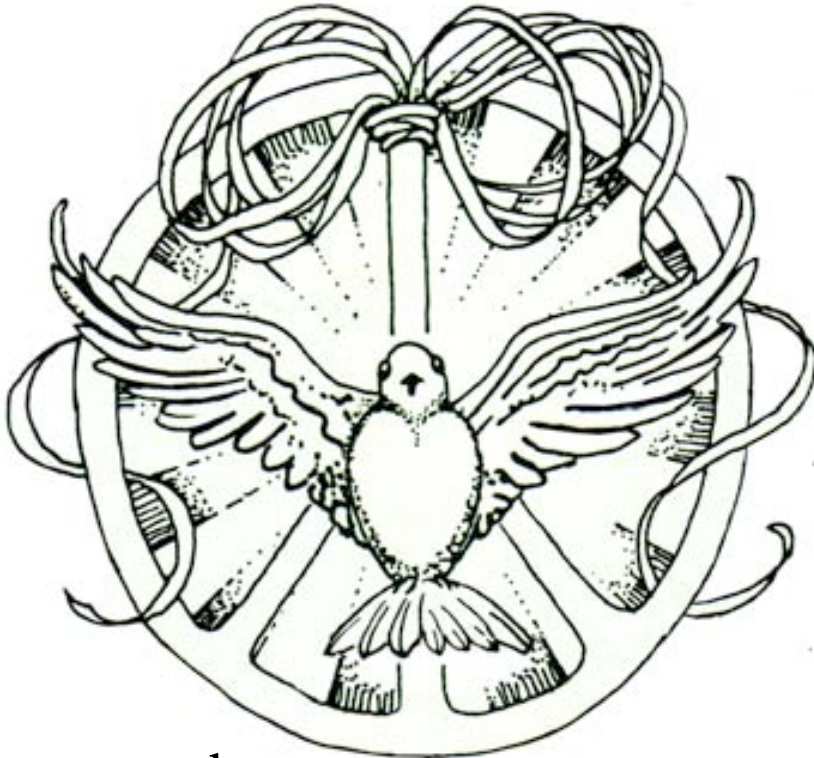




21st Annual Winter Solstice

PEACE CONCERT

Music & Cheer
for Dark Hours



December 21st, 2007, 8:00 PM

at and co-sponsored by the

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Gainesville Veterans for Peace Activities in 2007:

2007 has been a busy year for Gainesville Veterans for Peace (VFP). Our former coordinator, Julie Netzer, decided to spend more time coordinating the North Central Florida GI Rights Hotline (see article later in this program). Scott Camil, founder of Gainesville VFP in 1987, was chosen as the new coordinator.

We had been meeting at Books Inc. but moved the meetings to Scott's house for more room and other resources.

We set up a listserve, and several committees, for Correspondence, Printing, Picketing, Sign Making and Response to Iran Attack.

We budgeted the money from last year's Solstice and decided who we would help with funding (see article).

We helped IRAQ Veterans Against the War (IVAW) to start a chapter in North Florida (see article).

We helped Military Families Speak Out (MFSO) start a chapter in Gainesville (see article).

In May, we had our Memorial Day project, Memorial Mile (see article).

We participated in the Martin Luther King March in Gainesville and anti-war marches in DC, in January. and March. We co-sponsored (and Scott moderated) an Iraq vets' Teach-In/Speak-Out at Santa Fe Community College in February with CCAWT and the CMC. In March we met the Fayetteville VFP Convoy for a great potluck at Jacque Betz's farm, went to the DC march and had a local action in solidarity with it. We tabled at Bob Bowman's talk in April 10th at UUFG, the May Day event at the Downtown Plaza and at the City of Alachua July 4th celebration. We helped the Labor Party hand out leaflets and collect signatures during the opening weekend of Michael Moore's film Sicko, June 29th–July 1st. We co-sponsored and participated in the March on Washington to End the War Now in September. We endorsed and participated in the SDS action in October, called "No War, No Warming;" Clifton Hicks was one of the speakers. In Oct. 27, there were demonstrations in 11 cities around the country against the war, including Orlando. We went to Orlando and Clif spoke at the rally, as did Scott. We participated in the SOA protest from Nov. 16th–18th in Columbus, GA. Anthony Maroun spoke at the December 1st anti-war event in Jacksonville.

