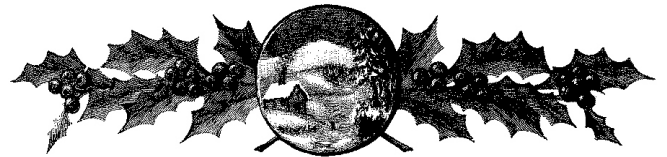
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FOR SOME REASON, THE MOST VOCAL CHRISTIANS AMONG US NEVER MENTION THE BEATITUDES. BUT, OFTEN WITH TEARS IN THEIR EYES, THEY DEMAND THAT THE TEN COMMANDMENTS BE POSTED IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS. AND OF COURSE, THAT'S MOSES, NOT JESUS. I HAVEN'T HEARD ONE OF THEM DEMAND THAT THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT, THE BEATITUDES, BE POSTED ANYWHERE. "BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL" IN A COURTROOM?

"BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS" IN THE PENTAGON? **GIVE ME A BREAK!**

—KURT VONNEGUT, JR.

Memorial Day Weekend Tombstone Display

by Scott Camil

For the past 14 years, Gainesville Veterans For Peace has set up a display of tombstones on Memorial Day weekend here in Gainesville.

Veterans for Peace feels that the American losses in Afghanistan and Iraq cannot be adequately understood with facts and figures alone. The visual impact of the tombstones conveys the reality of these numbers. Each tombstone includes the soldier's name, date of death, age, branch of service, rank, and hometown. Some of them have written messages on them from loved ones who visited their friend or family member's tombstone.

Now that our government has ended our wars against Afghanistan and Iraq, we will no longer be setting up our Memorial Day Weekend display of tombstones on Memorial Mile.

Memorial Day Weekend 2022 will be the last time we will have an in-person presence on Memorial Mile. We will not set up the tombstone display but we will have a table at the intersection of NW 8th AVE. and 31st St. with volunteers during the day to interact with the public. We will update the books of casualties and people can write messages in the memory books.

The Virtual Memorial Day Weekend Tour will remain available on our website: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lhwe9FL_Azo&t=15s

We are very thankful to Rob Rothschild, Cathy DeWitt and Bob McPeck for putting this together. Bob also wrote "The Ways Of War" for this event.

The History of our Memorial Day Weekend Tombstone Display

→ In 2006, I saw a film called Arlington West. The film was about "temporary cemeteries" set up on the beach in Santa Barbara and Santa Monica, California which served as memorials to those American service members who have been killed in Iraq.

The film featured 105 interviews, mostly with young soldiers who served in Iraq, talking about their experiences there. It also featured members of Gold Star Families for Peace, whose sons or daughters died in Iraq. One of those parents is Cindy Sheehan, a Founder of Code Pink.

I was very moved by the reaction of the public to these displays. I thought that we could do this in Gainesville on 8th Ave, a road between 2 parks, Westside and Loblolly Parks.

I brought the Idea to our chapter and people said yes. We decided that we would set up our display of

tombstones every Memorial Day weekend and include both Afghanistan and Iraq until both of these wars ended.

→ 2007 was our first year. We started the tombstones on the SE corner of NW 8th Ave and 34th st. To care for the tombstones and interact with the public, we set up 3 tents, 1 on either end and 1 in the middle. The display was up for all of Memorial Day weekend.

We had 100 volunteers who worked from 11 PM until 7 AM setting up the display. At the end of the weekend, we took down the tombstones, cleaned and repacked them for the next year.

→ In 2008, we crossed over to the north side of 8th Ave. We continued this through 2015.

→ In 2016, the City of Gainesville decided to change the design of the road against our objections. The public outcry convinced the City to change the design to allow for more grass. The new design replaced some of the grass we used with cement on the south side of the street.

→ In 2017, we set up the display with less room and more crowding of the tombstones. Now we had to change the spacing between the tombstones so that they would fit in the limited space we had left.

→ In 2018, we cancelled due to bad weather.

→ In 2019, the City of Gainesville renamed this section of 8th Ave "Memorial Mile" and placed historical markers at both ends. We set up again.

→ In 2020 and 2021, due to Covid, we had virtual tours. Thank you very much, Mary Bahr, for creating the 2020 tour. <http://www.vfpgainesville.org>

We are very thankful to Rob Rothschild, Cathy DeWitt and Bob McPeck for putting the 2021 tour together. Bob also wrote the song "The Ways Of War" for this event.

→ In 2007, we put up 470 tombstones for American soldiers killed in Afghanistan. Now in 2021, there have been 2465 American deaths. 1995 American Soldiers have been killed since we started.

→ In 2007, we put up 3906 tombstones for American killed in Iraq.

→ In 2021, there have been 4586 American deaths. 680 American soldiers have been killed since we started.

→ In total, 2675 American soldiers have been killed since Veterans For Peace started our Memorial Day Weekend project in 2007. We can see nothing that these deaths have bought for our country. I want to thank all of the volunteers who over the years have worked on this project and made it possible. We are thankful to James Ingle and IBEW 1205 who have provided us with many of the

volunteers. These last years would not have been possible without the infusion of help from their Union. We very much appreciate the Solidarity they shared with us.

Please take a Virtual Tour. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lhwe9FL_Azo&t=15s or at <http://www.vfpgainesville.org/>

Stay Safe

"Veterans for Peace feels that the American losses in Afghanistan and Iraq cannot be adequately understood with facts and figures alone. The visual impact of the tombstones conveys the reality of these numbers."



Memorial Mile Significance, by David Gold:

I am writing about the meaning of the Veterans for Peace Memorial Mile Event held once a year on 8th Avenue in Gainesville for many years. I had been in very heavy battles as an infantry soldier in the Vietnam War in 1969. I spent many days dragging and carrying dead American bodies — until I was medically evacuated. I was extremely fortunate to have survived.

Since returning from combat in Vietnam, I have been an activist for peace. During this time, the United States - the best country - has gotten into way too many unnecessary wars. The Memorial Mile on 8th Avenue demonstrates and reminds

"I had been in very heavy battles as an infantry soldier in the Vietnam War in 1969. I spent many days dragging and carrying dead American bodies — until I was medically evacuated. I was extremely fortunate to have survived."

everyone about the deaths and horrors that come from war. It is always important to remind everyone that war must not be taken lightly. War should be avoided at all costs. That is the message of Memorial Mile.

... continued on next page →



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Flags on Memorial Mile— transcript from the the virtual Memorial Mile event, by Judy Gold

I have been working with the Veterans for Peace Memorial Mile since around the beginning. My husband, David, and I have the honor of putting American flags on all tombstones which have been identified as having "local interest." That is, the flagged tombstones are tombstones which have been visited during the Memorial Mile weekend. This makes these tombstones easy to locate and identify. Every year, we arrive at Memorial after all the tombstones have been set up. The sky is still dark; Memorial Mile Road is quiet and peaceful. It's just us and the tombstones. As we walk the mile, I feel the souls of each person as I read each name. Like Gettysburg, Memorial Mile feels hallowed to me. I think of the families and loved ones, still grieving their losses.

*For me, war is never the solution. NOT EVER!
Hatred based on land borders or belief systems
is never just.*

*I never understand why governments and
factions choose war as the option to
resolve differences.*

I value life.

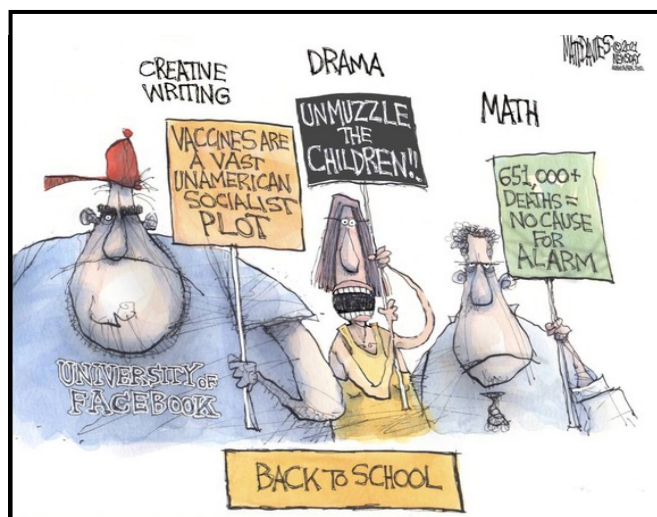
Memorial Mile is a deeply powerful display of the people who died in the United States wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, in military service. So many lives lost. I remember each as a person living a full and happy life. I grieve for their lost lives, and I grieve for our nation which has strayed from its original, core values of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.



Some may see it as an odd pairing that a veterans group devoted to peace, and the Labor movement are as natural allies as they are. The areas where our goals overlap may not be immediately obvious, but they are deep and significant. One of VFP's main purposes is to "Seek justice for veterans and victims of war". That is a group of people that are made up overwhelmingly by the working class. It is mostly the same people that the Labor movement strives to protect from injustice and exploitation at work. People, be they soldiers or workers, that are too often put in harm's way, with little concern for their safety or health, and left to fend for themselves once they are no longer needed or profitable. At their core, both Vets for Peace and the Labor movement exist to try and change that. But of course, doing so is no easy task.

Frederick Douglass famously said "Power concedes nothing without demand". As people all too familiar with violence, and who aim for peace, that leaves us in a conundrum. How do we demand that the powerful, who are willing to use violence, give concessions without resorting to violence ourselves? Our answer has been through collective action and working-class solidarity. When we stand together and use our leverage, as a movement, we have been able to make gains towards the justice that veterans and workers are due. By something as simple and powerful as standing together. I am thankful for the work that the local Labor movement and VFP has been able to do together and I look forward to all the things that we will continue to accomplish together.

In solidarity,
James Ingle
*President, International Brotherhood of
 Electrical Workers local 1205*



PEACE

*Peace is like broken house
If you fix some parts of the house, some parts break
It loops
If breaking continues, it will be end of the house
Also end of the world
Peace is strange
People like peace
They hate peace, too
Because they can live better when they win the fight
If this continues, it will be end of the house
Also, end of the world*

Seung Soo Baik (Emmett), Grade 6, Fort Clarke Middle School



*The River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding
is grateful for Vets for Peace and their
constancy and dedication to growing peace
in community, country and world.*

Scott's Reflections on 2021

by Scott Camil

In March of 2020, we started our self-quarantine due to the Covid pandemic. We are now at the end of 2021 and we are still in quarantine.

Sherry and I have had all of our vaccinations and the booster. We wear masks when we go anywhere and people who visit must wear masks and have had their vaccinations.

We have conducted all of our meetings using Zoom. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't and has been somewhat frustrating. I find it harder to get things done than when we meet in person.

The Attempted Coup D'Etat

On January 6 we witnessed the insurrection. This sedition was led by trump, republican senators, congressmen and white trash. It reminded me of stories that my grandmother told me when I was young about how the Nazis came to power. These right wing fascists called themselves patriots while trying to destroy our system of government.

President trump called on the radical right to attack the Capital, stop the vote count and reject the election results. His followers trashed and looted the capital. Pipe bombs and Molotov cocktails were found.

The House of Representatives impeached trump for a historical 2nd time, the only president in our country's history to be impeached twice.

"There have been over 400 voter suppression bills passed in 49 states. If the republicans can't win an honest election, they will change the rules."

To convict, we needed a two-thirds vote of the senate and fell 10 votes short; trump was protected by republicans. The House voted to form a commission to investigate the insurrection but it was blocked by the republicans in the Senate. So much for the so-called tough on crime republicans.

Many of the rioters were listed in the FBI's terrorist database, mostly as white supremacists. At least 702 people have been charged with crimes related to the insurrection.

"Jacob Chansley, the spear-carrying Jan. 6 rioter whose horned fur hat, bare chest and face paint made him one of the more recognizable figures in the assault on the Capitol, was sentenced Wednesday to 41 months in prison." (AP)

The rioters were fueled by 4 years of the corporate media's assault on the truth, which reminds me of a book I read in college called "1984."

Top republicans were involved in many meetings and briefings in the planning of the insurrection. They included: GOP Reps. Marjorie Taylor Greene (Ga.), Paul Gosar (Ariz.), Lauren Boebert (Colo.), Mo Brooks (Ala.), Madison Cawthorn (N.C.), Andy Biggs (Ariz.) and Louie Gohmert (Texas.). Gosar even floated the idea that there would be a presidential pardon.

... continued on next page →

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According to the law that prohibits overt political activities while holding federal office, the Hatch Act, at least 13 senior trump administration officials repeatedly and willfully violated the law (See more: "Who's who in the Jan. 6 committee subpoenas" <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/11/10/whos-who-jan-6-committee-subpoenas>).

