



The Gainesville Iguana

(late) April/(early) May 2014
Vol. 28, Issue 4

Justice John Roberts Again Defends the Lower Classes



Supreme insanity: how the High Court is killing our democracy

By Jim Miller

This article was originally published by the OB Rag in Ocean Beach, Calif., on April 7. Read more at obrag.org.

Last week was a very bad week for American democracy. With the *McCutcheon v. FEC* decision, the Supreme Court of the United States dealt a sweeping blow to existing campaign finance laws that seek to limit the influx of money in American politics.

In the wake of the *Citizens United* case that opened the door for big spending by Super PACS and dark money, this ruling takes another step towards plutocracy by striking down overall limits on campaign

contributions. By doing so *McCutcheon* rudely thrusts us further into a new Gilded Age where our economy and our politics are thoroughly dominated by a small minority of the opulent.

Senator Bernie Sanders put it best when he observed that, "The Supreme Court is paving the way toward an oligarchic form of society in which a handful of billionaires like the Koch brothers and Sheldon Adelson will control our political process." And that's why it's increasingly hard to get anything good for everyday people done in Washington D.C., even when a healthy majority of Americans approve of a given policy.

See *DEMOCRACY*, p. 2

New homeless services center

by Arupa Freeman, Home Van

Below is a letter by Arupa Freeman of Gainesville's Home Van in the Home Van newsletter on April 8.

I have postponed writing this until we could get some clarity on what is going to happen after the May 1 opening of Grace Market Place (also called the Empowerment Center) and what this is going to mean for the homeless people and the grassroots providers.

Recently, the downtown meal providers met with Theresa Lowe and Jon DeCarmine, who will be running the Center, and were given the big picture.

It is a fluid situation, with a lot of variables and some unknowns at this point. I'm going to describe the upcoming plans as best I can. Ultimately, the center will provide two meals a day for 200 or more people, restrooms, showers, washers and dryers, and emergency shelter (in barracks). Other plans include (but are not limited to) educational and job opportunities, case man-

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DEMOCRACY, from p. 1

As Robert Hine at Demos notes, the Congressional inertia around increasing the federal minimum wage is a case in point:

“The inability of Washington to raise the minimum wage is a prime example of how that elite donor dominance impacts real-world policymaking. Last week, House Republicans unanimously voted down the president’s proposal to increase the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour over three years. This flies in the face of popular will. A March Bloomberg poll showed nearly three-quarters of respondents backing the president’s proposal to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. Yet only 40 percent of wealthy Americans agree. Those Americans, who our lawmakers hear from the most, largely don’t support a minimum wage increase and their preferences hold undue sway in Washington because of a broken campaign finance system.”

In other words, the fox is guarding the hen house and our nation’s

highest court just gave more political power to the same group of oligarchs who are working hard to restrict voting, kill unions, and limit American democracy in nearly every way possible.

As the Sunlight Foundation’s analysis of what the post-McCutcheon landscape would look like concluded, this ruling “will take an incredibly incredibly unequal system of campaign finance and turn it into an incredibly incredibly incredibly incredibly unequal system.” More specifically, they note that an elite group of about 1,000 donors will see the most benefit in terms of their ability to buy access and dictate policy.

Most of this well-heeled gang hails from Wall Street, and while the majority are GOP donors, what matters most is not so much party but policy. Indeed, while some may disagree on social issues, not many will be big advocates of redistributive tax policies or restrictions on the untrammelled power of our new robber barons.

Thus we should be prepared to get more lectures on providing “ladders of opportunity” from the likes of Bill Gates and the folks at the UT-San Diego, but not much enthusiasm for policies that actually challenge the existing power structure that helps keep them rich and most of the rest of us struggling, whether we are in the ever more fragile middle class or just hoping to get there.

So you should be very mad about this, particularly if you are smart enough not to fall for the new Social Darwinist tendency in our politics that offers up feeble self-help answers for big structural problems in our economy. Simply put, there are no market-based, individual solutions to the problems the neoliberal social order presents for the average person.

As Doug Henwood notes in his review of Thomas Picketty’s seminal new study, *Capital in the 21st Century*:

“The core message of this enormous and enormously important book can be delivered in a few lines: Left to its own devices, wealth inevitably tends to concentrate in capitalist economies. There is no ‘natural’ mechanism inherent in the structure of such economies for inhibiting, much less reversing, that tendency. Only crises like war and depression, or political interventions like taxation (which, to the upper classes, would be a crisis), can do the trick. And Thomas Picketty has two centuries of data to prove his point.”

Thus, the only means we have to combat what Robert Reich calls “Inequality for All” lie in collective political action. What the Supreme Court’s insistence that spending equals speech assures us is that the rich get a well-funded mass communication system while we are left to holler on the street corner.

Start yelling. 🐕

WORSHIP WITH FRIENDS

Gainesville Quakers warmly invite you to attend our weekly meeting for worship held in our beautiful meetinghouse nestled among majestic oaks.

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From the publisher Technology and us

There are some stickers in place downtown which have caught my attention more than once. They read: "Technology is Making Us Stupid." Technology sure has impacted our lives in a big way, but is stupid really the right term? Better put, perhaps it's that it has exceeded our ability to not have it be destructive in unforeseen ways. And that coupled with an addictive quality to it as it changes our lives, we change our lives to fit its newly opened options.