Ongoing projects: Tuesdays, we hold signs against the war from 4:00 to 6:00 — at Archer Rd. and 34th St. on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, and at University Ave. and 13th St. on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. We have had some incidents on the corners in which our signs were torn and thrown down. On one Tuesday, a truck drove up on the sidewalk and mowed some signs down. Sign holders have been verbally assaulted on occasion and physically assaulted once. In this case, the offender (who was later also charged with



continued on inside back cover...

Tonight's Program:

(may include but not limited to)

PROCESSIONAL WARM-UP

Mark Billman, Cathy Dewitt

CHEROKEE PEACE CHANT

Georg Suzuki

DRUMS OF PEACE

*Julie Netzer, David Beede, Rob Rothschild, Paige Allison, Kim Ricks,
Bill Hutchinson, Bob McPeek, John Stephens, Jennin Khalsa, John Chambers,
David Norden, Susan Marynowski, Barbara Graham, Robert Clark, Jackson*

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CALLIE THOMPSON

QUARTERMOON

Raven, John Smith, Michael Peyton

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Fagan Arouh, Alan Hill, Michelle Ott, Dan Tampas

INTERMISSION

FURTHER ADO

Bob McPeek, David Ottenberg, Fagan Arouh, Rob Rothschild

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host of Alternative Radio, will be
at the Civic Media Center on
Thursday January 17th, 2008,
7:30- 9:30 pm for a talk and Q &A.
(Donation requested.)

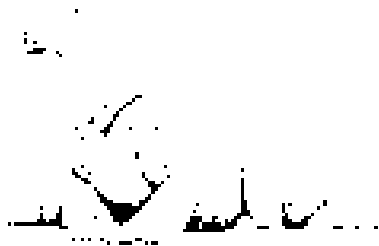


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A New Home for the Solstice Concerts

As the Veterans for Peace Winter Solstice Peace Concert starts its third decade we find ourselves at a new location.

For the past 20 years the Winter Solstice Peace Concert has been held at the Thomas Center.

The location and ambience of the Thomas Center has made for a wonderful 20 years. Because of you, our loyal supporters, we have outgrown the Thomas Center and were informed that we could no longer use it for our Winter Solstice Peace Concert.

Several members of Veterans for Peace are also members of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and let the Fellowship know of our need for a new location. The Fellowship responded very favorably – not only did they agree to allow us to put our Concert on at the fellowship this year but they also asked to be a co-sponsor.

So we are now in a new location that has twice as much room and a very nice ambience of its own.

We want to thank the Social Justice Council of The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for making this possible.

Special Thanks to —

The Members & Supporters of Veterans for Peace

Bill Hutchinson • Civic Media Center

Kristen Wanner Monkhorst & Cathy Dewitt

The Gainesville Iguana

Anne & Phil Haisley • Linda Pollini

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Clif Hicks • Bobby Ing • Gil Marshall • Ku Wong

Harold Saive • Progressive Democrats of America

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*Veterans for Peace
thanks*

Linda Pollini

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

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★ Congressional Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

★ Oxfam America: 1-800/OXFAM-US (693-2687)

Groups that VFP Supports with Donations

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

The Winter Solstice Celebration is the annual event from which we derive our operating funds. Last year, we raised \$4,668.85 from the Solstice and then, over the year, we gave \$2,150.00 of that money to groups we support. The following is a description of how those funds were used.