Who funded the insurrection? Reports estimated the rally only cost about half a million dollars,

primarily funded by a \$300,000 donation from Publix supermarket heir Julie Jenkins Fancelli to Women for America First, the 501(c)(4) nonprofit "dark money" group that submitted the rally's permit records to the National Park Service. (see more at <https://www.opensecrets.org/news/2021/10/details-of-the-money-behind-jan-6-protests-continue-to-emerge/>)

This assault on our democracy and the truth showed the world who we really are, a country full of people mired in Fascism, Racism and corporate greed, which they try to legitimize by hiding behind the flag and the bible. They are the epitome of evil.

At an event of the new Christian right's who's who of Christian nationalists, anti-vaccine protesters, trump loyalists and conspiracy theorists, trump's national security advisor Michael Flynn has suggested that the US only needs 1 religion. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/religion/2021/11/19/michael-flynn-alex-jones-feucht>.

During this attempted coup d'etat, 5 people died and 138 police officers were injured. Within 7 months, 4 of the responding police officers committed suicide. The coup d'etat failed, but looking at how half of our representatives have responded, it seems likely to happen again.

There have been over 400 voter suppression bills passed in 49 states. If the republicans can't win an

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honest election, they will change the rules.

Unfortunately, for us there is no protection from the republican controlled Supreme Court. This republican Supreme Court found no problem with gerrymandering.

Gerrymandering is a tactic used to dilute the power of the opposition party by changing the boundaries of the districts and packing the opposition into a few districts. This leaves more districts for their party. A state can have more Democrats than Republicans and at the same time have more Republican districts. You fill the Democratic districts with Democrats who have a majority of say 98% to 2% Republicans, and you have the Republican controlled districts with a small majority, say 52% Republicans and 48% Democrats.

Indeed, the Stockholm-based organization International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, <https://www.idea.int> has labeled the US as "A Backsliding Democracy". Their Global State of Democracy Report 2021, says more countries are moving toward authoritarianism than Democracy.

Climate Change and Health

With the senate split 50/50, Democratic Senator Manchin of West Virginia has been able to make sure that the fight against greenhouse gases will not hurt the coal industry, severely hampering any chances of getting the greenhouse gases under control. He has been aided by Democratic Senator Sinema of Arizona, who also voted against raising the minimum wage and skipped a procedural vote on forming a committee to investigate the January attack on the US Capitol.

According to the World Heart Organization, countries must set ambitious national climate commitments if they are to sustain a healthy and green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has shone a light on the intimate and delicate links between humans, animals and our environment," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. "The same unsustainable choices that are killing our planet are killing people. WHO calls on all countries to commit to decisive action at COP26 to limit global

Commissioner Harvey Ward supports the outstanding work of Vets for Peace

warming to 1.5°C – not just because it's the right thing to do, but because it's in our own interests. WHO's new report highlights 10 priorities for safeguarding the health of people and the planet that sustains us."

- 1 *Commit to a healthy recovery. Commit to a healthy, green and just recovery from COVID-19.*
- 2 *Our health is not negotiable. Place health and social justice at the heart of the UN climate talks.*
- 3 *Harness the health benefits of climate action. Prioritize those climate interventions with the largest health-, social- and economic gains.*
- 4 *Build health resilience to climate risks. Build climate resilient and environmentally sustainable health systems and facilities, and support health adaptation and resilience across sectors.*
- 5 *Create energy systems that protect and improve climate and health. Guide a just and inclusive transition to renewable energy to save lives from air pollution, particularly from coal combustion. End energy poverty in households and health care facilities.*
- 6 *Reimagine urban environments, transport and mobility. Promote sustainable, healthy urban design and transport systems, with improved land-use, access to green and blue public space, and priority for walking, cycling and public transport.*
- 7 *Protect and restore nature as the foundation of our health. Protect and restore natural systems, the foundations for healthy lives, sustainable food systems and livelihoods.*

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

— Mahatma Gandhi

SEASON'S GREETINGS AND WISHES FOR
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- 8 *Promote healthy, sustainable and resilient food systems. Promote sustainable and resilient food production and more affordable, nutritious diets that deliver on both climate and health outcomes.*
- 9 *Finance a healthier, fairer and greener future to save lives. Transition towards a wellbeing economy.*
- 10 *Listen to the health community and prescribe urgent climate action. Mobilize and support the health community on climate action.*

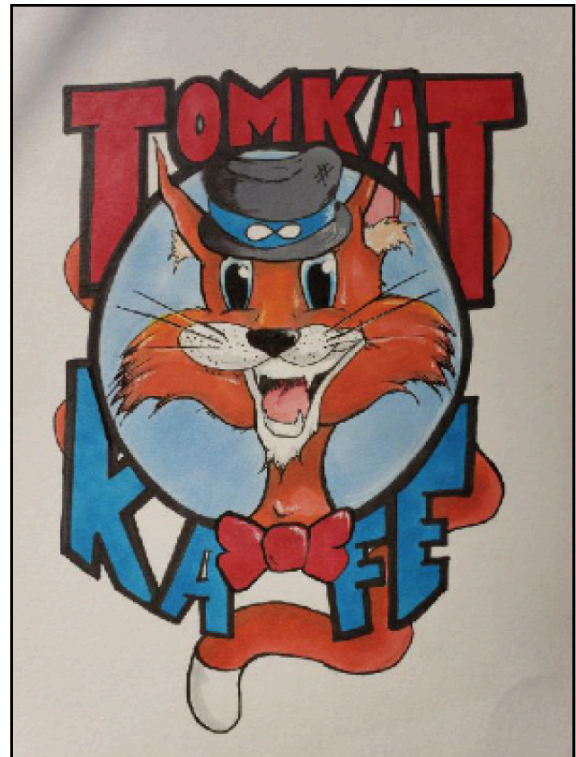
<https://www.who.int/news/item/11-10-2021-who-s-10-calls-for-climate-action-to-assure-sustained-recovery-from-covid-19>

Here in Florida, our governor does not support the wearing of masks and has even brought suits against the counties that have mandated masks for our school children.

Refusing to accept scientific facts and procedures that will protect our children is really criminal. Florida is ranked 3rd for the states with the most Covid deaths.

Our governor just appointed Joseph Ladapo as new state surgeon general and Ladapo does not believe in science, vaccinations or wearing masks. Our governor clearly puts politics before the health and safety of the public.

The primary duty of citizens in a Democracy is to control their government. Our citizens are failing in this duty and so Fascism is on the rise. If we don't make serious changes soon, there will come a time when it will be late to save this floundering Democracy.



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As many of us are getting up there in years, we may start thinking about our final destination. We are truly fortunate to have Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery here in the Gainesville area where one can be laid to rest in a beautiful natural area, nurturing the land rather than poisoning it as our final loving act for our planet. I've made my reservation at PCCC, solidifying my intention to be buried there.

But what happens between the time of death and arrival at the cemetery? Many people currently buried at Prairie Creek were cared for and then brought there by friends and family in their own private vehicles. This is referred to as having a "home funeral" and it bypasses the high cost of commercial funeral home services while allowing for a shared meaningful experience with the deceased and his/her surrounding community. This hands-on loving act by the community promotes acceptance and healing, and can be transformative for those present and potentially for the deceased as well.

Having a "home funeral" is relatively simple to accomplish as long as one knows how to do it in compliance with the State of Florida rules and regulations. This is where Final Friends can help. With our knowledge and resources, having a legal home funeral is extremely easy for any group to accomplish, with no background or experience required. We do this for our community as a free service, and there is no charge from the State of Florida for having a home funeral, as well. And yes, it is still possible to have a safe home funeral during this pandemic.

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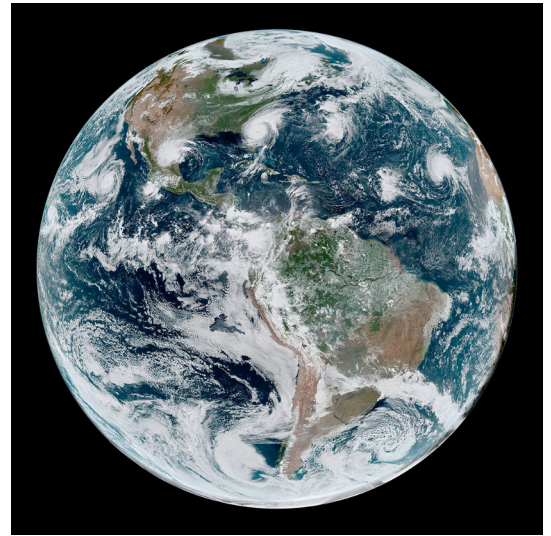
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Harvey Budd and Ilene Silverman





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ONE FUTURE

The greatness of America lies not in being more enlightened than any other nation, but rather in her ability to repair her faults.

— Alexis de Tocqueville

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It isn't always easy to find gratitude in the midst of the grief, loss, and injustice served each day by those in power. But today, UUJME invites you to take a moment to consider the progress made in our struggle for Palestinian human rights. UUJME is grateful for new strong support from allies in the UU world, including the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, which this year called for a stop to US military aid to Israel due to violations of both Palestinian human rights and international law. UUJME is also grateful for renewed relationships with the UU United Nations Office, with whom we expect to work together toward Palestinian human rights in the very near future.

UUJME is also grateful for the success of our General Assembly 2021 programming, including our

Liberation Theology workshop and the widespread support of our Action of Immediate Witness calling for the withholding of US military aid to Israel. While our Action of Immediate Witness was not officially adopted at GA, it garnered serious support and made space for critical conversations about Unitarian Universalism's evolving position on Palestinian human rights.

Finally, UUJME is endlessly grateful for YOUR continuing support. We cannot do this work without you. Tomorrow, November 30, is Giving Tuesday, and we invite you to visit our Facebook page to make a donation. **If you donate at or soon after 8 am Eastern Time, there is a chance of receiving matching funds from Facebook.** You can also make a recurring donation or donate in a loved one's

name on our website. If you'd like to offer to be a matching donor for our website based donations, please reply and let us know. Website donations will use our new website payment processor, Stripe. If you prefer to use PayPal with or without a credit card you can still do so here.



*In peace,
Rosemary Cohen,
Communications Manager*

The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program

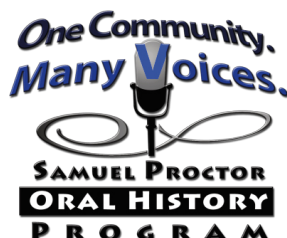
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Our mission is to gather, preserve, and promote living histories of individuals from all walks of life.

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.



To quickly cut greenhouse gas emissions, stop investing in new fossil-fuel infrastructure

by Roberta Gastmeyer

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently released a report which clearly summarizes our desperate situation: we are already feeling the effects of climate change and the heat waves, droughts, and floods will only get worse unless we accelerate our transition away from oil, coal, and gas.

The number of coal-burning power plants in the U.S. has declined significantly. Unfortunately, coal has been replaced mostly by fossil gas, which now supplies three-fourths of the electricity generation in Florida. The oil and gas industry promotes fossil gas as “natural” and “clean”, but recent scientific studies show that methane, the greenhouse gas (GHG) released during the production, transportation, and burning of “natural” gas, has 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide over the first 20 years after entering the atmosphere.

To quickly cut GHG emissions, we must stop investing in new fossil-fuel infrastructure. This includes everything from gas pipelines and power plants to household appliances and lawnmowers. Whenever we replace a machine, it must be with an

electric machine. We must do this while simultaneously increasing clean, renewable energy production to power all those electric machines.

Recognizing the urgency, cities across the nation have started banning gas equipment in new buildings. In turn, the gas industry, recognizing the threat, pushed a bill through the 2021 Florida legislative session, SB 1128, which preempts similar actions in our state. However, there are still things we can do in Alachua County to reduce our reliance on fossil gas.

Most of GRU’s gas-fired power plants are old and due to be retired within the next couple of decades. It is critical to replace those old plants with truly clean, renewable energy generation. Advances in solar and battery storage are making this feasible and affordable.

Regrettably, GRU has been expanding gas infrastructure in another way - promoting the purchase of gas appliances by advertising fossil gas as a “clean” fuel and providing rebates of up to \$1,600 for new gas ranges, hot water heaters, and dryers. This is the exact opposite of what we need to be doing.

The Gainesville City Commission recently voted that GRU can no longer use the misleading word “clean” in their gas promotions but allowed the rebates, 88% of which go to developers of new neighborhoods, to continue. The good news is that our Utility Advisory Board has been asked to propose some incentives which could reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help low-income households rather than encouraging more fossil fuel use.