Joe Courter

As with email, I was very slow to move on to Facebook, just getting on last December. I have tried to be analytical as to how it has affected my life. A time eater, yes; but in both the constructive and in the frivolous at the same time. But what have I given up to make room for it? I read less serious reading, though I am still learning things, some of it is in the form of amusing bits of disassociated opinion and analysis. How about communication and technology? There are less conversations and more short messages which are received as words on screens, which can be functionally good but also subject to misinterpretation and lacking in further information which a conversation might have brought forth.

It is ironic that technology has given us vastly more communication power, which if devoted to positive social change functions could really help build a better world, yet instead people seem less inclined to use it that way. I always am amazed to think back to the early civil rights movement days and all that was achieved without cell phones or photocopy capability, without computers or email. It was phone trees, snail mail, and most importantly, commitment. Commitment to the cause, to your sisters and brothers in the cause, and to do what you said you'd do.

Now it's all kinda fuzzy and fluid. Granted, some of this is because, again due to technology, there are so many other things going on, even on the organizing front, but also the undreamt of distractions we have at our fingertips and in our homes. Games, movies, sports and YouTube are right there just clicks away. In Huxley's *Brave New World*, it was Soma, a drug, which kept people preoccupied and pacified. Now we can indulge in sensory stimulation via our electronic toys, and the marketing geniuses employed by big corporations are more than willing to dish it to us.

In the movie *Manufacturing Consent*: Noam Chomsky and the Media, Chomsky touches on sports and the attention paid to them. He points out that these devoted sports fans are not stupid, that they actually keep track of a lot of information and details. It is the priorities and interests they have which make them value that form of knowledge over, say, climate change or wealth inequality. It is not technology making us stupid; it is our seduction to its siren call.

Despite the fact that our bowling scores are now kept automatically, and that little GPS devices are replacing maps, I still want to have hope that we humans can do better, if only building on a sense of community and culture in the towns and cities we live in. I feel we are doing that here, in spite of the recent squabbles regarding elections, the proposed Plum Creek development and the Citizens Co-op, which have put factions of our progressive community at odds with one another. Using technology appropriately, to enhance and improve your life and that of others, is not rocket science. But it is a challenge and takes commitment. 🐢

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events calendar & newsletter.*

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EMPOWERMENT CENTER, from p. 1

agement, church services, health care, camping spaces, and long-term supportive housing. Right now, a good deal of work needs to go into getting buildings and facilities renovated, finding additional funding sources (grant writing, fund raising), and bringing in both volunteers and employees, as the center is seriously underfunded and understaffed for all that it needs to do. The city will be providing the center with 2,000 one-year bus passes to give to the homeless people.

Grassroots providers, such as the Home Van, are invited to move our services out to the new center. Most of us will not be moving out there immediately, because a lot of our folks are going to still be homeless in the downtown area. We will be serving our food where the people are, as we must, and will also be educating them and informing them on the possibilities of the new center.

We can do this with a whole heart because I don't think you could find two better people than Theresa and Jon to manage this project. They know and understand the people they will be serving, have vast experience in navigating the bureaucracy, and are hard, hard workers.

There is a certain urgency in this effort to talk to homeless people about the center and encourage them to give it a try, since a mass eviction of Tent City is going to happen in May.

One and possibly both of the people who own the Tent City land are planning to put their tracts up for sale. Gainesville police officers are encouraging the displaced folks to move out to the wooded areas near the new center.

5th Annual Alachua County Peace Poetry Contest 2014



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2:00 PM

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Gainesville Veterans for Peace invited all students, K-12, in Alachua County to submit one poem on the subject of peace. Out of almost 400 entries, winners are selected by a panel of graduate students from the English Department at the University of Florida. Winners are invited to read their poems aloud at the public reading on May 10 and are also published in the 2014 Peace Poetry book. Winners will receive a gift certificate to Book Galery West in Gainesville.

For more information, email
vfpeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com

At this point, I'd like to thank the Gainesville Police Department, and especially Lieutenant Brian Helmerson and the men and women under his command, for all their help and kindness to the tent city residents and the folks who sleep downtown. They are required to enforce the laws, some of which are not fair to homeless people, and that can create a hostile duality between homeless people and law enforcement.

These officers have, through patience and many acts of kindness, through taking responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of homeless people in every way they possibly can, over come this barrier. They are out in the woods and downtown talking to people, educating them, giving them encouragement, seven days a week. Without their assistance this whole process would be much more difficult.

I am looking forward to the shelter aspect of this new center. Every week we come across people who are trapped in grim, unbearable circumstances – Molly, an elderly woman with severe arthritis who spent the winter living in an abandoned house; Jake, a man in late middle age who is biking back-and-forth from his tent to Shands to receive radiation and chemotherapy for his second bout of cancer; Amy, a pregnant woman who has been sexually assaulted on the streets; Milton, a young man in a wheelchair who is hooked up to various medical appliances.

Ye Gods and Little Fishes how long is this nightmare going to go on! I almost live for the day we can find such a person and drive them up to the Grace Market Place for a hot meal, a shower, clean clothes, and a warm, dry bed to sleep in.

The whole Gainesville community needs to get behind this new center, participating in all possible ways – volunteering, donating, organizing fund raisers, planting gardens, painting murals, cooking, working one-on-one with homeless folks, holding church services, bringing in recreational opportunities – horse-shoes, bingo, cards, books for the library – the possibilities are endless.

The Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless and Hungry have a website people can access to get updates and contact information [www.acchh.org].

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- BOOKS 'n BUG SPRAY
- SOAP 'n SHAMPOO

That's what we need. Summer is on the way, and bug spray is more important to quality of life than almost anything else. Many people spend the long, light summer evenings reading. In the heat of summer, the call for personal hygiene products gets pretty intense, and we are running low. ☘

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What will save Citizens Co-Op (or at least its idea)?

COOPERATION

by Joe Courter with help from
Ted Lacombe and Davis Hart

The Citizens Co-op's history goes back to 2008 with a membership drive with a core group and some benefit concerts and the solicitation of "membership shares" from the community.

This fundraising from the community accelerated during 2009 with a couple concerts, a yard sale and by the end had gathered 450 memberships. One concert fundraiser in April alone raised a reported \$10,000.

By the end of 2010, a Board of Directors was named and work began preparing the 435 S. Main St. location.

In January 2011, \$100,000 in investment shares had been raised. In Spring, there was an exodus of original Board members, and a new, smaller Board announced.

In July 2011, the store finally opened. Initially there were member discounts offered, but due to financial problems they were eliminated in 2012. Also vacancies on the Board were not filled, and in 2013 the first of some controversial firings and demotions took place.

In February of 2014, a new manager was brought in, and two longtime staffers were fired. Comments were made by a Board member that the "worker/owner" position on the Board is an experiment, and that by-laws can be rewritten by the Board at any time.

Workers decided to form a union, and on March 11 sent a notice of their intention to the membership via the Co-op email list, two day prior to the Boards' General Membership meeting.

At that meeting, an accusation of "theft" of the mailing list was raised, but later, of the over 100 or so people present, great approval was shown for being informed by the workers of their intentions and situations.

Ten days later, on March 24, an early morning email informed five unionized workers they were fired. Three days later, two more workers went on strike in solidarity with the fired workers.

At this same time, the Co-op's official Facebook page was taken down. Picket-

ing by fired workers attracted press coverage of the situation to the broader public.

Members organized their own Facebook page, and held an Emergency member meeting where 120 members attended on March 30. The decision was made to ask the current Board to step aside and let a new Board come in which is dedicated to transparency and cooperative principles.

Attempts at this are being stonewalled by the current Board. And here we are ...

As of press time, things are at a stand still.

There are a lot of lessons that can be drawn from this situation, and for me, the chief one is that the store was, however well intended, more of a community-funded food store than a co-op, and there is blame and credit to go all around.

Raising the money and getting it open was a big achievement, but done by too few people whose overly controlling attitude was, well, not really cooperative. Part of this was understandable; they were under a lot of pressure, they were entrusted with

a lot of other peoples' money, and their business model, which looked good on paper, did not pan out.

Getting all those advance memberships, it was thought, would build a guaranteed customer base. That did not happen; it became evident that many people who put money in to create a co-op did not actually change their shopping habits to shop there.

As I recall, about 50 percent had not shopped there six months after opening.

Striving to be organic and locally supplied proved hard, and for low income people, expensive. If it didn't meet all of a shopper's needs, it meant shopping at two places, or even (as I have) three places. Trader Joe's opening in town could not have helped either.

But fantastic work was done, making an attractive store and heading up a project that created a beautiful community


See CO-OP, p. 6



Photo courtesy of nobugsplat.com.

No bug splat!

In military slang, Predator drone operators often refer to kills as "bug splats," since viewing the body through a grainy video image gives the sense of an insect being crushed.

To challenge this insensitivity as well as raise awareness of civilian casualties, an artist collective installed a massive portrait facing up in the heavily bombed Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa region of Pakistan, where drone attacks regularly occur. Now, when viewed by a drone camera, what an operator sees on his screen is not an anonymous dot on the landscape, but an innocent child victim's face. 

Gainesville Loves Mountains: updates on our work

by Jason Fults

Council to undermine environmental protection and support reprehensible legislation such as "Stand Your Ground."

courtyard space. Ironically, within the current crisis a real, grassroots community/cooperative spirit has emerged, pulling together many people who might never have met otherwise in large meetings conducted democratically and earnestly seeking to find a solution.

But sadly, as of now, the solution seems far away.

The fired workers, who righteously spoke up to alert the membership of the distressing behavior by the Board regarding non-democratic policies, are understandably frustrated.

The existing Board seems locked down in a "we did nothing wrong" mindset and fixated on the workers' use of the Co-op's email list as a "theft." A fear is rather than negotiating out of this, they will take the store down, and blame the fired workers for causing the financial problems.

Meanwhile, there are a lot of people who want there to be a functioning Co-op, and many seem ready to roll up their sleeves and try and make a real Co-op work.

The current incarnation of Citizens Co-op is functioning more like a small organic food store; top down management, lack of discounts for volunteer workers, and a lack of the social and cultural functions that a true Co-op would have.

For a Co-op to be successful and compete against the Wards and Trader Joe's, its supporters must be getting more than just food; it is a sense of community. And to be viable, it may need to cater better to the neighborhood it is in, with some less expensive and maybe not perfectly "organic" products: S. Main Street is not Tioga.