We gave \$300 to **The Gainesville Iguana** because of its excellent coverage of alternative news stories that are often not reported by the mainstream media. The *Iguana* also serves as an information resource for the Peace and Justice community. We gave \$400 to the **Civic Media Center** which provides an alternative library and a space for progressive speakers, groups and events. We gave \$300 to the **Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice** of which our VFP chapter is a member. We gave \$300 to the **Home Van** for its service to our area's homeless (25-30% of the homeless are veterans). We gave \$50.00 to the **Humane Society** in memory of Dr. Edward Weinshelbaum, one of our long-time supporters. We gave \$60.00 to the **Cultural Arts Coalition** to support the 5th Avenue Art Festival. We gave \$240 to the **Alachua County Labor Party's Committee of 100** to help in their efforts to get universal health care enacted through bill HR676. We gave \$300 to **Vetspace** for their services to veterans. We gave \$200 to **Brave New Films** to become a sponsor of their outstanding YouTube two-minute film shorts covering a wide variety of issues in a nutshell, available at no cost on the Internet. **Brave New Films** has also produced documentaries that VFP uses for education outreach, such as *Iraq for Sale*, *Outfoxed*, *Uncovered*, and *Unprecedented*.

Other funds were used for transportation to various demonstrations, the "Memorial Mile", and similar projects, as well as resources such as t-shirts, yard signs, buttons, etc. Vets for Peace pays no salaries.

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

We thank you.

*Great is the guilt of
an unnecessary war.*
— *John Adams*

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**Life-Savers send and candy canes
And Christmas coffins for remains
And for our soldiers send more flags
And holly sprigs for body bags.**

**Support our troops across the seas
And mark their graves with
Christmas trees.**

— Ellen Reinhart, 2004

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Iraq Veterans Against the War

Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) is an organization of veterans and active duty military personnel who have served in the Armed Forces since September 11, 2001 and are now working to bring about an immediate withdrawal of all combat forces from the occupation of Iraq. IVAW was formed in 2004 by a handful of Iraq veterans at the VFP national convention in St. Louis, Missouri. Today we are growing, slowly but surely, and will soon top 1,000 members across the country. In January of this year we numbered fourteen chapters; we now have thirty-two.

On Veterans Day, 2007, four young veterans met in Gainesville to form the 31st. chapter of Iraq Veterans Against the War. Contact us for any reason (to request a speaker, make donations, ask a question,

etc.) at ivawgainesville@gmail.com or by visiting myspace.com/ivawgainesville. To find out more about IVAW, or to pitch in at the national level, call 215-241-7123 or email ivaw@ivaw.org. Visit www.ivaw.org to learn more, make donations or purchase "I Support IVAW" t-shirts.

If you have an acquaintance, co-worker, friend, family member or know anyone who has recently served in the military and is against the occupation of either Iraq or Afghanistan, please reach out to them and make them aware of our presence in this area.

Clifton Hicks lives in Gainesville. He was honorably discharged as a Conscientious Objector after retuning from Iraq and now serves as SE Regional Coordinator for IVAW.

In Memoriam

Edward Weinschelbaum

1935-2007

Friend and colleague

Supporter of Veterans for Peace

May the Force be with him

Bill Warrick, MD

Military Families Speak Out

Military Families Speak Out (MFSO) is an organization of people who have relatives or loved ones in the military and are opposed to the war in Iraq. MFSO was formed in 2002 by two military families and now includes more than 3,200 families speaking out to end the war in Iraq, to bring our troops home now, **to take care of them when they get here**, and to end the policies allowing this unjust and unjustifiable war to happen.

FMFSO's Alachua County chapter is a recent addition to the Florida organization. If you have a family member or loved one in the military (or one who served during the period of this Iraq war) and you are opposed to the war, we invite you to join MFSO. Browse mfsoflorida.tripod.com, send an e-mail to mfsoflorida@yahoo.com or contact:

MFSO
P.O. Box 300549
Jamaica Plain, MA 102130
617-983-0710

Locally, call (352) 379-2710.

You can support the work of MFSO without being a member by joining a supporters' list. You will receive periodic updates and information about MFSO activities. You can enter your e-mail address at "Get e-mail alerts" on the MFSO website. You can order MFSO T-shirts, pins and bumper stickers from the website to help spread the message:

Bring Them Home Now!

When someone says my son died fighting for his country, I say,

"No, the suicide bomber who killed my son died fighting for his country."

— Father of American Soldier Lance Cpl. Chase J. Comley, USMC, KIA in Iraq



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IMAGINE.

Linda & Thom Tyler

"There are no atheists in foxholes" isn't an argument against atheism, it's an argument against foxholes.