The League supported the City Commission’s Declaration of Climate Emergency and its resolution to be powered by 100% renewable electricity and net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. To stave off the worst effects of climate change, we must immediately move beyond declarations and resolutions to concrete actions. The first step is to stop all additional fossil fuel investments. Instead, we need to invest in technology that will reduce electricity use and increase renewable energy production. This will create a more resilient and affordable energy system while protecting frontline and vulnerable communities.

Roberta Gastmeyer, Co-chair LWVAC Natural Resource Committee

Lynn Frazier, President of the League of Women Voters of Alachua County



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2021 Gainesville Veterans for Peace Scholarship Recipients

by Paul Ortiz

Each year, Gainesville Veterans for Peace awards three college/vocational scholarships to student applicants from Alachua County who demonstrate academic excellence as well as a commitment to social justice and nonviolent social change. Due to generous community support of our chapter, we were able to award three scholarships of \$1,000 each.

This year's recipients of Gainesville VFP's Peace Scholarships were impressive. Each of the winners maintained outstanding grade-point averages while engaging in activism and voluntarism on an array of important causes. These were the recipients of the 2021 Gainesville Veterans for Peace Scholarship:

Kyra Powell

Kyra Powell is enrolled as a Pre-Med student at Florida A&M University where she maintains a 3.75 grade point average. She is the fundraising chair of the Black Women in Medicine Club at Florida A&M. Kyra has been a longtime volunteer organizer with the NAACP and was active in the Black Lives Matter and Black Voters Matter movements in 2020 in Tallahassee. She writes that "Not only was I on the frontline protesting, but I also made sure to make extra signs for others to use at the protests, make donations, educate those around me and sign multiple petitions." As a first-time voter in 2020 she also volunteered with the NAACP's "Get Out the Vote" and "Get Counted" Census initiatives in Gainesville. Kyra plans to attend medical school upon graduation and embark on a career as an anesthesiologist.

Javari Marquis Seabrooks

Javari Seabrooks is a senior at PK Yonge Developmental Research School. He plans to attend Santa Fe College in the fall. He has volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House, St. Frances House Emergency Shelter, Gainesville Community Ministry and the Tech Team Ministry with his church. In 2017, Javari received the Rosa Parks Quiet Courage Committee's "Legacy Bearer" Award for writing a 300-word essay on how the ideals of Rosa Parks can be used today to challenge social injustice. During the Global Pandemic, Javari taught elders in his church how to use Zoom and other digital technologies to help them avoid feeling isolated and alone. Javari plans to major in sports journalism.

Patrick Warren

Patrick Warren is graduating from Lofton High School and he plans to attend Santa Fe College. He volunteers regularly at the North Central Florida Public Charter school with at-risk and drop-out recovery students in Alachua County. Of his experiences, Patrick writes, "I have learned that many students right here in Alachua County are not being given the same equitable opportunities to learn and succeed...The education of all students and the ability to graduate with an actual high school diploma is such an important matter to me, no matter who the student is or what their past may have held." Patrick plans to earn a bachelor's degree in Information Technology.

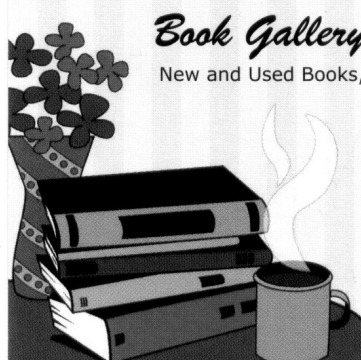
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Any intelligent fool can make things bigger, more complex, and more violent. It takes a touch of genius - and a lot of courage - to move in the opposite direction.

— *Albert Einstein*

Veterans for Peace 8th Annual College Scholarship Program for Alachua County Students

***Deadline for Application,
April 27, 2022***

Gainesville Veterans for Peace Chapter 14 is excited to announce our 8th annual Peace Scholarship Program for the spring of 2022. We are awarding three college scholarships of \$1,000 each for high school seniors, college students or adults with a commitment to activities including: social justice and peace, Black Lives Matter, conflict resolution and/or nonviolent social change.

Veterans for Peace created these scholarships to give financial support to students in Alachua County, Florida who are planning careers in pursuit of a world of social justice and equality.

The majority of Veterans for Peace scholarships awarded thus far have went to first-generation college students as well as to community college students. Students enrolled in vocational, apprenticeship and career training programs are eligible to apply.

Santa Fe College student Doug Bernal, a recipient of a 2016 Peace Scholarship, 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."

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 be: 1) a resident of Alachua County; 2) 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 or apprenticeship program in the United States for the 2022-2023 academic year. Or: 2) a student currently enrolled in one of these programs 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 personal 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:

Paul Ortiz

C/O Veterans for Peace Scholarship Program

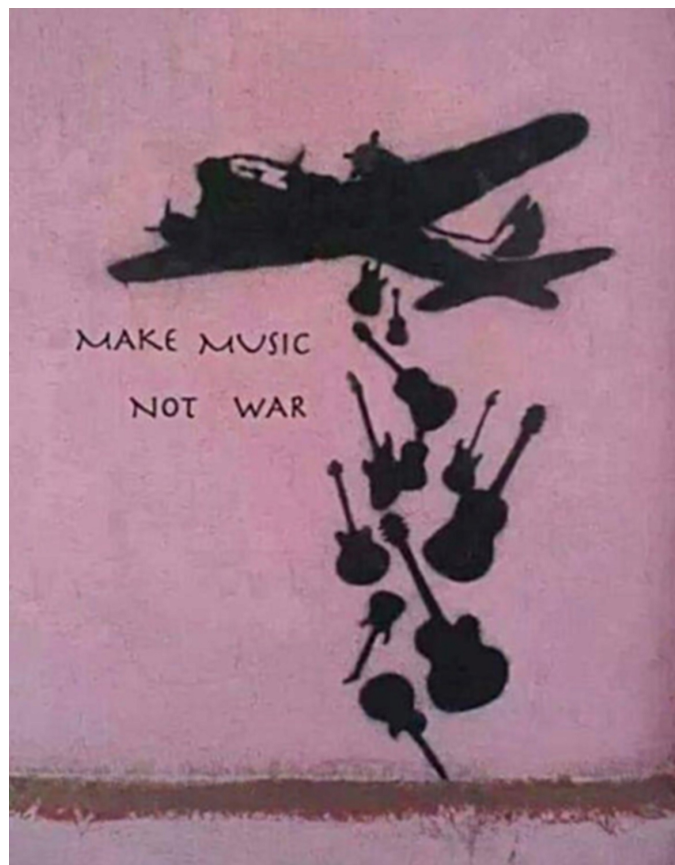
2115 NW 7th Lane

Gainesville, Florida 32603

The postmarked deadline for the scholarship application is April 27, 2022.

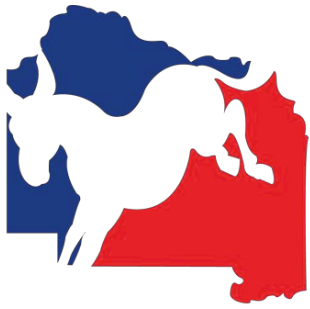
Peace Scholarship recipients will be announced during the first week of May. For questions about the Peace Scholarship, contact Paul Ortiz at: ortizprof@gmail.com or 831-334-0131.

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



*Thank you, Veterans for Peace.
From Our Family to Yours.
Blessed are the Peacemakers!
Ken, Angela, Chris, Taylor and Connor*





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for working over 35 years to
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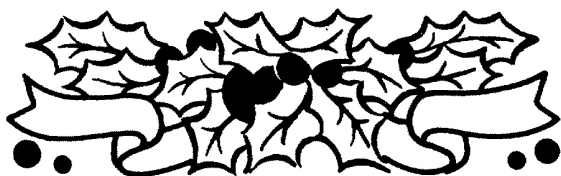
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“Freedom is wasted on people who think coughing on people is freedom.”

— Anand Giridharadas

One could make people believe the most fantastic statements one day, and trust that if the next day they were given irrefutable proof of their falsehood, they would take refuge in cynicism; instead of deserting the leaders who had lied to them, they would protest that they had known all along that the statement was a lie and would admire the leaders for their superior tactical cleverness.

— Hannah Arendt



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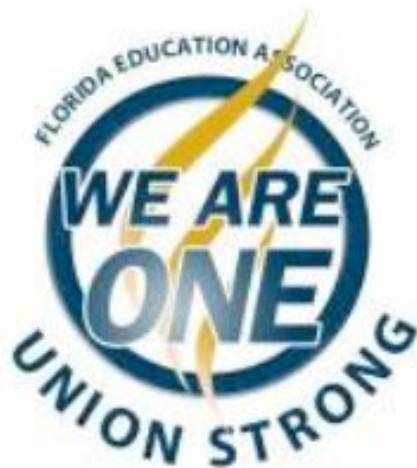
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— **BANKSY**

Fighting Housing Discrimination with Nonviolent Direct Action and Organizing

by Paul Ortiz, Renz Torres, & Sheila Payne

The state of affordable housing in Alachua County continues to deteriorate. Working class tenants are being crushed by rising rents. The Alachua County Labor Coalition (ACLC) has been working with area tenants and a coalition of organizations on the issues of renters' rights, affordable housing and fighting evictions during the global pandemic. The Labor Coalition is committed to building an eviction resistance network in Alachua County. Eviction resistance is one of the most direct expressions of mutual aid and the solidarity built stopping one's neighbors from being kicked out of their residence was the foundation stone of the making of the New Deal in the 1930s.

The power that landlords wield in the United States is so formidable that banks, investment firms and corporations are rapidly buying up rental properties throughout the United States. Gainesville is no different.

In April, a group of tenants at Bivens Cove Apartments told members of the ACLC that they were facing impending evictions. After doing door-

to-door organizing with tenants, the Labor Coalition discovered that the property managers at Bivens Cove were telling renters that they were no longer accepting HUD or Veterans' housing vouchers. This is illegal per Alachua County and Gainesville renters' rights ordinances that the ACLC helped to pass in recent years. These ordinances forbid property owners from discriminating against tenants who use housing vouchers or other sources of income.

However, as we all know, laws are only as good as our willingness to enforce them. In early May, the Labor Coalition organized a direct action protest in front of Collier Companies' downtown Gainesville headquarters that featured the voices of tenants. This pressure, along with an online letter writing campaign, forced Bivens Cove to reverse course thus saving eight tenants, which included one disabled young woman and seven veterans from being evicted.

The following month, members of the Pine Ridge community in northwest Gainesville reached

... continued on next page →



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out to the ACLC to inform us that 80 families were facing potential eviction. The Labor Coalition helped organize with members of concerned faith communities and members of the Pine Ridge neighborhood to go door-to-door to talk to residents of the Pine Ridge community with the aim of organizing resistance to their displacement. Twenty community members joined with 20 Pine Ridge residents in solidarity to defend the Pine Ridge residents' rights to avoid becoming homeless. During 2 community meetings, half of the families came out to voice their desire to stay in their homes.

Key City Capital, a Texas based investment firm, purchased 83 units in Pine Ridge in 2020, including a beloved community center building that provides the neighborhood children with programs and activities. The company initially stated that they would be renovating the apartments and would raise the rents by almost \$400. Current residents, many of whom have lived there for over a decade, some for over 25 years, were put on a month-to-

month lease and were being told to leave their homes within 30 days with no guarantee of another place to stay.

Direct action by the ACLC, Pine Ridge residents and allies including students, faith-based organizers, labor unionists, commissioners and others once again helped to stem what threatened to be a tidal wave of evictions. Labor Coalition members helped to open a direct dialog between Key City Capital, the Pine Ridge neighborhood and social service agencies that resulted in residents holding on to their apartments.

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) is a federal program designed to help keep families in their homes. According to ERAP's website, the "Emergency Rental Assistance program makes funding available to assist households that are unable to pay rent or utilities."

Unfortunately, many area property managers are refusing to accept ERAP as the following story illustrates: K came down with COVID in her nursing work, making her eligible for ERAP. Her property managers initially took the ERAP but suddenly told her they stopped accepting it. "I could have taken the payment from ERAP in my name and relocated," K said, "But I had no idea up to last minute they wasn't going to renew my lease." Now she has to find a new home for her household as she works two nursing jobs. "I don't want to be homeless with my family."

Property managers' refusal to accept housing vouchers, ERAP and similar programs has a

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profound impact on our community. “We often talk about homelessness like it’s about mental health issues, substance abuse issues,” Bryan Eastman, co-chair of GRACE Marketplace, said, [but] the vast majority of homelessness [is] a mother who’s trying to figure out how to get someone to accept her housing voucher, a young man trying to keep his job while he sleeps in his car.” Housing vouchers, Mr. Eastman continued, help to keep people from becoming homeless.

