

**World Peace Day**  
**Press Release**  
**Celebration of World Peace Day**  
**Saturday September 21, 2013**

11:00am to 12:00noon	Peace March from University & 13 <sup>th</sup> St. to Bo Diddley Plaza
12:00 noon to 2:00pm	Peace Pole, Flag Ceremony with live Music and International Dances for Peace Children's Peace Pinwheel Project Bo Diddley Plaza

On September 21<sup>st</sup> Gainesville will celebrate World Peace Day. Honoring peace on a special day has grown from its beginnings in the 1980s to take many forms around the world from ringing Peace Bells to planting Peace Poles. In 1981 the United Nations General Assembly, by unanimous vote, adopted Resolution 36/67 establishing the International Day of Peace (IDP) which stated in part, "to devote a specific time to concentrate the efforts of the United Nations and its Member States, as well as the whole of mankind, to promoting the ideals of peace and to giving positive evidence of their commitment to peace in all viable ways." In 2001 the UN followed up this resolution making September 21<sup>st</sup> a permanent Day for honoring world peace in ceremonies and good works.

In Gainesville we will begin at 11:00 am Saturday morning with a Peace March from campus (13<sup>th</sup> Street and University Avenue) to the Plaza carrying flags from 30 countries from around the world. We are looking for participants to help carry these flags and invite everyone to participate. When the march reaches the Plaza at noon the flags will be used in a flag ceremony around a temporary Peace Pole which will be erected on the Plaza. This is a simple ceremony done around the world on this date to honor peacemaking. We will close the Ceremony with live music and a participatory "Peace Greeting Dance" led by Diana Kanoy of Universal Dances for Peace. Thousands of Peace Poles have been dedicated in many countries around the world including one in Veterans Park in Gainesville. Our portable Peace Pole will be erected on the Plaza from noon to 2pm. The pole has inscribed in 8 different languages on its sides "May peace prevail on earth". In addition to the peace pole and flag ceremony there will be a children's art activity connected with the Peace Pinwheel Project also associated with World Peace Day and tabling by the sponsoring organizations listed below.

United Nations Association of Gainesville  
Gainesville Veterans for Peace Chapter 14  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville  
River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding

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