— James Morrow



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

N. Albert Bacharach, Jr.

Defending the Constitution in the 21st Century

Scott Camil

My patriotism has been questioned because of my work for Peace and Justice; this has caused me to think about what patriotism means. To many, it means to love one's country, but what does that mean? Do I love my country? Why? What makes my country worth loving more than any other country?

For me the answer is simple: it's our Constitution that makes our country worth loving.

The rights we are guaranteed make our country special.

When I was in the Marine Corps, I took an oath to defend the Constitution against all threats foreign and domestic. I take that

oath very seriously; I did not un-take that oath when I got out of the Marine Corps.

As I look at what has happened to my country over the last seven years, I am blown away by how much destruction has been done to our Constitution and how little outrage there is coming from the public. If another country were trying to take away our rights, people would be fighting mad. I can't figure out why there is so much complacency as our government subverts our Constitution.

In World War II, the "Greatest Generation" fought to save our way of life. We fought against the idea that any country has the right to preemptively attack another country.

We fought against the ideas that "might makes right," "the ends justify the means," and some people do not deserve human rights. Now my country stands for all these ideas. And to some, that is patriotic.

My government has started an illegal war with lies, and now argues that torture is okay, spies on the public illegally without warrant, does away with due process, and kidnaps people all over the world.

Where are the checks and balances? Our Supreme Court protects these violations by ruling that considerations in

continued on next page...

There are only two things we should fight for. One is the defense of our homes and the other is the Bill of Rights.

— Maj. Gen. Smedley Butler, USMC



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Defending the Constitution...

the name of national security come before the Constitution. Well, I've got news for them. There can be no national security without the Constitution.

Many believe that it's the Republicans' fault, but you would have to be more than blind not to see that the Democrats are partners in these crimes; they control both the funding and the agenda. They argue that they don't have enough votes to stop a filibuster.

What a total load of crap. They control the agenda; if they don't put funding for these crimes on the agenda, no one can filibuster or veto.

Our Constitution is being destroyed by a criminal conspiracy of lies, deceit, and dereliction.

What are we going to do about it? I don't have all of the answers, but I've got some.

1) If you are currently serving in the military, it is your Duty, Obligation and Responsibility to disobey an unlawful order. This war is in violation of international treaties that the US is party to. That makes any order to deploy to or participate in Iraq an illegal order that



must be disobeyed. We executed German and Japanese soldiers in WWII for obeying unlawful orders.

2) Under the "No Child Left Behind" Act, every high school is required to release students' personal information to military recruiters or lose federal funding. The parents of children can sign an "opt-

continued on next page...

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I'm still waiting for some churchgoing patriot to notice that being born American is a gift of grace and to begin marketing "Humble to be an American" decals.

— Donna Glee Williams

...continued from previous page

Defending...

out form” to keep their personal information private.

Sign those forms. Demand that the School Board notify parents and students of this policy in the Code of Student Conduct book and mail the forms to the parents at the beginning of every school year.

We salute Eileen Roy, the only member of the Alachua County School Board who supports us on this issue.

3) I am a proud Marine and there is good that can come out of military service. The problem is that presently there are criminals in charge of the military and they are not being responsible with the lives of our troops. As long as these criminals are willing to expend the lives of our military unnecessarily, it does not make sense to give them our children. **Right now, the military is not a good or a smart choice.**

4) We, the people, are the highest authority in the United States of America.

The president and the men and women who serve in the US Congress and on the



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Supreme Court are our employees. It is our job to control what they do in our name and with our money. We need to start doing our job.

5) We must not allow our federal representatives to come to town without our being there to make sure that they know we want an end to all of this. No “business as usual” for these people who have been a party to this.

6) We must tell Speaker Pelosi to take “subversion of the Constitution” off of the table and put “impeachment” on.

7) We must refuse to vote for anyone who voted for this war or voted to fund even *one penny* of it. Period.

continued on next page...

The genius of you Americans is that you never make clear cut stupid moves, only *complicated* stupid moves which make us wonder at the possibility that there may be something we are missing.

— Gamal Abdel Nasser

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...continued from previous page

Defending the Constitution...