Even with COVID-19 rental assistance and anti-discrimination laws, not enough is being done to keep our communities housed. The force of the blow is felt most bluntly by low-income, disabled and veterans, historically and currently marginalized people.

Housing has become a corporate asset snatched up by investment companies and corporate landlords. There is not enough affordable housing in Gainesville and the only housing being built is high-rise student apartment buildings and luxury homes. It is time we fight back.

Please join the ACLC in demanding that housing is a human right!

“Key City Capital, a Texas based investment firm, purchased 83 units in Pine Ridge in 2020, including a beloved community center building that provides the neighborhood children with programs and activities. The company initially stated that they would be renovating the apartments and would raise the rents by almost \$400. Current residents, many of whom have lived there for over a decade, some for over 25 years, were put on a month-to-month lease and were being told to leave their homes within 30 days with no guarantee of another place to stay.”

Happy Every Season!

Mark Billman

Music Albums on SPOTIFY.COM

Jewelry on MARKBILLMAN.COM

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

Give A Little Bit

Richard Davies / Roger Hodgson

Give a little bit
Give a little bit of your love to me
Give a little bit
I'll give a little bit of my love to you
There's so much that we need to share
So send a smile and show you care
(Alright)
I'll give a little bit
I'll give a little bit of my life for you
So give a little bit
Give a little bit of your time to me
See the man with the lonely eyes
Oh, take his hand, you'll be surprised
Oh, take it
Ah, yeah
Come along
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah
Give a little bit
Give a little bit of your love to me
I'll give a little bit of my life for you
Now's the time that we need to share
So find yourself, we're on our way back home
Oh, going home
Don't you need, don't you need to feel at home
Oh yeah, we gotta sing
Oh yeah, you gotta get a feeling
Oh, yeah, come along too
Whoo!
You can come along too, yeah
Come-a, come-a, come-a, come along
Cha, cha, cha oh, yeah
Oh, yeah, come along too
Yeah, come along too, yeah
Sing Betty Lou
Come along too
What a long ride
Come a long way
Oh, sing it tonight
Oh, yeah

Lonely People

Dan Peek / Cathy Peek

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

This is for all the single people
Thinkin' that love has left them dry
Don't give up until you drink from the silver cup
You never know until you try

Well, I'm on my way
Yes, I'm back to stay
Well, I'm on my way back home
(Hit it)

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

The 59TH Street Bridge Song (Feelin' Groovy)

Paul Simon

Slow down, you move too fast
You got to make the morning last
Just kicking down the cobblestones
Looking for fun and feeling groovy
Ba da-da da-da da-da, feeling groovy

Hello lamppost, what'cha knowing
I've come to watch your flowers growin'
Ain't you got no rhymes for me?
Doo-ait-n-doo-doo, feeling groovy
Ba da-da da-da da-da, feeling groovy

Ba da da [Chorus]

I got no deeds to do, no promises to keep
I'm dappled and drowsy and ready to sleep
Let the morningtime drop all its petals on me
Life, I love you, all is groovy

Lotta Love

Neil Young

It's gonna take a lotta love
To change the way things are
It's gonna take a lotta love
Or we won't get too far

So if you look in my direction
And we don't see eye to eye
My heart needs protection
And so do I

It's gonna take a lotta love
To get us through the night
It's gonna take a lotta love
To make things work out right

So if you are out there waiting
I hope you show up soon
You know
I need relating not solitude

Gotta lotta love
Gotta lotta love

It's gonna take a lotta love
To change the way things are
It's gonna take a lotta love
Or we won't get too far
It's gonna take a lotta love
It's gonna take a lotta love
It's gonna take a lotta love



What the World Needs Now

David Bacharach

What the world needs now,
Is love, sweet love,
It's the only thing that there's just too little of.
What the world needs now,
Is love, sweet love,
No, not just for some but for everyone.

Lord, we don't need another mountain,
There are mountains and hillsides enough to climb,
There are oceans and rivers enough to cross,
Enough to last 'til the end of time.

What the world needs now,
Is love, sweet love,
It's the only thing that there's just too little of.
What the world needs now,
Is love, sweet love,
No, not just for some but for everyone.

Lord, we don't need another meadow,
There are cornfields and wheatfields enough to grow,
There are sunbeams and moonbeams enough to shine,
Oh listen Lord, if you want to know...oh...

What the world needs now,
Is love, sweet love,
It's the only thing that there's just too little of.
What the world needs now,
Is love, sweet love,
No, not just for some oh but just for every, every, everyone.

What the world needs now,
Is love, sweet love.
What the world needs now,
Is love, sweet 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



Imagine

John Lennon and Yoko Ono

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

WAR IS OVER

John Lennon and Yoko Ono

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.

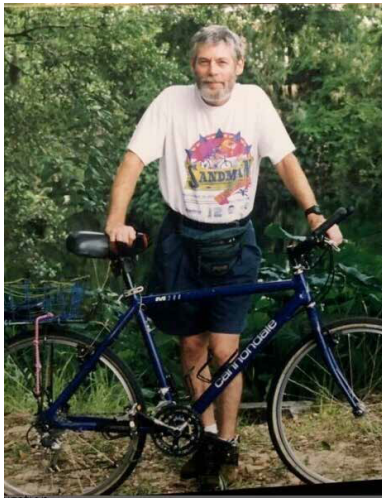
Jerry (Gerald) Williamson

August 18, 1946 - April 14, 2021

GAINESVILLE, Fla. – Jerry loved travel and adventure and all things outdoors. He was a true nature lover and environmentalist; always kind to God's creatures and giving to his fellow man. He will be missed by many.

He was born and raised in Meridian, Miss., and graduated from Meridian High School. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in medical technology from the University of Mississippi "Ole Miss" and a Master of Science in biochemistry from Mississippi State University. He served in the U. S. Marine Corps, where his first assignment was at the American Embassy in London, and he went on to have many other adventures in the military.

Jerry was a resident of Gainesville, Fla., for the past 38 years and was employed at the University of Florida Institute of Food &



Agricultural Sciences as a research chemist for most of those years. He was involved in various community activities and active in the Veterans for Peace organization.

He is survived by his son, Brian Williamson, of Gainesville; his parents, Harold and Louise Williamson, of Collinsville, Miss; his sisters, Janis Floyd (Joe) of Diamondhead, Miss., and Anita Vining (Pete) of Jacksonville, Fla.; a host of nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, grand-nephews, and cousins.

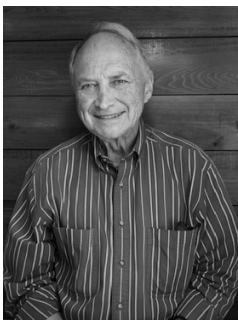
Jerry was well-loved by all.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the charity of your choice, in memory of Jerry.

<https://obituaries.meridianstar.com/obituary/gerald-williamson-1082193267>

David Calvin Henderson

by *The Gainesville Sun*, April 30, 2021



David Calvin Henderson died in Gainesville on April 3, 2021 after a long struggle with heart disease. David was born in Daytona Beach, Florida on August 25, 1934 and moved to Gainesville at age 11. He was predeceased by his parents James and Amelia Henderson.

He graduated from Gainesville High School. He attended the University of Florida and graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in biochemical engineering. He served in the U.S. Navy. During his adult life, he lived in Chicago, Il, Alpena, Michigan, and Neptune Beach, Florida, as well as Gainesville. He was a residential designer and contractor in Gainesville. A number of the homes he designed and built during the 1960s and 1970s are recognized as mid-century modern masterpieces.

David was an active member of Veterans for Peace and a founding member of Sunday Assembly Gainesville. He enjoyed Gator baseball and the

Gainesville Orchestra. Throughout his life he was very concerned with issues, of fairness and had a great heart for the less fortunate. The racial culture that he was born into and that persists to this day grieved him throughout his life.

David is survived by his wife, Janet Tucci, his brother James (Dorothy), his daughter Kristin Hamlett (Stephen), daughter Caren, nieces and a nephew, and many friends. He is also survived by Rita Pendleton Henderson and Sharon Roberts Henderson, who were devoted wives and partners in life. David loved the many animals who graced his life, particularly his cat, Spike.

It was David's desire that contributions be made to the Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery, Sunday Assembly Gainesville, and Hospice of North Central Florida.

David had a green burial at Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery.



James Thompson, Rest in Power

by John Thompson



A caveat: capturing James in a few words is unthinkable, almost criminal, when considering his own verbose writing style. As his brother of 46 years, I am still unpacking who he was and how much he meant to me, his loved ones, and the rest of his community.

I may be an unreliable narrator; this is how I see my brother with a heavy heart. I do not wish to be limited by the following remembrance, as I expect we will all continue to glean additional insights from the wondrous life James shared with us all.

James was a dynamo. To be in the same room meant hearing his voice, being intrigued (or challenged) by his ideas, and feeling his loud, distinct laugh that he was gifted from his mother. For all the electricity he spun, whether it was helping a kid learn how to ride a bike, reciting a poem, or challenging local political norms, his heart never quit giving a sincere energy. He wanted his passion to be shared, and for the good to be procured. He was continuous without stopping. He was genuine and pure.

James was a community activist, or rather a Marxist Anarchist Christian. He didn't make mention of being born in California, nor that people mislabeled him as a Democrat. He may have offered spoken and written words with eloquence, but he kept his mission simple: know better, do better.

Voting wasn't a celebration, but rather a battle in the war. He believed local folk were the bedrock of making real change. Visiting with prisoners to discuss forced labor, educating local council on the homeless, fighting for the sanctity of land use, marching against fascists on his home turf, listening to anyone who needed their voice to be heard, this was James. James was the voice for the voiceless. In that, his spirit shined.

James was a great intellect, a voracious self-learner and artist. Songs, poems, gourmet meals (and some god-awful misfires), public speeches, computer programs, political essays, ink drawings, bike repairs, election campaigns, violin pieces, letters to the editor, strategies on unionizing, landscape paintings, house painting, dissertations —

James could really do it all. It could be intimidating to be honest, or maybe even tick you off a touch. He didn't own many books, but he read more than one could imagine. I did find a copy of James Baldwin on his table. He made use of a Puritan work ethic. Idle hands and all.

James was a runner and a cyclist. Both of these endurance sports carry an aspect of his character. Running was an escape, not from people, but from being alone with his thoughts. In his later years, people would ask him how far he had gone, and he'd reply, "A couple of hours." He'd break new trails and leave water and snacks for later treks into the wilderness.

Cycling was similar, but carried a communal aspect. This is where James learned camaraderie and the importance of team.

He never boasted about winning, but about how the team functioned together, how the new riders carried the load. He found community. He found a purpose in welcoming novices and organizing effort into success. He liked to win, but as a result of the communion.

James was Gainesville. Some places hold magic for people, and Gainesville held the right ingredients in damn fine people, institutions, a plethora of sun, beaches and lakes, cycling, and community. He fought so hard for every aspect of this town.

When I came to visit my father a few years back, James drove me by a park for kids he had helped build. He beamed. Not with pride, but for the future. Everything in Gainesville mattered to James. And everyone. Whether you agreed with him or not, if you needed support, he had your back. After all, when you share the same roof, best to make the most of the house.

James was many other things: an unapologetic eater of leftovers, a binge watcher of bad TV, an expert on Frank Herbert's *Dune*, an endless resource on all facets of coffee, a listener with grand intentions, a suspect dresser with his rad plaid, the most educated on both sides of his family, a proud blue-collar laborer who came from blue-collar roots, the favorite "uncle" to many of his friends' kids, a dear friend who was always a call away, a partner (who wanted nothing more than to spend his time with Melissa), a first son, and a brother to one. He was more than we will ever know.

... continued on next page →

CLEAN WATER

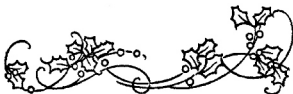
*Peace is an ocean in a world thirsty for drinkable water.
It's so close yet untouched. Unfiltered, with crashing waves stronger
Than outreached hands or peaceful protests.
We're drowning in violence without enough life vests.
Dying coral reefs and impoverished communities.
Another child on the news that never had the opportunity,
To drink.
Because we didn't filter out the poverty or the gun violence,
Laid to rest with the salty aftertaste of ignorance.
And his memory and those of every fallen heart is met with blind eyes
Too scared to open them, to see the other side.
To realize that conversations can reduce pollution in our communities.
Open ears and open minds open up so many opportunities,
To drink.
For peace and for hope, evaporation of hate and ignorance.
If we listen, and truly hear one another, we all can make a difference,
And one day find a world where
We all can drink.*

Rianna Griffith, Grade 8, Lincoln Middle School

James and I would end our calls with a proclamation, "Carry the fire." It was a line lifted from Cormack McCarthy's *The Road*, but it holds so much more gravitas. It is Promethean in its charge to be creative with the gifts that the old titans have provided us. And that is what we must do now—carry the fire within our warm hearts and in our worn hands so that we can light the way for all those around us. With just a little spark and sweat we can fashion the reality that James struggled so desperately against into new palimpsests of grandeur, filled with dignity.