A lot of expertise has come and gone from Citizens Co-op, and hopefully some are willing to try to come back on board, as both leadership and workers, and this time be more committed to cooperative principles.

Negotiations are continuing, but there is also an effort afoot to call for a May 4 vote on establishing a new Board and a way out of this standoff.

There is no call for a boycott of shopping there by the fired workers; at this time that is not seen as productive, though they are regularly having informational pickets.

It is a painful situation for all. All that can be hoped is wisdom and, yes COOPERATION, can bring a solution. 🐸

Gainesville Loves Mountains was founded a little over three years ago on the simple proposition that our community does not have to choose between dirty energy and high utility bills. We have focused on (1) eliminating GRU's dirtiest fuel source, (2) influencing one of our community's largest energy consumers, and (3) moving aggressive, local energy conservation policy forward.

For many years, GRU has been using Appalachian coal that is mined using mountaintop removal (MTR), likely the most catastrophic energy extraction process known to man. MTR is a highly destructive form of coal mining that removes hundreds of vertical feet of a mountain using heavy explosives in order to access the thin seams of coal underneath.

MTR has a devastating impact on the economy, ecology, and communities of Appalachia. To date, more than 500 mountains have been leveled and nearly 2,000 miles of precious Appalachian headwater streams have been buried and polluted by MTR.

Since our inception, we have worked with our Appalachian counterparts to bring an end to MTR and to pressure GRU to end its consumption of coal mined in this fashion. As this issue goes to press, we're headed before the full City Commission on the evening of April 17 in hopes that they will finally take action.

We have also been working with a fantastic group of University of Florida students to hold UF to its sustainability commitments. As UF's contract with the nation's largest utility, Duke Energy, expires at the end of 2014, we believe that we have a once-in-twenty-year opportunity to influence a major purchaser of energy in our community. Anyone who has been paying attention in recent months has undoubtedly heard of Duke's exploits:

- operating in brazen contempt of water regulations in North Carolina, allegedly with the collusion of state regulators, dumping tens of thousands of tons of coal ash into the Dan River;
- charging customers almost \$2 billion for the Crystal River nuclear plant that will never run again;
- and funding organizations such as the American Legislative Exchange

Not to mention the fact that sticking with Duke's dirty, fossil fuel energy mix virtually guarantees that UF will not meet its carbon neutrality goals. We believe that the University can do better than that, and have been building public support through a petition drive to send UF a powerful message that Duke Energy either has to change or they have to go.

Finally, we have been pursuing a local financing option for property owners who want to make investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy for their home or business. We've received widespread support for this initiative, ranging from local contractors to the Sierra Club, with even a nod of interest from the local Chamber of Commerce.

We're optimistic that this financing model, called Property Assessed Clean Energy, or PACE, will come to pass in Alachua County in the coming months. What will likely be more of an uphill battle are our efforts to help renters in our community reduce their utility bills through mandating that landlords meet certain energy efficiency standards for their rental properties.

Higher costs of energy are hitting people in the pocketbook all across the country, and rates are going up, including here. These higher utility bills have bolstered our arguments for increased investment in energy efficiency and conservation, because that is the fastest, cheapest, most effective way to lower one's bills.

We believe that the very foundations of human civilization are imperiled as the age of low-cost, easily accessible fossil fuels comes to an end. Communities everywhere must grapple with the implications of this monumental transition by aggressively pursuing conservation and through persistent, focused efforts to reduce their energy footprint.

If you'd like to accompany us in this journey, you can follow our website (<http://gainesvillelovesmountains.wordpress.com/>), or Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/GainesvilleLovesMountains>), or we invite you to contact us directly (gainesvillelovesmountains@gmail.com; 352-610-1090). 🐸

What's the deal with Plum Creek?

By Stand By Our Plan

The Alachua County Comprehensive Plan is as close as we can get to a political consensus of our community.

The product of many years of citizen advisory committee deliberations, workshops, public hearings, and legal challenges, and formally adopted and continually revised by an elected county commission, it provides a carefully considered blueprint for future growth in the unincorporated areas of our county. It balances the public interest with the rights of property owners by directing growth to appropriate areas and protecting public health, neighborhoods, farms, wetlands, and significant natural areas.

Now the Plum Creek corporation, the largest landowner in Alachua County and one of the largest Real Estate Investment Trusts in the country, is asking for their own plan, with different rules that would apply only to their 60,000 acres in eastern Alachua County. The differences are critical.

Plum Creek's proposal features basic planning concepts: a mix of land uses, efficient use of resources, clustering of development, and land set-asides for conservation. They've earned kudos from around the state for embracing regional planning.

Lost in Plum Creek's public relations campaign is the fact that our Comprehensive Plan already requires all these things, but from the broader, more appropriate perspective of the entire county. Plum Creek provides a good answer to the wrong question: rather than debating how to develop their land into a new city, the community should remain focused on how best to accommodate growth countywide. Even the best-planned development is bad for the community if it's in the wrong place.

Our Comprehensive Plan steers mixed-use growth to suitable areas adjacent to existing cities, and requires open-space set-asides. In contrast, Plum Creek wants to build a sprawling new city on their timberlands in some of the wettest and most remote parts of Alachua County, straddling a significant state wildlife corridor. Like all urban sprawl, their proposal would drain investment and growth away from cities, drive up the cost of public services, and fragment natural landscapes and wildlife habitat.