8) We must understand that loyalty should be given to the Constitution, not to a political party.

9) We must let our government know that under-funding the Veterans Administration is an injustice to veterans and not patriotic under any definition.

I am a patriotic citizen, but I will never be so blindly patriotic that I act like the patriotic German citizens of WWII.

“The best way to honor Veterans is to learn from their sacrifices.”

— Veterans for Peace

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*Season's
Greetings!*



Oregon K. Hunter, Jr.,

M.D.

You cannot be on one hand dedicated to peace and on the other dedicated to violence. Those two things are irreconcilable.

— Condoleezza Rice

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

ARMS ARE FOR HUGGING

Cathy Dewitt

Wherever you wander, wherever you roam,
You'll find things aren't so different from right
here at home;

People all over the world feel the same;
We're trying to save it, this isn't a game;

Chorus

Arms, arms are for hugging
And love is to give,
Peace is for all people
And life is ours to live!

All over this planet, people are scared;
From Moscow to Boston these feelings are
shared;

Every place has its beauty, we all have our
friends;

There isn't a soul who would want it to end;

Chorus

Bridge:

Oh, people we've got to get together,
We've got to make our feelings known;
Whoever you are, wherever you're from,
In this you are not alone –
(In knowing that...)

Chorus

Whoever you talk to, you'll find this is true;
They all want the same thing as me and you;
We all love our children, we all love our land,
And a smile is a language we all understand—

Chorus

Chorus

Repeat last line:

LIFE IS OURS TO LIVE!

IMAGINE

John Lennon

Imagine there's no heaven
It's easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky

Imagine all the people living for today

Imagine there's no countries

It isn't hard to do

Nothing to kill or die for

And no religion too

Imagine all the people living life in peace

Chorus:

You may say I'm a dreamer

But I'm not the only one

I hope someday you'll join us

And the world will be as one

Imagine no possessions

I wonder if you can

No need for greed or hunger

A brotherhood of man

Imagine all the people sharing all the world

Chorus

DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE

Traditional

Gonna lay down my sword & shield

Down by the riverside,

Down by the riverside,

Down by the riverside

Gonna lay down my sword & shield, down by
the riverside

Ain't gonna study war no more

Chorus: I ain't gonna study war no more (6x)

Gonna walk with the Prince of Peace...

Gonna shake hands around the world...

Gonna lay down those atom bombs...

Gonna sing with the Vets for Peace.....

REVOLUTION

John Lennon & Paul McCartney

You say you want a revolution
Well you know
We all want to change the world
You tell me that it's evolution
Well you know
We all want to change the world
But when you talk about destruction
Don't you know that you can count me out
Don't you know it's going to be all right
All right all right
You say you got a real solution
Well you know
We'd all love to see the plan
You ask me for a contribution
Well you know
We're all do it when we can
But if you want money for people with minds
that hate
All I can tell you is brother you have to wait
Don't you know it's gonna be
All right
All right all right
You say you'll change the Constitution
Well you know
We all want to change your head
You tell me it's the institution
Well you know
You better free your mind instead
But if you go carrying pictures of Chairman
Mao
You ain't gonna make it with anyone anyhow
Don't you know
It's gonna be all right
All right all right.

*The future belongs to those who give the
next generation reason for hope.*

— Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

WAR IS OVER

John and Yoko

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

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN

Graham Nash

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

Chorus:

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

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

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

Lyrics continue on next page...

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

Stephen Stills

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

Chorus:

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

Chorus

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

Chorus

NATURE'S WAY

Randy California

It's nature's way of telling you something's
wrong

It's nature's way of telling you in a song
It's nature's way of receiving you
It's nature's way of retrieving you
It's nature's way of telling you
Something's wrong

It's nature's way of telling you, summer breeze
It's nature's way of telling you, dying trees
It's nature's way of receiving you
It's nature's way of retrieving you
It's nature's way of telling you
Something's wrong

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Hawkeye: War isn't hell. War is war and hell is hell, and of the two war is a lot worse.

Fr. Mulcahy: How do you figure that, Hawkeye?

Hawkeye: Simple, father. Tell me, who goes to hell?