In this new story, James will be the hero.

*"The sleep of a laboring man is sweet."
—Ecclesiastes 5:12*



Veteran Firearm Suicide Prevention

by Helen Kirklin, Alachua County Moms Demand Action

Moms Demand Action is the nation's largest volunteer network working to end gun violence. We know that two-thirds of firearm related deaths in America are by suicide, and that most of those tragedies are preventable. Local Moms Demand Action volunteers have begun returning to community events in Alachua County, starting conversations with gun owners and non-gun owners about the importance of properly securing firearms. In addition to preventing unintentional shootings by children, our goal is to promote a culture of safety around guns and raise awareness that easy access to firearms during a moment of crisis can mean the difference between life and death. Personal or household gun ownership triples the risk of suicide. Firearms are a particularly lethal means of self-harm, with a fatality rate of approximately 90 percent. By comparison, four percent of people who attempt suicide using other methods die. Most people who survive a suicide attempt do not go on to die by suicide.

Our country's veterans are at a heightened risk of suicide, and firearms are the prevailing method of suicide among veterans. Nationwide, 65,000 military veterans died by gun suicide in the period between 2005 and 2019—about 16 times the number of service members who were killed in action during the United States engagements in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria combined (4,119).

Everytown for Gun Safety, the umbrella group for Moms Demand Action, researches and measures the impact, scale, and implications of gun violence and the policies that can prevent it. Measures to limit the easy and immediate acquisition of firearms, like extreme risk and waiting period laws, background checks on all gun sales, and secure storage practices have all been proven to reduce suicide rates and save lives. In addition, strengthened access to suicide prevention services and lethal means counseling in health care settings can help prevent a rise in suicide deaths.

It is essential to put time and space between a veteran or service member in crisis, and

“Our goal is to promote a culture of safety around guns and raise awareness that easy access to firearms during a moment of crisis can mean the difference between life and death. Personal or household gun ownership triples the risk of suicide. Firearms are a particularly lethal means of self-harm, with a fatality rate of approximately 90 percent. By comparison, four percent of people who attempt suicide using other methods die. Most people who survive a suicide attempt do not go on to die by suicide.”

a loaded firearm. Counseling for Access to Lethal Means (CALM) is one program designed to equip medical professionals with language for discussing this risk with their patients, and it has been offered by some VHA facilities. Although these conversations may be challenging, a majority of US gun owners, including veterans, agree that it is appropriate for clinicians to talk about firearm safety with their patients.

Visit the website [KeepItSecure.net](https://www.KeepItSecure.net), which includes the 1-minute video “Space Between Thought and Trigger,” on the VA webpage titled Firearm Suicide Prevention and Lethal Means Safety. To learn more about Moms Demand Action and the work we do, visit [Momsdemandaction.org](https://www.Momsdemandaction.org). Text “READY” to 64433 to receive emails or texts. To learn more about preventing child gun deaths and injuries visit [besmartforkids.org](https://www.besmartforkids.org).

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Peace is the world
 For every young boy and girl
 Why we have friends
 Our hearts beat again
 So stay calm,
 All the bad things are gone
 Peace comes early
 Hate comes late,
 Peace is courage,
 All the Time,
 Even in this little rhyme
 You just need to find it in your heart
 Like a sour patch kid,
 Life is sour,
 Then it's sweet,
 So find someone else to greet
 Like I said,
 Peace comes early
 Hate comes late,
 Peace is what brings us together,
 Forever and ever,
 Like trees and grass,
 Our teacher and class,
 Life learning skills,
 For fish gills,
 With all these wonderful thrills
 Peace is the world for us

Esmeralda Seda, Grade 5,
 Stephen Foster Elementary

FORGET ABOUT
 BEING STRONG.
 BE HUMAN.



Evidence-Based Method for Moving Beyond Loss

Shanti Vani

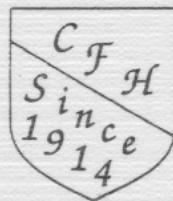
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**Sheriff
Clovis Watson, Jr.**

**On the occasion of the 2021 Solstice,
with thanks to Veterans For Peace for
all that you do for our community and
world. All of us are better for what you
do. Let no one ever forget what you
have done individually in the past and
what you do collectively now.**



**William P. Cervone
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**** Those 60 and older may be eligible for services regardless of income ****



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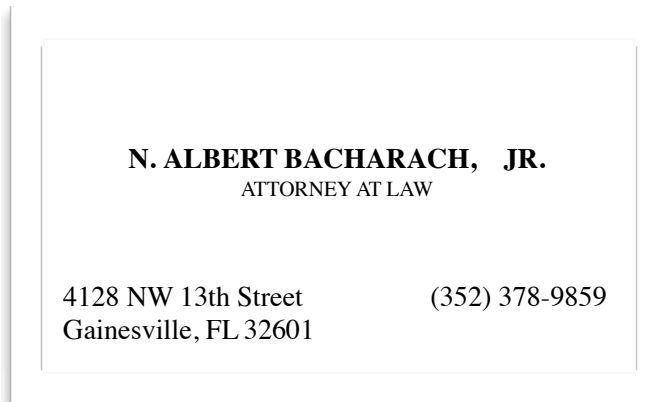
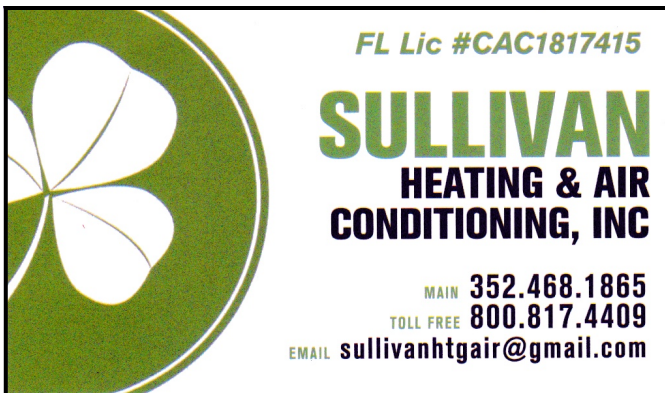

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THE BELTRAM PEACE CENTER offers events and programs funded by a legacy from the estate of Fred Beltram, a member of the church whose service as a non-combatant in World War II strengthened his passion for peace.



We must recognize that we can't solve our problem now until there is a radical redistribution of economic and political power... this means a revolution of values and other things. We must see now that the evils of racism, economic exploitation and militarism are all tied together... you can't really get rid of one without getting rid of the others... the whole structure of American life must be changed. America is a hypocritical nation and [we] must put [our] own house in order."

*— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.-
Report to SCLC Staff, May 1967.*

Happy Holidays from



State Attorney Brian Kramer

AND
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Picking up the Pieces

by Doug Bernal

2021 has been a year of mixed emotions for many of us. We were finally able to leave Afghanistan, but not without substantial losses for us and for the people of Afghanistan. We now have a president who is pushing for many of the things members of our greater community have been asking for during multiple previous administrations. But divides in congress, even within the same party, have seen many proposals drastically changed or outright fail to come to fruition.

Local change has been drastic, as well. We saw a city commissioner resign shortly after a reelection, and now must wait until January to know who will be the seventh commissioner to fill that seat. At the state level, we have a governor that would certainly seem to be doing everything in his power to take away the rights of local governments and businesses to protect themselves and those they serve. We can only imagine what his feelings would be for the requirements we had in place to attend the Winter Solstice Concert this year.

All of this also comes in a time where we will soon see local office change drastically. Next August, four city commission seats, two county commission seats, and four schoolboard seats are up for grabs. As much as the current Florida governor has done to change or limit local governmental rules, the people who truly have the most immediate and tangible impact in our daily lives are those who we elect locally. Between the

choices our city and county-level elected officials make, and the advocacy for or against our values that our state representatives provide, it's never been more important to pay attention and be involved.

And this year unfortunately shares something in common with 2020, as far as local involvement and activism is concerned. We mourned and continue to mourn the loss of Terry Fleming. There is no shortage of organizations and groups he was connected to, and I am sure I would miss many of them if I attempted to list them all. Earlier this year, our hearts were again left broken with the passing of James Thompson. He was a painter by trade, but was an activist by choice. And that choice is not an easy one to make. He wore many hats for many members of our community. He was a friend, a caretaker, a family member, a counselor, a consultant, a leader, and many, many other things. He butted heads just as easily as he gave hugs, and he provided a much-needed voice and energy to our community that is not easily replaced. He had the courage to disagree when it mattered, and he had the will to be there when people needed him the most.

Like Terry, there is no way I could hope to accurately provide a list of everyone and every group he impacted. All I can do is ask that we do the best we can to fill in the gaps, as there are a lot of gaps to fill. Let's make 2022 a year James would be proud of.

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of wrongdoing &
rightdoing there is
a field. I will meet
you there"*

— RUMI

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— Charles de Lint



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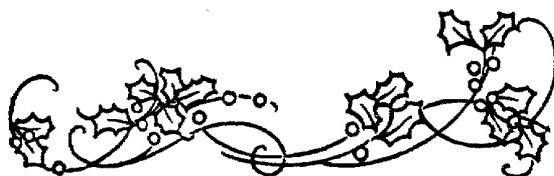
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Defeating Trump is the easy part. Defeating the nihilism and alienation that gave rise to Trumpism is going to be the real challenge.

— Susan Montgomery

*The world was once a happy place,
The Amazon rainforests teeming with life.
Plants and animals going along at their own pace,
And wildlife coexisting without any strife.
But then came the Industrial Revolution,
And that was nature took a blow.
Pollution spread everywhere, without a solution ,
As humans went on with their show.
The Amazon Rainforest, once filled with trees,
Has now been destroyed out of adversity.
With less oxygen produced to fulfill our pleas,
Habitat destruction, habitat fragmentation, and loss of biodiversity
Our grasslands, for our farmlands we have chosen,
Have by our forming equipment to the ground shaven.
No grass to hold the soil creates erosion,
Nitrates and phosphates creating cultural eutrophication.
Pesticides, though with food is our assistant,
We should look at them with disdain.
DDT, very widely used, is very persistent,
Bioaccumulates and biomagnifies in the food chain.
The coral reefs, once from humans never reached,
Are now dying in an eye's blink.
The coral becomes nothing but bleached
As the ocean becomes the ultimate carbon sink.
Coal, oil, and natural gas, things we take for granted
The effects thereof we should stand in mourning.
Pollutants and greenhouse gases burning them has chanted,
As carbon dioxide contributes to global warming.
With our machines we have beaten down this poor Earth,
But us humans, right now, have a chance to learn.
Either we turn around and give this abused planet a new rebirth,
Or we keep going to the point of no return.*

Boone Schroder, Grade 12, Buchholz High School



Colin Powell's Legacy

by Scott Camil

Colin Powell has died and I would like to set the record straight about his actual record which consists mostly of bad deeds and lies. Unfortunately, the corporate media seems to have forgotten many of Powell's original statements.

He served as National Security Adviser, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Secretary of State. He said this about his life and work, ""All I want to do is judge myself as a successful soldier who served his best."

What is "serving his best"? How can falsifying the record (lying), and covering up crimes be the best?

I would like to start with the My Lai massacre in Vietnam. In My Lai, on March 16th, 1968, a US Army unit massacred about 500 civilians, men, women and children. Some of the Vietnamese women and children were gang raped and mutilated.

These soldiers were ordered to burn the houses, kill the livestock, destroy food supplies, and destroy and/or poison the wells. I served in the US Marine Corps in Vietnam in 1966 and 67 and I received the same orders.

After the massacre, American Army Generals, including General Westmoreland, congratulated the unit for an "Outstanding Action."

"Six months later, Tom Glen, a 21-year-old soldier of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade, wrote a letter to General [Creighton Abrams](#), the new MACV commander. He described an ongoing and routine brutality against Vietnamese civilians on the part of American forces in Vietnam that he had personally witnessed." (*Kurlansky, Mark. 1968: The Year That Rocked the World. New York: Ballantine, 2004, p. 106.*)



My Lai massacre | 1968

Major Colin Powell, an assistant chief of staff of operations for the Americal Division, was charged with investigating the claims of the letter. Powell wrote, "In direct refutation of this portrayal is the fact that relations between Americal Division soldiers and the Vietnamese people are excellent." The investigation of this massacre was whitewashed by Powell.