Under our Comprehensive Plan, the

rights from all of Plum Creek's scattered lands would theoretically allow them to build about 7,400 homes. Whether all together or piecemeal, any such development would have to be clustered on half the land, with the most environmentally sensitive half permanently protected. They have no commercial rights.

In contrast, Plum Creek now wants 10,500 homes, and a staggering 15.5 million square feet of commercial, industrial, and manufacturing space. To put that in perspective, the commercial space is equivalent to about 15 Oaks Malls. The total footprint of their development would be more than twenty square miles.

Our Comprehensive Plan protects all wetlands, including the small, seasonal, and dispersed wetlands we now know are critical for flood control, water quality and quantity, and numerous wildlife species. It also requires that half the uplands in designated "strategic ecosystem" areas be permanently protected.

In contrast, Plum Creek's proposal would destroy many wetlands, reduce the buffers around the wetlands that remain, and eliminate strategic ecosystem protections.

Even more troubling is that Plum Creek's proposal at this stage is broad and general; the critical details would only emerge much later in the process, after the county commission has given the go-ahead. These details would be considered under a different approval process that would make it legally very difficult for the public or the county commission to deny anything or change course. And once the floodgates have opened, more permissive changes to the initial plan could be proposed at any time to a future county commission.

From a planning perspective, the community is being asked to sign a blank check.

Their proposal would also set a dangerous precedent. Plum Creek's lands are surrounded and interspersed by smaller parcels with other owners, all of whom would have every right to demand equal treatment. This piggy-back development would not be a part of Plum Creek's "master plan."

Stand By Our Plan does not oppose Plum Creek. We support our Comprehensive Plan. Plum Creek bought timberland, and has no right to any expectation of urban


development. Growing trees will remain the most appropriate use of their land for the foreseeable future. Much of their land is appropriate for potential purchase under future public land conservation programs. Plum Creek sold a substantial parcel of their land to the county's Alachua County Forever land conservation program, and the development rights to about a third of their land have already been sold to the state.

Stand By Our Plan is committed to informing the public about the critical differences between the Comprehensive Plan and Plum Creek's proposal. Ultimately, we encourage a decision by the Alachua County Commission that's in the best interest of all.

Learn more at standbyourplan.org 🐢.

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In-state tuition for all! Legislative update

by Phil Kellerman

A bill to offer in-state tuition to foreign-born Florida high school graduates passed its third committee in the Florida Senate by a vote of 8-5. The next stop for Senate Bill (SB) 1400 is the Senate Appropriations Committee, and immigrant advocates hope that this will be last committee stop. If approved, the hope is that it goes to the full floor for a vote.



Kathleen Taylor & Cracker the Box

In Concert
Saturday, May 10
8 pm

Civic Media Center
(433 S. Main St.)
\$7-\$10 sliding scale

The bill essentially offers in-state tuition to “Dreamers” who have attended a Florida high school for three consecutive years and enroll in post-secondary education within two years of high school graduation. Out-of-state tuition rates are up to 300 percent higher than in-state rates, making college unaffordable for many immigrant students.

Those wishing to express their support for SB 1400 are encouraged to contact the following members of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Chairman Negron: (850) 487-5032
Vice Chair Benacquisto: (850) 487-5030
Senator Bean: (850) 487-5004
Senator Bradley: (850) 487-5007
Senator Galvano: (850) 487-5026
Senator Gardiner: (850) 487-5013
Senator Grimsley: (850) 487-5021
Senator Hays: (850) 487-5011
Senator Lee: (850) 487-5024
Senator Hukill: (850) 487-5008

Priority should go to contacting the following members who have voted against tuition equity in other committees: Senator Bradley (who represents Gainesville); Benacquisto (who wrongly claims that in-state tuition will promote illegal immigration); Bean; Galvano, and Hukill.

For more information feel free to contact me at philkellerman77@gmail.com. ☎



Yulien Cruz-Davis, DMD

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Civic Media Center events - April/May 2014

- Every Thu: Weekly Volunteer Meeting, 5:30 pm
- Every Thu: Poetry Jam, 9 pm
- Wed, April 16: Internet Privacy for Activists Class, Cryptology Lab, 6:30 pm
- Thu, April 17: Citizens Co-op Membership Outreach Committee Meeting, 7 pm
- Fri, April 18: Zine Reading with Nicki of Self Publishers of Chicago and Potluck, 7:30 pm
- Mon, April 21: "Into Eternity," documentary about the dangers of nuclear waste and the perplexing question of how to safely store it for 100,00 years, 7pm
- Tue, April 22: Music with Ghost Mice, Dirty Fist!, and Bernay's Propagandha, \$6, 9pm
- Fri, April 25: Survivors of Sexual Assault Art Exhibit reception, co-sponsored by Wild Iris Books and Alachua County Victim Services, art on display until Monday, April 28th at 5pm, 7pm to 10pm
- Sat, April 26: Signs of Life presents: lovebullsh*t, an interactive play with hip-hop elements exploring the themes of love and relationships, 8pm
- Sun, April 27: Signs of Life presents: lovebullsh*t, an interactive play with hip-hop elements exploring the themes of love and relationships, 8pm
- Mon, April 28: "Targeting Iran," a documentary based on the book by David Barsamian, the film seeks to elucidate the myths and popular misconceptions surrounding Iran's nuclear aspirations, 7pm
- Tue, April 29: Signs of Life presents: lovebullsh*t, an interactive play with hip-hop elements exploring the themes of love and relationships, 8pm
- Sun, May 4: Citizens Co-op Emergency Member Meeting, 3pm
- Sat, May 10: Herb Fest, educational workshops and other family friendly events, 11am to 5pm
- Sat, May 10: Music with Kathleen Taylor and Cracker the Box, \$7-10 sliding scale, 8 pm

433 S. Main Street (352) 373-0010

www.civicmediacenter.org

*Parking just to the south at SE 5th Ave., (see sign)
or after 7 p.m. at the courthouse
(just north of 4th Ave.)
or GRU (2 blocks east of CMC)*

Check website for details and additional events.