Fr. Mulchay: Sinners, I believe.

Hawkeye: Exactly. There are no innocent bystanders in hell. But war is chock full of them. Little kids, cripples, old ladies, in fact, except for a few of the brass almost everybody involved is an innocent bystander.

— M.A.S.H.

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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.

I feel like I've given the traditional words of condolences a thousand times these last few months, "Baqiya ib hayatikum... Akhir il ahzan..." or "May this be the last of your sorrows." Except they are empty words because even as we say them, we know that in today's Iraq any sorrow - no matter how great - will not be the last.

- Riverbend



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of the views of others is
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North Central Florida GI Rights Hotline 2007

Julie Netzer

The Gainesville Chapter of Veterans for Peace continues to “support our troops” through its work with local Quakers and Unitarian Universalists with the North Central Florida GI Rights Hotline. We began the GI Rights Hotline in this area in February 2004 and were receiving calls from GIs and their family members almost immediately. To date, we have handled nearly 300 calls, with nearly 90 calls this year alone. We cover the 727 (Pinellas County/St. Pete), 352, and 386 area codes with our advocacy and support on behalf of our soldiers.

This year, our cases, again, have primarily been soldiers who are AWOL (absent without leave) and need information on their options, soldiers who have started basic training and decided they didn't want to continue with their military obligation, and young people who have joined the military through the Delayed Enlistment/Entry Program and have decided the military way of life isn't for them.

We are also noticing this year the toll of this war on the quality of recruits now joining the military and on their family

members; we are getting more calls this year than in the past from soldiers and their family members contemplating divorce and bankruptcy, who are overspending, who are unwilling to be transferred around the country at the will of the military, and who are suffering from injuries obtained while doing military service and having to deal with a non-responsive military medical system.

We are very proud of our work on behalf of these soldiers and their families. We find it interesting that while certain groups in this country scream about “supporting our troops” to the peace and justice communities, it is the peace and

continued on next page...

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

Friends Declaration of 1661

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www.afn.org/~quakers

702 NW 38th St

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Firstday (Sunday)

There are those who argue that everything breaks even in this old dump of a world of ours. I suppose these ginks who argue that way hold that because the rich man gets ice in the summer and the poor man gets it in the winter things are breaking even for both. Maybe so, but I'll swear I can't see it that way.

— Bat Masterson



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justice community who is out there *really* supporting our troops against an inhumane, negligent, reckless, dangerous, “empty promises” system that is stacked against them and their volunteer service to their country. The sacrifice our soldiers and the Iraqi people are making at the hands of this incompetent, inept, corrupt government administration which sees itself as accountable to no one is nothing

less than a criminal tragedy for our country, our soldiers, and the Iraqi people!

Please see our table during the intermission for further details and information on countering military recruiting and alternatives to the military. The GI Rights Hotline is available for workshop presentations on alternatives to the military, preparing conscientious objector files, and getting out of the military’s Delayed Enlistment/Entry Program. We are also looking for more GI Rights counselors for our Hotline. More counselors will allow us to take on more Florida area codes and provide more assistance to Florida soldiers. If you are interested in becoming a GI Rights counselor, please stop by our table.

Be all you can be and work for peace!

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Freedom: Use It or Lose It

Today we are living in dangerous times, in which our Constitution is threatened and our Constitutional rights are under attack. As veterans, we not only inherited our rights but many of us have bled to protect them.

We are saddened that in many communities law enforcement has buckled to political pressure and has helped to erode our Constitutional rights. We see "free speech zones" being created and people arrested for wearing shirts that say "Peace."

Here in North Central Florida, we are very lucky to have a State Attorney who recognizes that the Constitution is the supreme law of the land. We want to thank State Attorney Bill Cervone for being available to discuss and clarify the rules with us so that we can exercise our rights without having confrontations with those who oppose our message, or with law enforcement that gets put in the middle.