In 1969, a letter from Specialist 5 [Ronald L. Ridenhour](#), a former door gunner, asked for an investigation. The resulting investigation aided by the press uncovered the truth. See more at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mỹ_Lai_massacre.

In his memoir, *My American Journey*, Powell stated "We burned down the thatched huts, starting the blaze with Ronson and Zippo lighters. Why were we torching houses and destroying crops? Ho Chi Minh had said the people were like the sea in which his guerrillas swam. Our problem was to distinguish friendly or at least neutral fish from the VC swimming alongside. We tried to solve the problem by making the whole sea uninhabitable. In the hard logic of war, what difference did it make if you shot your enemy or starved him to death?"

This is collective punishment and it is a war crime. Admitting to these crimes did not stop Powell from rising to the top.

In 1985, Powell was involved in the Iran/Contra affair, which was the unlawful transfer of US-made TOW anti-tank missiles and Hawk anti-aircraft missiles from Israel to Iran as part of the criminal conspiracy.

Powell was the Chairman of the joint chiefs of staff in 1989 when he named the US invasion of Panama to depose President Manuel Noriega "Just Cause." Three thousand Panamanian civilians were killed in the attack.

Powell said: "We have put a shingle outside our door saying, 'Superpower lives here.' " Three thousand Panamanian civilians, the same number that died on 9/11 — were bombed and gunned down in Panama City.

Next we have Iraq. In 2001, Powell said that not only did Saddam Hussein not have any weapons of mass destruction but that he did not even have the "capability to project conventional power against his neighbors."

Then in 2003 before the UN, Powell lied and said that Saddam had weapons of mass destruction. The whole world knew that was a lie but it allowed President Bush the war that he wanted. Powell's former statements on Iraq soon disappeared.

Once and for all the idea of glorious victories won by the glorious army must be wiped out. Neither side is glorious. On either side they're just frightened men, messing their pants, and they all want the same thing — not to lie under the Earth, but to walk upon it — without crutches.

— Peter Weiss
writer, artist, and filmmaker
(8 Nov 1916 – 1982)

John and Jane Bishop

Powell provided the lie that justified Bush's war that ended up killing a million people in Iraq and of course the illegal kidnapping and torturing of so many. Abu Ghraib comes to mind.

In March of 2004, there was a coup in Haiti.

Secretary of State Colin Powell claimed that Aristide wanted to be taken out of his country because he feared for his life. Former Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide said that he was forced to leave Haiti by US military forces at gun point in a "coup d'etat" by the United States.

Aristide told Congresswomen Maxine Waters that the chief of staff of the U.S. Embassy in Haiti came to his home, told him that he would be killed "and a lot of Haitians would be killed" if he did not leave and said he "has to go now."

Powell said "He was not kidnapped." "We did not force him onto the airplane. He went on the airplane willingly and that's the truth."

Powell's real legacy is one of lying and covering up crimes. He has much innocent blood on his hands and we are not going to participate in the whitewashing of his crimes.

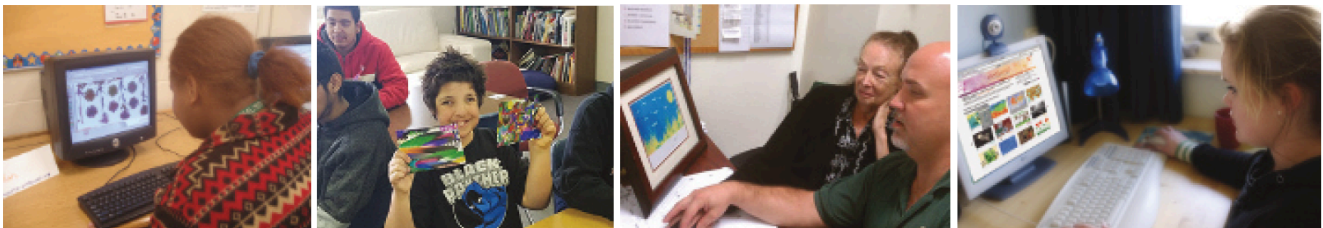
He is not a hero to be honored. The real heroes are people who tell the truth like Chelsea Manning. The real heroes are people who provide the public with the facts like Julian Assange.

Democracy can not truly serve the public interest when it is steeped in lies. It is the whistleblowers who risk their freedom for us that are the true heroes.

We salute the whistleblowers. See more on Powell at <https://www.consortiumnews.com/archive/powell.html>.



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*What if wars were fought with paint?
Maybe something beautiful could come from it.
Instead of only red and black,
Blues, greens, and yellows would cover the land.
More would be made than would be destroyed.
What if wars were fought with paint?
More talent would be found than talent would be forgotten.
Wounds could be washed and no lives would be lost.
If only wars were fought with paint,
And the world was without conflict.*

Wyatt Dyke, Grade 12, Buchholz High School



Leanetta McNealy, Ph.D.

**Peace on
Earth!**



*Love and Peace
on Earth
from
Anne Haisley*

LOOK ME IN THE EYE, TELL ME EVERYTHING'S ALRIGHT

There is a fine line between innocence and ignorance.

*When an abundance of time passes,
slipping to the bottom of the hourglass,
one becomes the other.*

*This war-torn, weary world is
hopeless - tragedy at every turn,
and we tell ourselves
there is nothing we can do.*

*We turn away, blind;
like Lady Liberty, proud face pointed up at the sun;
like Lady Justice, making judgements
without looking anyone in the eyes.
Not knowing is no excuse to not
face people's pain; look them in the eye
and let love win.*

Compassion is a choice of consequence.

*Like a dove leaping from her perch,
white wings splayed proudly
against a clear blue sky,
just trust In your ability to try.
Love is not blind—love
is when the burden of knowledge
has settled harsh and heavy on your shoulders
but there is still sunshine
In your smile; your radiance is enough
for if there is one thing that humanity excels at
it is finding a light in the darkness
and never letting go.*

**Brindha P. Rathinasabapathi, Grade 12,
Buchholz High School**

PEACE

Thanks, Veterans for
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*Happy Holidays and
Peace, Hope, and Joy in the New Year!*



Thank you
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for all your
Good Work!
The Banko Family -
John, Khanh-Lien,
Analise, Paul,
Jessica, and
John Reilly

People of character do the right thing
not because they think it will change the
world, but because they refuse to be changed
by the world. —Michael Josephson

Warmest regards from my family to yours in this holiday season and coming new year. We have much work to do and I am looking forward to facing our challenges together.

Marihelen Wheeler



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Retreats are based on the methods many ancient warrior societies used to prepare their warriors for war and reintegrate them back into the community such that they are well-adjusted, valued, and respected Elder Warriors who are able to significantly contribute to their community.

War is not just the responsibility of the Warrior. As long as we live in this country, pay taxes and are a part of The System, all wars that our warriors participate in are all OUR WARS – like it or not. It is not just the Soldier's burden, it belongs to civilians too.

... continued on next page→

Both veterans and civilians participate in these retreats, civilians providing care, comfort and acceptance to veterans and ritualistically and emotionally unloading (veterans), with civilians taking on their part of the burden of war, literally "taking a load off" the veteran and letting them know that they are not alone.

Deer Hart Lodge is working to build meaningful community to meet the needs of our local veterans and their supporting community. We need Elder Warriors as participant mentors and advisors. All are welcome, Deer Hart Lodge is for Veterans AND their supporting community.

Let us build it according to the needs at hand...and they will come...We need you, your knowledge, your wisdom and your love. Remember, Love IS THE Answer!

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Meeting the Challenge of Solar Energy Production

by Harvey Ward, Jr.

We could be forgiven if we considered the current times as the darkest times that have ever been. Our political climate has turned most foul and as a result it has become exceptionally challenging to make the right choices for our literal climate.

But the Winter Solstice, the day with the fewest hours of sunshine, is upon us, and as it heralds the return of sunnier days we must also metaphorically return to a sunnier civic climate by sheer force of will.

Here in Gainesville we are blessed and cursed with the opportunity and the responsibility of making vital choices regarding our climate. Unlike most cities, because we own an electrical utility there is quite a lot we can do to affect how much fossil-fuel carbon we release into the atmosphere.

The challenge before us is both overtly obvious and disturbingly difficult: Our community needs to generate energy from utility-scale solar installations. While we should be rightly proud that our community consistently generates about a third of the energy we use from renewable sources, we must take bigger steps, and quickly. The key driver of those steps must be solar, and it must be measured in multiple megawatts, not a few kilowatts on rooftops here and there.

Right now our city is working on a 50-megawatt utility-scale solar installation as the next big step in renewable electrical generation for our community. This would bring our total renewable production to about 45% on a monthly basis. If we remove political and social forces from the discussion, there is no problem achieving that goal.

But political and social forces are real things. We are not able to simply pick a field and use it to pump dozens of megawatts of energy onto our power grid. First, any utility-scale solar installation must be large enough for the economies of scale to be effective. Production of just one megawatt of solar energy today requires approximately five acres of land, and that land needs to be near specific points on our power grid to allow the energy to flow through our system.

Second, the land itself needs to be dry. Many of the large, available expanses of land in our county are not consistently dry and sturdy enough for construction of acres of contiguous solar panels.

Third, much of the land that *does* meet the above requirements is on or adjacent to property that has been owned and preciously cared-for by descendants of formerly enslaved Black families. Building hundreds of acres of solar panels on land that has traditionally been agricultural, especially given the history of the families living on and near it, is understandably fraught with trepidation.

Fourth, and perhaps most difficult to understand for many of us, is the truth that many in our community still refuse to believe the evidence that climate change is real, that it is caused by human action and that we must act to reverse the damage that we have already done. These folks remain stubbornly (and creatively) determined to thwart forward movement on significant local solar energy production.

Despite all of these very substantial challenges, we do not have the luxury of passing this off to the next generation of decision makers. The Gainesville City Commission has charged our utility management with bringing our community a roadmap to 100% energy renewability, and I expect that roadmap to be back to us by early spring of 2022. It will be a complicated, multi-year process that involves stepping down our fossil-fuel production with many side-steps and temporary solutions leading to the ultimate goal, but again, we already know that the first step will be utility-scale solar production. There is no way to get there without it.

The financial and land use challenges will present themselves as cold but logically solvable problem sets. The social and political challenges are harder. We must work hand-in-hand with affected property owners and honestly hear and respond to their concerns or we cannot reasonably expect to succeed. And we must stand face-to-face with climate deniers, thank them for their opinions and move forward with complete resolve. In neither of these venues do we have the option to fail.

We stand now in a dark hour for our climate, and for the sustainability of our civilization. But brighter hours and more of them are on our horizon. The task at hand is to do whatever it takes to meet those sunnier days prepared to make the most of what they offer.

The Climate Boot Print of Militarism Contributions and Solutions

by Mary Bahr

If you live in Florida, you probably remember how major hurricanes devastated cities around the State recently. Michael struck Mexico Beach in the panhandle in September of 2018. Much of that town was reduced to rubble by the Category 5 storm. Before Michael, Irma hit the Keys as a category five storm, wiping out communities in the middle keys. Further afield in 2017 and 2018, there were rain maker storms, Harvey, in Texas and Florence in the Carolinas that flooded communities East and West of Florida.



Tyndall AFB in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael | Getty Images

While it may feel like storms are getting stronger and wetter, these stories are anecdotal and cannot predict the future. However, NASA's climate models tell us to expect a future where

"As the planet gets warmer, we will see stronger hurricanes and a higher frequency of intense storms. In fact, a recent United Nations climate report said tropical cyclones have become more intense over the past 40 years."

Abundant evidence supports the fact that climate change is warming our planet. As it warms the oceans, they become an engine for stronger storms. Increasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere traps heat from the sun warming the Earth to levels not seen in millions of years. In the Earth's distant past, when carbon dioxide levels soared, the oceans turned acidic, oxygen levels fell, and many species became extinct. The Permian extinction, 250 million years ago, killed off 80 to 95% of the species on Earth.