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FACEBOOK US!

Earth Day rally!

Join Earth First and the Traditional Seminole Nation
for an Earth Day rally against Florida Power & Light's plan
for a massive gas power plant in the Everglades.

Hendry County Courthouse

Tuesday April 22. from 4-6 pm.

For more information contact see <www.evergladesearthfirst.net.

Iguana Directory

Call 352-378-5655. or email gainesvilleiguana@cox.net with updates and additions

Notice to readers: If there is inaccurate information in this list, please let us know. If you are connected to an organization listed here, please check and update so others can be accurately informed about your contact information. Thank you.

Art Lab is for artists who continually expand skills and knowledge. Comprised of makers from a range of mediums (e.g. forged iron, spun wool, graphic design). Technique workshops, artist talks/critiques, professional practices meetings, critical thinking discussions. GainesvilleArtLab@gmail.com. <http://GainesvilleArtLab.org>

Alachua Conservation Trust, Inc. Protecting North Central Florida's natural, scenic, historic & recreational resources for over 25 years. ACT is the 2013 national Land Trust Excellence award recipient. 352-373-1078. AlachuaConservationTrust.org

Alachua County Labor Party meets monthly and organizes to support local labor and advance the national campaign for universal, single-payer health care. Memberships are \$20/year. Contact: FloridaLaborParty.org, ACLP@FloridaLaborParty.org, 352.375.2832, 14 East University Ave, Suite 204, Gainesville, FL PO Box 12051, Gainesville, FL 32604

American Civil Liberties Union Currently no local chapter. For info on forming a new chapter, or ACLU info, contact Jax office 904-353-7600 or bstandly@aclufl.org

Amnesty International UF campus chapter of worldwide human rights movement; www.facebook.com/ufamnesty or UFAmnesty@gmail.com.

Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI) Non-profit research organization working to stimulate conservation action to save threatened species of birds in the southeastern U.S., www.arcinst.org.

Citizens Climate Lobby (Gainesville Chapter) provides education/activist opportunities to bring about a stable climate. Meetings are on the Wednesday after the first Saturday of each month at 12:30, at the downtown library's Foundation Room. 352-672-4327, www.citizensclimatelobby.org, cclgainesville@gmail.com

Civic Media Center Alternative reading room and library of the non-corporate press, and a resource and space for organizing. 352-373-0010, www.civicmediacenter.org.

The Coalition of Hispanics Integrating Spanish Speakers through Advocacy and Service (CHISPAS) Student-run group at UF. www.chispasuf.org

Code Pink: Women for Peace Women-led grassroots peace and social justice movement utilizing creative protest, non-violent direct action and community involvement. CodePink4Peace.org, jacquebetz@gmail.com.

Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc. Non-profit land trust working to protect Florida's rural landscapes, wildlife corridors and natural areas. 352-466-1178, ConserveFlorida.org

Democratic Party of Alachua County Meetings held the second Wednesday each month at 7 p.m. in the 2nd floor auditorium of the County Administration Building at SE 1st St. and University Ave. Office is at 901 NW 8th Ave., 352-373-1730, alachuadems.org.

Edible Plant Project Local collective to create a revolution through edible and food-producing plants. 561-236-2262 www.EdiblePlantProject.org.

Families Against Mandatory Minimums Work to reform Florida's sentencing laws and restore fairness to Florida's criminal justice system. PO Box 142933, Gainesville, FL 32614, gnewburn@famm.org. 352-682-2542

The Fine Print Independent, critically thinking outlet for political, social and arts coverage through local, in-depth reporting for Gainesville's students. www.thefineprintuf.org.

Florida School of Traditional Midwifery A clearinghouse for information, activities and educational programs. 352-338-0766 www.midwiferyschool.org

Florida Defenders of the Environment are dedicated to restoring the Ocklawaha and preserving Florida's other natural resources. 352-378-8465 FlaDefenders.org

Gainesville Area AIDS Project provides toiletries, household cleaners, hot meals, frozen food at no cost to people living with HIV/AIDS. www.gaaponline.org, info@gaaponline.org, 352-373-4227, Open Tuesdays 10-1 and last Friday of month 5-7.

Gainesville Citizens for Alternatives to Death Penalty works to abolish the death penalty. Join vigils when Florida has an execution. Meets first Tuesday every month at St. Augustine Church & Catholic Student Center (1738 W. Univ. Ave.) 352-284-1749, www.fadp.org.