Although a member of the Bush family has been part of the ruling Presidential ticket 5 out of the last 7 contests, both 41 and 43 went out of their way to say they don't appreciate the term "dynasty." Yeah, well, you know what? Neither do we.
— Will Durst

Anne & Phil Haisley

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Memorial Mile

Last year we became aware of a project called **Arlington West**. The idea was to set up an Arlington National Cemetery type of display on the beach in California and to have the tombstones represent American service members killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. The display was very powerful and the organizers recorded the reaction and comments of those who came to see it. A DVD was made of this and put out with a teaching guide. After viewing the DVD, we thought that a display like this would have a strong impact on our community. At our May 2nd meeting, we decided to create and set up the display in Gainesville on Memorial Day.

A tremendous amount of planning and work went into this project. First, we had to get a permit from the city to use the right of way on 8th Avenue between NW 34th St. and NW 22nd St. (Memorial Mile). The next two days were spent trying to get a permit from the City of Gainesville. It seemed that no one could help. The second week, May 8th, we made contact with Rosemary Skell, City Manager Russ Blackburn's administrative assistant, and then we were good to go. Next, we had to order the materials at a cost of over \$1200. At the same time, we also worked on setting up a display on the north side of the street to depict the Cost of War.

We ordered the materials and went to work. We ordered 84 4' x 8' sheets of plastic and cut them into 4000 8" x 12" tombstones. We cut 8000 6" metal spikes out of old campaign sign wires. We drilled and burned 2 holes in each tombstone at the same depth, so they would all be the same height and we put the spikes into the tombstones. We then downloaded the names, dates and information for each American service member killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, updating daily until Memorial Day. We arranged the information by date and place, printed the the information on large labels, and put the

labels on the tombstones, keeping everything in chronological order. We put the finished tombstones in boxes, numbered the 32 boxes and assigned each box to a team that would be responsible for putting them up in order.

While this work was being done, others who were not working on the Cost of War project measured the right of way and marked the locations to evenly place the four 1-mile long rows at four abreast so it would all be even. We made guides for this part and marked each location with paint.

At 4 a.m. on Memorial Day, over 50 people showed up and by 6 a.m. we had placed 3,873 tombstones on the south side of the street and the Cost of War posters on the north side of the street. We then cleaned the paint spots off of the curb. It took us 20 days from the time we got our permit until we were finished. Many people put in full 8-hour days. When night came on Memorial Day, we removed the tombstones and boxed them up for next year.

The reaction and feedback from the public who saw the display proved to be as powerful and moving as we had anticipated.

We had all of the names of our fallen service members listed by date and by name and helped people locate their loved one's memorial tombstone. We had already placed American flags on the tombstones that named local service members. One part of the display

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Memorial...

that really moved people was the space we left between the last row and the last marker that said Memorial Day 2008. **This empty space would now, as of December 2007, hold 496 additional tombstones.**

There were some very moving moments during this work. When we were putting labels on the tombstones, Sally Dickinson pulled a label out of her pile – it was her cousin, Dan McVicker. There is no doubt that everyone who worked on this project recognized that we were dealing with real people, not just numbers. It was a very important part of this project – to make the public see the enormity of those deaths and to recognize that each tombstone represented a real person whose loss had a profound effect on those who knew the person. It is much more than just numbers that continually increase. Unfortunately, TV 20 News was unable to understand this, rounding off our 3,873 lost service members to “about 3000 tombstones” while referring to the display as “controversial.”

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— Graham Greene



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...Mile

In April 2007, one of our members, Sherrie Hunter, was diagnosed with cancer and had surgery. She started chemotherapy in May. Sherrie and her husband Stephen did not allow this personal tragedy to interfere with their commitment to VFP and ending the war. They volunteered for rounding off the tops of the tombstones, building the guides for laying out the tombstones and marking the curb. Sherrie and Stephen are shining examples of those who do more than "talk the talk." They "walk the walk."

We want to thank everyone who worked on this project; over 100 people participated. The volunteers came from many local Peace, Justice and Environmental organizations. Most of those groups have tables at this Solstice Concert. We also want to thank Rosemary Skell for getting us past the red tape, and the Alachua Green Party and the Social Justice Council of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for co-endorsing the Memorial Day event and helping us with the cost of materials. You can view photos and video of the event at our website:
www.afn.org/~vetpeace/solstice.htm



We now have a permit for Memorial Day weekend 2008. This time, the tombstone display will be up for the whole weekend - Saturday through Monday. We are looking forward to the day when we will not have to update our display.