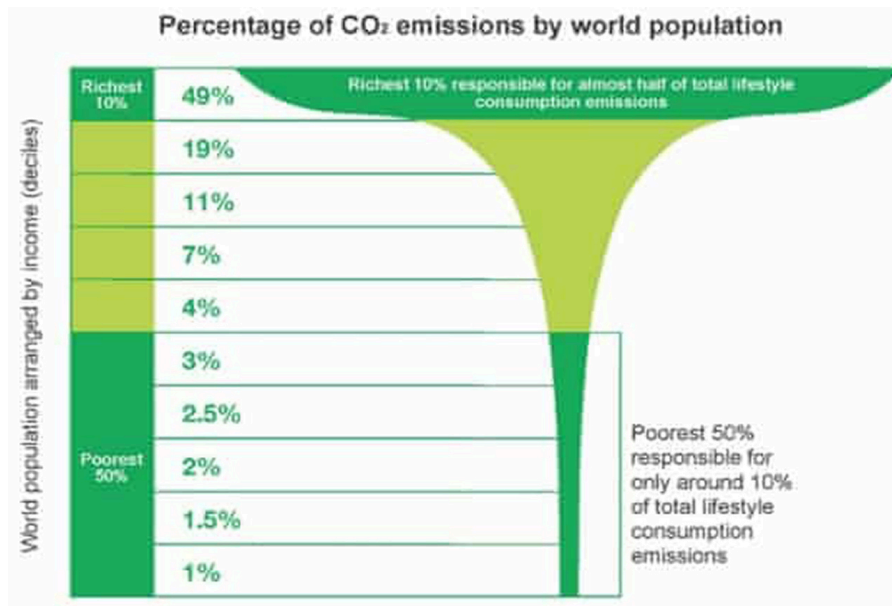
Scientists point to volcanic activity as the culprit in the Permian, but today we have no such geologic upheaval. The scientific consensus is that Climate change results from human activity, starting with the widespread burning of fossil fuels at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. They describe a new geologic era on Earth called the Anthropocene, where the Earth's surface, atmosphere, and oceans are sculpted by human activity.

When we look for the significant sources of carbon emissions, large nations like the U.S., China, and Russia who burn quantities of fossil fuels, are the main culprits. But there are other ways to break down major contributors to climate change. The number one institutional source of carbon emissions on Earth is the U.S. military. U.S. military CO₂ emissions add up to 59 million metric tons of greenhouse gases a year, more than many nations.

Why are their emissions so high? One reason is that tanks and 60,000 older Humvees average 4 to 6 Mpg and, if that was not bad enough, a fighter jet gets 0.03 miles per gallon. And then there are the 5000 plus installations that the military heats and cools around the globe. These numbers don't include all the civilian contractors and manufacturers of arms and supplies that consume the yearly 600-billion-dollar Pentagon budget.

You might think that there would be a discussion of the problem of military emissions at climate change conferences over the years. But the U.S. government insisted on an exemption for military emissions in the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. That exemption remains in place today. British Vets for Peace member David Collins of VFP UK reported from COP26 that his group "leafleted many of the 1000's of delegates for five days outside COP" to try and reverse this exemption. He wrote on November 9th, "I am glad to say that almost all the active peace organizations now include the question of military emissions in their campaigns." But inside COP26, world leaders still avoid discussion of U.S. military emissions.

The relationship between the Military and Climate change is a complex one. While its emissions make climate change worse, Climate change, in turn, makes the Military mission more challenging. In addition, the Pentagon has long been aware of the



aircraft and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities, sits just 8 feet above sea level. Diego Garcia Naval Base in the Indian Ocean serving Africa and the Middle East is only 6.5 feet above sea level. Travis Air Force Base in Northern California was evacuated last year because of wildfires. To make military infrastructure more resilient, the DOD think tank DARPA explores new solutions to mitigate the effects of a rising sea level and the subsequent flooding. The agency's Reefsense program is looking to use reef-mimicking ecosystems to reduce the impact.

security challenges climate change poses. For decades, it has been developing strategic plans to combat is, even when much of the U.S. public and its politicians denied the "inconvenient truth" of a warming world. The good news is that the Pentagon has already started mitigating the impacts of climate change. There are now plans for hybrid Humvees and new standards for rebuilding bases like Tyndall AFB in the Florida panhandle severely damaged in Hurricane Michael. (photo of Tyndall AFB damage here). The Air Force has a "planning tool JIGSAW, developed by the Air Force software factory Kessel Run and the Defense Innovation Unit — the Pentagon's liaison for nontraditional contractors — now saves the service 180,000 gallons of fuel per week" and new aircraft designs will be 25 to 30% more efficient."

Military bases in the U.S. and around the world are often on coasts threatened by rising sea levels. Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton, Virginia, the largest military installation globally, home to Air Combat Command and host to critical fighter

Threats to the military mission also are growing because of climate change. With Russia, next door, the Arctic Ocean and its resources are becoming an open sea, navigable in the Summer. Climate-driven migration in the Middle East and South America threatens to overwhelm borders and is blamed for the Syrian war. The military has taken on additional missions that include everything from rescue to fire fighting to additional military missions in war zones.

On the other hand, one mission that the U.S. military has pursued since the 1990s is the protection of oil fields. This mission remains and, as it continues, increases the pressures brought by climate change on the military and the rest of the world.

So what can we do? Vets for Peace has a Climate Crisis and Militarism project on its web page at <https://www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/climatecrisis> with educational and action items.

... continued on next page →

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You can support Rep Barbara Lee's ***H Res 767: Department of Defense to reduce the overall environmental impact of all military activities and missions, and for other purposes.***

To begin changing how the U.S. military contributes to the global climate crisis, this House Resolution declares that it is the duty of the Department of Defense (DoD) to monitor, track, and report greenhouse gas emissions from all its operations. The United States military does not publicly and regularly report its overall fuel consumption or greenhouse gas emissions—despite requirements laid out in the National Defense Authority"

The letter Vets for Peace sent to John Kerry when he became the U.S. Climate ambassador includes demands to include military emissions in his speeches and discussions. It describes

"The deep complicity between the military-industrial complex and the fossil fuel corporations. Our military enforces U.S. corporations' plunder of the planet to steal resources and the fruits of human labor."

Through these actions, the military contributes to increasing income inequality and decreasing stability planet-wide.

Finally, a message from Bill McKibben puts our discussion in a planet-wide context. He reviews a paper by Neta C. Crawford, Professor and Chair of Political Science at Boston University, and Co-Director of the Costs of War project at Brown. This article used data from Dr Crawford's report.

McKibben discusses the importance of Military emissions described in Crawford's paper:

It is very helpful in understanding the full dimension of our energy dilemma—this (Military carbon emissions) is not a particularly large share of the world's, or even our nation's, energy consumption. Crawford's careful analysis shows that the Department of Defense consumes roughly a hundred million barrels of oil a year. The world runs through about a hundred million barrels of oil a day. Even though it's the world's largest institutional user of energy, the U.S. military accounts, by Crawford's figures, for barely 1 percent of America's greenhouse gas emissions. ... All of this is valuable information to anyone trying to grasp the scale of the global warming problem. As giant a consumer as the Pentagon is, its use of energy pales next to that of the civilian population of some three-hundred million

Americans—let alone that of a couple of billion humans wealthy enough to consume lots of fossil fuel. Imagine the vast stream of cars that enters and leaves any American city each rush hour and then multiply that by every day of the year. Picture the server farms required to stream every evening's crop of Netflix shows, or the pulse of natural gas required to heat homes, or the mountains of coal needed to turn on the lights every evening in every home. Energy use is the result of a billion actions every minute of every day."

This final message says that these larger issues that we can try to steer our way by signing petitions and writing letters are very important but may feel beyond our reach.

But in the words of a Unitarian blessing often used in our Solstice concert hall, *"It matters what you do."* How we several billion humans who live in the First World live our lives can affect climate change. Oxfam's chart of fossil fuel consumption shows that the wealthy top ten percent produce almost half of carbon emissions. Most of us in the First World are in the top half of that graph just below them. (Oxfam chart here) We are empowered not only to throw our billionth part of change on the scales, but by our actions to influence our whole culture to move in the same direction. To complete that blessing:

"It matters what you do. And you don't have to go it alone."



BOLD Ideas, ESSENTIAL Reading

“The greatest of all myths about wars is that they come to an end. This deeply personal, very human book shows how ten, twenty, thirty, sixty years later their hurts and scars live on in those who fought them. Michael Messner has brought on stage some eloquent survivors whom our politicians should listen to before they dare even consider sending young men and women out to fight yet again.”

—Adam Hochschild, author of *To End All Wars: A Story of Loyalty and Rebellion, 1914-1918*

“There is a revelation on every page of *Guys Like Me*. The journey any man takes to transform his sense of his own manliness isn’t direct or simple. And, as Michael Messner shows us in these five engaging life histories, each gendered journey will have added twists and turns when distorted by militarism. A truly humane book.”

—Cynthia Enloe, author of *The Big Push: Exposing and Challenging Persistent Patriarchy*

“With *Guys Like Me*, Michael Messner delivers an eloquent, passionate, and moving account of how war has sometimes moved veterans towards peace. Messner’s interviewees give us hope that humanity might yet one day listen to the soldiers who have gone to war, the ones who tell us, again and again, that war’s devastation is never worth it.”

—Viet Thanh Nguyen, author of *The Sympathizer*

“Messner’s narrative points the way for other activists seeking to build popular opposition movements.”

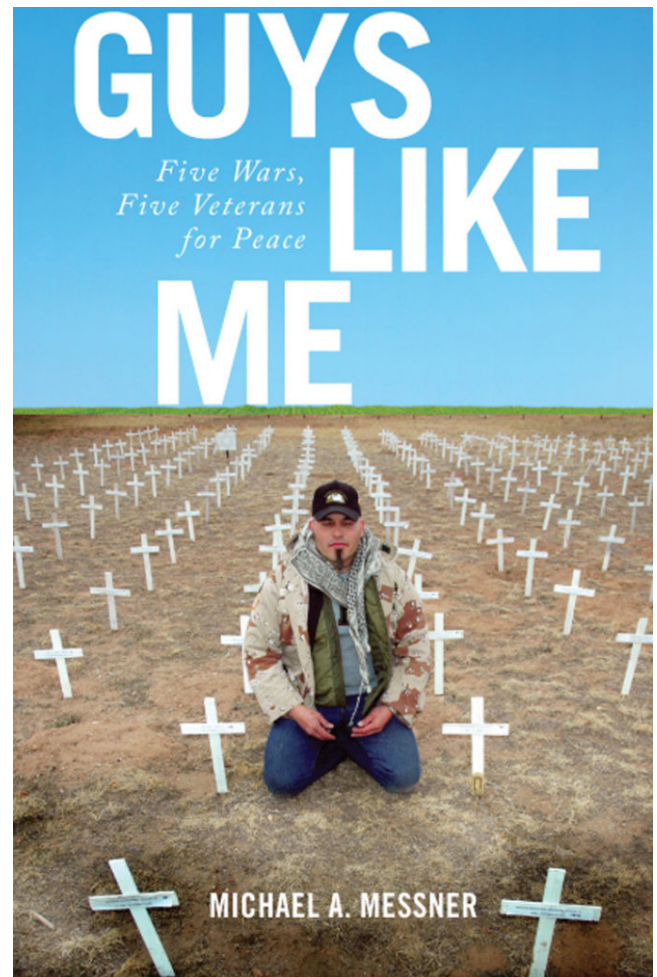
—*Kirkus Reviews*

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—Hugh Gusterson, author of *Drone: Remote Control Warfare*

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It's Time to Invest in Broadband

by Ken Cornell

In today's ever changing world, it has become apparent that everyone needs access to both reliable and affordable broadband internet. The last two years have highlighted that if you don't have internet or if your internet is limited, you may fall behind at school and have less opportunity to work from home. When it comes to providing core government services such as public health, safety and welfare, in this new world, it has become increasingly important to also ensure that everyone has access to broadband. For those without broadband, the opportunity gap continues to widen.

For the last 30 years, most individuals and businesses that wanted internet access received this service largely from either private telecommunication companies or private internet / cable service providers. This privatized model is based on density and profitability and has worked well for most providers, however for the population at large, it has not. For those located in underserved or rural areas, even if they want to pay for access, this service is oftentimes just not available. Since the start of the pandemic, it has become painfully obvious that our local government must do more. Without access to reliable and affordable broadband, too many of our citizens and small businesses are falling farther and farther behind.

Under the recently enacted American Rescue Plan ("ARP"), one of the uses called for by the federal government was the "expansion of broadband." Accordingly, Alachua County has allocated up to \$15 million of ARP funds for this specific purpose. In addition, the Florida Association of Counties created a Statewide task force focused in this area. This task force has initially established three goals; (1) Have each county establish a county commissioner champion, (2) prepare a county resolution, and (3) establish a local technology planning team. Alachua County has recently named Vice Chair Commissioner Alford as our county champion and in addition to the other goals, the County has begun evaluating and mapping the underserved areas that need broadband access in our Community.

"This privatized model is based on density and profitability and has worked well for most providers, however for the population at large, it has not."