Gainesville Food Not Bombs Local chapter of loose-knit group of collectives worldwide who prepare and share free, vegan/vegetarian, healthy, home-cooked meals made from local surplus with all who are hungry. Meals at 3 p.m. Sundays at Bo Diddly Community Plaza. Prep starts at 11 am. Get in touch if you'd like to help. gainesvillefnb@riseup.net. www.facebook.com/#!/groups/143660782367621/

Gainesville Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice (IAIJ) meets biweekly at the Mennonite Meeting House, 1236 NW 18th Ave. to discuss relevant immigration issues and ways to bring political education to the community through workshops, presentations, advocacy, action. gainesvilleiaij@gmail.com or www.gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com

Gainesville Loves Mountains partners with Appalachian allies to end mountaintop removal coal mining and build a prosperous economy and sustainable future for the region and its people. We also pursue policies that will strengthen our local economy through energy efficiency and clean energy. gainesvillevolovesmountains@gmail.com, 352-610-1090, <http://gainesvillevolovesmountains.wordpress.com/>.

Gainesville NOW www.gainesvillenow.org. info@gainesvilleNOW.org NOW meeting info contact Lisa at 352-450-1912.

Gainesville Women's Liberation The first women's liberation group in the South, formed in 1968; now part of National Women's Liberation; a feminist group for women who want to fight back against male supremacy and win more freedom for women. The inequalities between women and men are political problems requiring a collective solution. Founded 1968. Join us: www.womensliberation.org, P.O. Box 14017, Gainesville, 32604, (347) 560-4695, nwl@womensliberation.org.

Gainesville Zen Center & Hostel A Zen Buddhist community offering rooms to rent on a daily basis. 404 SE 2nd St., 352-336-3613, wonderwhy@cox.net.

Graduate Assistants United Union represents UF grad assistants by fighting for improved working conditions, community involvement and academic freedom. 352-575-0366, officers@ufgau.org, www.ufgau.org

Green Party Part of a worldwide movement built out of four interrelated social pillars that support its politics: the peace, civil rights, environmental and labor movements. www.GainesvilleGreens.webs.com

Grow Radio Non-profit provides opportunities for community members to create and manage engaging, educational, locally-generated programming to promote fine, musical/visual

arts and humanities for enrichment of the community. www.growradio.org. PO Box 13891, Gainesville, 32604, 352-219-0145 (v), 352-872-5085 (studio hotline)

Harvest of Hope Foundation Non-profit provides emergency and educational financial aid to migrant farm workers around the country. www.harvestofhope.net, email: kellerhope@cox.net.

Home Van A mobile soup kitchen going to homeless areas twice a week with food and other necessities, delivering about 400 meals per week; operated by Citizens for Social Justice. barupa@atlantic.net or 352-372-4825.

Humanist Society of Gainesville meets 7 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of most months at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4225 NW 34th St to discuss and promote secular, humanist, atheist & agnostic social influences - www.gainesvillehumanists.org or facebook.com/humanistsocietyofgainesville; gainesvillehumanists@gmail.com.

Humanists on Campus UF organization provides a community for freethinking, secular humanists. Goals include promoting values of humanism, discussing issues humanists face internationally. We strive to participate in community service and bring a fun, dynamic group to the university! Preferred contact info: email ufhumanistsoncampus@gmail.com, alternative: j.bontems@ufl.edu, phone- 561-374-3537.

Industrial Workers of the World Local union organizing all workers. Meetings are at the Civic Media Center the first Sunday of the month at 6 pm. Gainesvilleiww@gmail.com. www.gainesvilleiww.org

Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice organizes faith communities to work together for immigrant justice. Meets 2nd Mondays at 6 pm at La Casita, 1504 W. University Ave. (across from Library) GainesvilleIAIJ@gmail.com; 352-377-6577

International Socialist Organization Organization committed to building a left alternative to a world of war, racism and poverty. Meetings are every Thurs at the UF classroom building at 105 NW 16th St. at 7 pm. gainesvilleiso@gmail.com.

Kindred Sisters Lesbian/feminist magazine. PO Box 141674, Gainesville, FL 32614. www.kindredsisters.org, KindredSisters@gmail.com.

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteers to join its corps of advocates who protect the rights of elders in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and adult family care homes. Special training and certification is provided. 888-831-0404 or visit <http://ombudsman.myflorida.com>.

MindFreedom North Florida Human rights group for psychiatric survivors and mental health consumers. 352-328-2511.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Support, education and advocacy for families and loved ones of persons with

mental illness/brain disorders. 374-5600. ext. 8322; www.namigainesville.org.

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare Local advocates work to promote/preserve these threatened programs for senior citizens. We have literature, speakers, T-shirts. Email: sun115flower@yahoo.com. See national Web site to join: <http://www.ncpsm.org/>.

National Lawyers Guild Lawyers, law students, legal workers and jailhouse lawyers using the law to advance social justice and support progressive social movements. nlggainesville@gmail.com or www.nlg.org

Occupy Gainesville is about engaging the people of our community in grassroots, participatory democracy. We are about diversity and dialogue; we stand in solidarity with the Occupy Wall Street Movement and the rest of the people peacefully occupying public space across this county and the rest of the world. www.occupygainesville.org and <https://www.facebook.com/occupygainesville>.

PFLAG (Parents and Families of Lesbians and Gays) meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Fellowship Hall of the United Church of Gainesville (1624 NW 5th Ave.) at 7 pm with a programmed portion and informal meeting with opportunity to talk and peruse their resource library. pflaggainesville.org. Confidential Helpline 352-340-3770 or email info@pflaggainesville.org.