Iraq Veterans Against the War

(North Florida, Chapter # 31)

Would like to thank Veterans for Peace for their continued support and most valued friendship.



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*Somebody has to do something,
 and it's just incredibly pathetic
 that it has to be us.*
 — Jerry Garcia

BE RESPONSIBLE! DON'T BUY WAR TOYS!

Mark Twain's Battle Hymn

Everyone is familiar with the song The Battle Hymn of the Republic, but I wonder how many are familiar with Mark Twain's version, written in 1901 during the Philippine-American War, as a statement against American imperialism. I find Twain's version, recorded by the Chad Mitchell Trio as The Battle Hymn of the Republic Brought Down to Date, to be as relevant today as it was when written, and think it should be revived.

[Chris Rodda, at talk2action.org]

(Sung to the tune of The Battle Hymn of the Republic)

Mine eyes have seen the orgy of the launching of the Sword;
He is searching out the hoardings where the stranger's wealth is stored;
He hath loosed his fateful lightnings, and with woe and death has scored;
His lust is marching on.

I have seen him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps;
They have builded him an altar in the Eastern dews and damp;
I have read his doomful mission by the dim and flaring lamps –
His night is marching on.

I have read his bandit gospel writ in burnished rows of steel:
“As ye deal with my pretensions, so with you my wrath shall deal;
Let the faithless son of Freedom crush the patriot with his heel;
Lo, Greed is marching on!”

We have legalized the strumpet and are guarding her retreat;
Greed is seeking out commercial souls before his judgement seat;
O, be swift, ye clods, to answer him! be jubilant my feet!
Our god is marching on!

In a sordid slime harmonious Greed was born in yonder ditch,
With a longing in his bosom – and for others' goods an itch.
As Christ died to make men holy, let men die to make us rich –
Our god is marching on.

If my soldiers were to begin to think, not one of them would remain in the army.

— Frederick the Great

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

...continued from inside front cover...

Vets for Peace in 2007

domestic battery) was charged and required to write a written apology and agree to stay away.

We network with other Peace and Justice groups and coordinate activities at the Gainesville Peace Forum meetings which take place at the CMC on the 1st Saturday of each month at 2:00 PM.

Harold Saive videotapes many of our events and puts some on YouTube.com (search for them there by "Gainesville Veterans for Peace").

Mary Bahr maintains our website. She updates it frequently and there are many great photos, film clips, speeches and articles contributed by our members. You can check out our calendar and we now have a blog and a merchandise page where people can order T-shirts, buttons, etc.

We are deeply opposed to U.S. intervention in Iran and our VFP chapter decided that if Iran is attacked, we will make Alachua County a "No Business As Usual" environment for our federal representatives.



Veterans from all services and all nations (including those on active duty or in training pro-grams) and veterans' family members are invited to join Veterans for Peace. For more information, contact Scott Camil at 375-2563, visit www.afn.org/~vetpeace, write to PO Box 142562, G'ville 32614, or come to our regular meetings (7 PM on the first Wednesday of each month) at Scott & Sherry's house - call 352-375-2563 for directions.

If you have to resort to force, you have already lost.

- Tokugawa

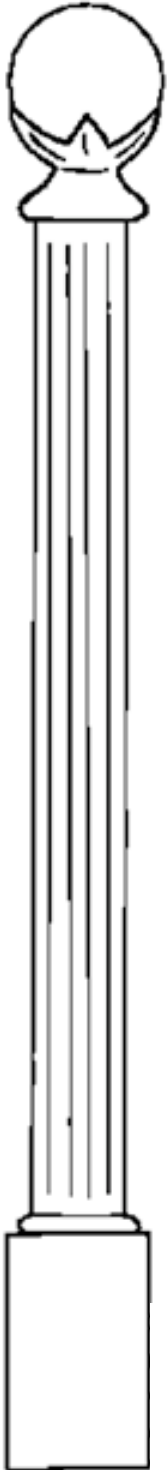
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**Happy Holidays
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