Over the coming months, your county government will be working with each of the local municipal governments and private sector providers to spend more time and effort to map and identify opportunities to improve and actually deploy broadband throughout Alachua County. As we start the new year in 2022, we know, the need is great and the time to act is now.

Ken Cornell, Alachua County Commissioner



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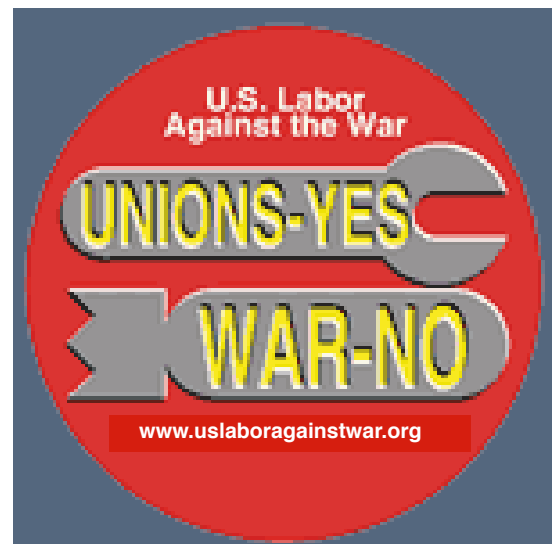
Dr. Saeed Khan, President

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.

Come join us and organize now! We are proud members of US Labor Against the War.

For more information, contact 352-372-6888.

“Solidarity knows no borders nor boundaries.”



That's where the fight lies. In understanding that however systemic the suppression of truth and trust might feel, there are still more of you than there are of them. The effort to say you are nothing and deserve nothing isn't actually erasure. It's actually their fear showing. And that fear in turn suggests that you still have more power than you may know.

— Dahlia Lithwick

It is Time to Re-Define What it Means to be Human!

by Bill Gilbert

The following overwhelming evidence tells us that Christianity and perhaps the other Abrahamic religions of Islam and Judaism have not achieved their goals of motivating their followers to: (1) avoid suffering, (2) treat other people as you would want them to treat you, with kindness, and (3) be good stewards of the Earth.

It is shocking . . . that among the western industrialized nations the United States is number one: in prison population with 2.3 million people incarcerated, teen birth rates, and some of the highest rates of STDs, first in illiteracy, poverty, homelessness, unemployment, income and wealth disparity, child hunger, drug use and related deaths, use of anti-depressants, firearms deaths, not providing health care for all of its citizens, the most military spending, recorded rapes, the poor quality of its public schools, hazardous waste production, and a failing police and criminal justice system and, . . .

It is shocking . . . the way minorities, working people, and those aspiring to be in the working class, have been treated in our history. Racism must end. Poverty must end. www.aclu.org/equalitynow.

Global warming / climate change will not be stopped and reversed without ending the use of fossil fuels. Climate change is causing: increasing intensity of forest fires, floods and hurricanes; unprecedented species extinction globally; a global fresh water crisis; and, desertification of the world's topsoil that is a major threat to our species. www.350.org • www.ucsusa.org

Continuous war as an instrument of foreign policy must be stopped. We must stand up in the United Nations and declare war on our true enemies, those conditions that cause racial, social, economic, and environmental injustice.

The above evidence clearly shows that moral exhortation does not work. Carl Jung talked of society's need for an effective bond. He warned us that: "Where love stops; power begins, including hatred, violence, and terror."

Einstein said, "No problem can be solved by the same kind of thinking that created it." The preferable way is not stagnation and inaction, but to go forward, to be progressive—to make progress—in the solving of our problems and to make things better than they were. We must make a better place

for the generations that hopefully will follow us.

Thomas Berry, one of the leading cultural historians of our time, leading spokesperson for the Earth, Catholic priest, and grandfather of the deep ecology movement, advocates, "Only a radical re-visioning of what it means to be human on this planet will suffice. We must move from being a disrupting force on the Earth to being a benign presence. It is the most necessary and most ennobling work we can ever undertake." (2) This transition is the, 'Great Work'—the title of his book.

We can and we must do this. The physicist, David Bohm said, "We have capacities within ourselves that are phenomenal, if we only knew how to release them."

"The well-being of humanity and the Earth depends upon this generation waking up, growing up, and moving from our adolescence into our early adulthood as a species, and thereby establishing a new relationship with nature, other human beings, and the living universe." Duane Elgin.

www.awakeningearth.org

"Do not be small minded. You pervade the universe and the universe exists in you. You are by nature Pure Consciousness." This is from the Astavakra Samhita 154.6 Compassion.

"The process of maturing as a human being involves a gradual widening of one's identification, or self-realization. The growing into maturity of a human is experienced as an ever-widening sense of self, from identification with the individual body-mind, to self as family, self as circle of friends, as nation, as race, as human race, as all living things, and perhaps finally to self s all that is." Arne Naess, Norwegian Eco-philosopher and scholar of Gandhi. Therefore . . .

Let us affirm and promote 'respect,' 'compassion,' and 'cooperation' for the common good of the interdependent-web-of-all-existence. 'Respect' indicates a logical or rational understanding of our interconnectivity and interdependency or oneness with the Earth/Cosmos that is focused, rational, and analytic. 'Compassion' indicates a heartfelt, intuitive or spiritual understanding of shared suffering and identity – the feeling of oneness with all that is, having an understanding of what we have known for thousands of years. While survival of the fittest played a part, 'Cooperation' has been determined to be the dominate factor in the evolution of human beings.

Therefore . . . "An act is 'positive' (Good) if it leads

“Continuous war as an instrument of foreign policy must be stopped. We must stand up in the United Nations and declare war on our true enemies, those conditions that cause racial, social, economic, and environmental injustice.”

to the fulfillment of one's being individually and in relation to the environment now and in the future. If it stimulates growth and opens further opportunities, if it enhances appreciation of living. . . if it benefits the human species and if it is in harmony with the fundamental laws of growth and change which pervade the universe. Something is 'right' when it tends to preserve the integrity, beauty, stability, and function of the biotic community. We are members of this community. www.therightsofnature.org/

“An act is 'negative' (Evil) if it damages one's essential nature, if it limits future choices, if it diminishes the capacity for appreciative awareness, if it betrays confidence or disrupts interaction in relationships, it exploits people, if it squanders the natural heritage of humanity, if it increases disorder, and if it violates the laws of being.” From John Clark's 'The Great Living System,' UUA, 1977. www.freetheocklawaha.com/

The survival of humanity will depend on our ability to understand some of the basic principles of ecology and live accordingly – interconnectivity, interdependence, recycling, partnership, flexibility, diversity, and, as a consequence, sustainability. “If we pick out anything, we find it hitched to everything else.” John Muir, founder Sierra Club

The Rev. James Parks Morton of The Cathedral of Saint John the Divine believed that, ecology is a way to understand life in our time.

Pope Francis, of the Catholic Church, stated in his Ecological Vision, “. . . Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are a part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it . . . An integral ecology is inseparable from the notion of the common good, a central and unifying principle of social ethics . . .

Self-improvement on the part of individuals will not by itself remedy the extremely complex situation facing our world today. . . Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply by the sum of individual good deeds. The ecological conversion needed to bring about lasting change is also a community conversion . . .”

www.laborcoalition.org • www.GNV4ALL.org • www.sierraclub.org

It is important to recognize and implement what scientists call a 'Global Deal for Nature,' to solve two interconnected crisis (1) biodiversity loss and (2) climate change. “Everywhere in open countryside, in farmland, in urban megaregions, and in other cities and town - the tasks are the same: protect what survives; repair what's been damaged; connect places that have been severed; collaborate as never before; and make the whole effort personal by bringing the natural world back into people's lives wherever they are.” From the book by Tony Hiss, 'Rescuing the Planet, protecting half the land to Heal the Earth,' 2021. www.natureneedshalf.org • www.alachuaconservationtrust.org

If we are to have peace in the world, we must strive for what we have in common, based not on someone's religion but universal ethics or evidence from humankind's history that indicate certain human values have been tried, tested and found to be essential for our wellbeing and evolution such as: Compassion, or the feeling of shared suffering/ identity, or not wanting someone to suffer, is essential to the formation and stability of human groups. Cooperation is a survival value that has been proven. Democracy or government by all the people including the respect for the individual has been proven. Honesty is essential in supporting and maintaining cooperation. Forgiveness enables us to renew human relationships. Tolerance has solid grounding in our experience of building peace and community.

The Dali Lama believes there are two principles that can be universally accepted by all. Both of these can easily be grasped on the basis of our common experience as humans and our common sense and both are supported by research in the fields of psychology and neuroscience. “The first principle. . . is the recognition of our shared humanity and our shared aspiration to happiness or equanimity and the avoidance of suffering. The second principle. . . is the understanding of our interdependence as a key feature of human reality.” We are One!

... continued on next page →

All of us need to be Avatars in our own ways, and together, to help the new paradigm to emerge. Compassion and kindness, not hatred; peace not war; wisdom not ignorance; more cooperation and less competition; and, much more gratitude. www.veteransforpeace.org

For us to accomplish the goals of our Republic (Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness) we must be able to 'engage' our compassion and kindness on a large scale, therefore . . . we must have a true representative democracy for our governance; and, we must have democratic-capitalism so all citizens can benefit from our economic system.

"Let us be those creative dissenters who will call our beloved nation to a higher destiny, to a new plateau of compassion, to a more noble expression of humaneness."

—Martin Luther King Jr.

Bill Gilbert, member: Alachua County Labor Coalition and Veterans For Peace. Resident of Orange Creek Basin, Ocklawaha River Watershed, Alachua County, Fl. Posted: 6 November 2021

"The survival of humanity will depend on our ability to understand some of the basic principles of ecology and live accordingly—interconnectivity, interdependence, recycling, partnership, flexibility, diversity, and, as a consequence, sustainability."



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Reina Saco



Reina Saco wishes a
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a happy new year to all who
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VFP Financial Report 2021

Gainesville Veterans for Peace (VFP) believes that part of our responsibility is to 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 \$12,952 from the Solstice and over the year, we have donated \$5,425 of that money to groups we support.

Because of the pandemic, we have had less interaction with the public this year and that has impacted what we have been able to do.

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

Our donation list for 2021:

→ \$750 to the **Alachua County Labor Coalition** to help their efforts to get fair housing, and Freedom of Speech at UF - www.floridalaborparty.org/alachua

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

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

→ \$500 to **Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice**, Peace Education - www.florida4peace.org

→ \$750 to the **Samuel Proctor Oral History Project** - oral.history.ufl.edu

→ \$500 to **Courage to Resist** - couragetoresist.org

→ \$500 to **About Face** - couragetoresist.org

→ \$200 to **Rose Garden Angels** www.RoseGardenAngels.org

→ \$250 to **VFP National** - www.veteransforpeace.org

→ \$250 to **Theater Of Memory**

→ \$250 to **Veterans Health**

→ **Total Donations = \$5,450**

VFP Projects:

→ Winter Solstice Concert: **\$1,000**

→ The Peace Scholarship Award - **\$3,000** (see article)

→ Memorial Mile - **\$2,917.30** (see article)

→ **Total cost of VFP Projects = \$6,917.30**

Other:

→ Books & DVDs - **\$40.99**

→ PO Box - **\$118**

→ **Total - \$158.99**

→ **Total spent for 2021 = \$12,526.29**

Income:

→ Solstice 2021: **\$12,952**

→ Donations: - **\$1,470**

→ **Total income for 2021 = \$14,062**

→ **Balance = \$1,535.71**

We are expecting to receive a donation of \$6,583.11 from Dennis Shuman by the end of this year. Thank You Dennis!!

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.

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What is love of one's country; is it hate of one's uncountrry? Then it's not a good thing. It is simply self-love? That's a good thing, but one mustn't make a virtue of it, or a profession . . .

— Ursula K. Le Guin

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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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.

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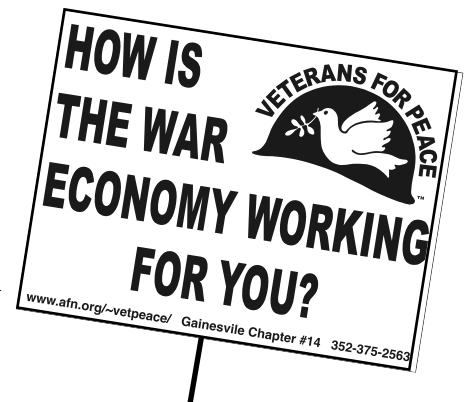
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Chapter 14

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

Happy Holidays

*to
Veterans for
Peace
from
the Poe
Family*





Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Gainesville
Social Justice Council

We believe 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.



2010 Statement of Conscience
Unitarian Universalist Association

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Sunday Services: 11:00 AM
uufg.org

