



VETERANS FOR PEACE

Gainesville Chapter 14, P.O. Box 142562, Gainesville, FL, 32614

*"..the next great advancement in the evolution of civilization cannot take place until war is abolished."
General Douglas MacArthur*

December 2009

Dear Educator, Principal, Librarian, Teacher, and Community Leader,

The Veterans For Peace, Gainesville Chapter, announces **THE ANNUAL PEACE POETRY CONTEST for 2010**. Veterans For Peace, Inc. is a national non-violent peace and justice non-profit organization with local members throughout the Gainesville community.

Our goal is to educate and inform the public about issues of peace, the cost of war and peace-making at schools and in our local communities.

Funding for the contest, presentation and booklet of children's peace poetry has been asked of local cultural agencies in the Alachua County area. It is with much gratitude that Veterans For Peace thanks your local community cultural agencies and invites you and the children attending your schools to participate in the annual contest.

Veterans For Peace members believe peace-making and hope for a peaceful world begin in our community, our homes and our schools. Other chapters have been organizing the Peace Poetry Contest around the country for more than seven years with great success, but this is the first time the Gainesville Chapter is doing it in Alachua County. The members of Veterans For Peace, sponsors of the event, congratulate you and your community leaders for recognizing the importance of this event, dedicated to establishing a "culture of peace" in our local communities.

I have enclosed copies of the invitation and rules for the PEACE POETRY CONTEST – 2010 in the hope that you will widely distribute and post them, and encourage both your colleagues and students for maximum participation. **The deadline for submitting poems is March 15, 2010.**

Copies of the published booklet of winning poetry will be available after the contest, at the presentation. The students all enjoy expressing themselves and competing for prizes and honors. Winners are asked to present their poetry at a public gathering at a time, date and place to be announced. A recording of the readings will play on local radio stations after the event.

Families, neighbors and friends are all invited to the presentation, as are all teachers and educators who, through their encouragement, have invited their students to participate.

Send all submissions to: Dr Sidney Wade, 331 NE 2nd Ave., Gainesville FL 32601.

Sincerely,

Jessica Newman, Poetry Contest Co-Facilitator
Member of Veterans For Peace, Gainesville Chapter