Planned Parenthood Clinic Full-service health center for reproductive and sexual health care needs. Offering pregnancy testing and options counseling for \$10 from 10am-noon and 2-5pm. Located at 914 NW 13th St. 352-377-0881.

Pride Community Center of North Central Florida Resources for the gay/lesbian community, open M-F, 3-7, Sat. noon-4. Located at 3131 NW 13th St., Suite 62. 352-377-8915, www.GainesvillePride.org.

Protect Gainesville Citizens Group whose mission is to provide Gainesville residents with accurate and comprehensible information about the Cabot/Koppers Superfund site. 352-354-2432, www.protectgainesville.org.

River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding provides innovative ways to resolve conflict and provides services like mediation, communication skill building and restorative justice. www.centerforpeacebuilding.org. 2603 NW 13th St. #333, 352-234-6595

Sierra Club meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville - 4225 NW 34th St. 352-528-3751, www.ssjsierra.org

Sister City Program of Gainesville links Gainesville with sister cities in Russia, Israel and Palestine, Iraq, and Haiti. Meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Mennonite Meeting House, 1236 NW 18th

Avenue (across from Gainesville HS). <http://www.gnvsistercities.org>.

Stand By Our Plan is committed to informing the public about the critical differences between the Comprehensive Plan and Plum Creek's proposal. We do not support Plum Creek's Plan. Alachua County's Comprehensive Plan is the best blueprint for future growth in the unincorporated areas of our county; it protects our valuable wetlands. standbyourplan@gmail.com; <http://standbyourplan.org/>.

Student/Farmworker Alliance A network of youth organizing with farmworkers to eliminate sweatshop conditions and modern-day slavery in the fields. On Facebook, search "Gainesville Student/Farmworker Alliance."

Students for a Democratic Society Multi-issue student and youth organization working to build power in schools and communities. Meetings held every Monday at 6:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall 32 on the UF campus.

UF Pride Student Union Group of gay, lesbian, bi and straight students & non-students, faculty and staff. www.grove.ufl.edu/~pride.

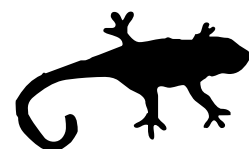
United Faculty of Florida Union represents faculty at University of Florida. 392-0274, president@uff-uf.org, www.UFF-UF.org.

United Nations Association, Gainesville Florida Chapter Purpose is to heighten citizen awareness and knowledge of global problems and the UN efforts to deal with those issues. www.afn.org/~una-usa/.

United Way Information and Referral Human-staffed computer database for resources and organizations in Alachua County. 352-332-4636 or simply 211.

Veterans for Peace Anti-war organization that raises awareness of the detriments of militarism and war as well as seeking peaceful and effective alternatives. Meets first Wednesday of every month at 7 pm. 352-375-2563, www.afn.org/~vetpeace/.

WGOT 94.7 LP-FM Community low-power station operating as part of the Civic Media Center. wgot947@gmail.com, www.wgot.org.



History and the people who make it: Ines Rios

Transcript edited by Pierce Butler

This is the twenty-first in a continuing series of transcript excerpts from the collection of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida. Ines Rios was interviewed by Angela Thorp [T] in 2011.

T: What was it like growing up in Puerto Rico?

R: It's very similar since we're part of the United States. We are very Americanized. It was more of a small-town type feeling where you would go places and they're like, Oh are you so-and-so's daughter? My dad is a lawyer and he teaches law school in Puerto Rico. My mom is a special ed. teacher. She's here now in Gainesville.

We were raised Catholic. Entering middle school my parents got divorced and that turned my world upside-down because the Catholic Church frowned upon divorce so I was kind of taken out of that community even though I still attended Catholic school. It was really isolating. Learning a new culture, language, all that good stuff, it's like ah.

I did elementary and middle school in a Catholic ... school in Puerto Rico and then came to the States and did my last year of middle school in a public school and a public high school but I dropped out of high school, took my GED, and then went to Santa Fe and then UF.

T: What was it like initially arriving to the United States?

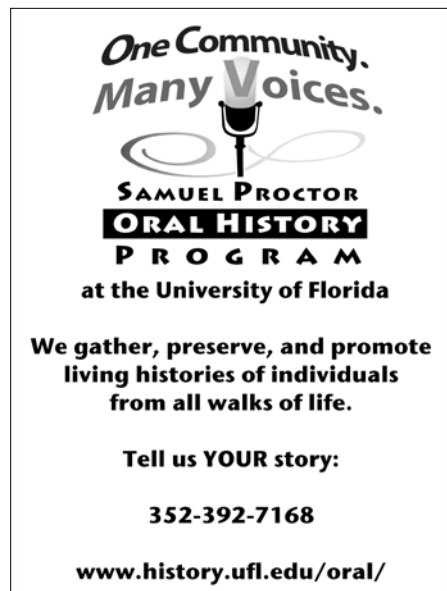
R: My mom [laughing] in her wisdom, she was all like, so we are moving to Florida and, that's where Mickey is. Even though I was a teenager, I was like, okay, we are moving close to Mickey Mouse.

But in reality we were moving to Miami so it's like five hours away. She came over a month or two before to set up an apartment, look for a job, and all that stuff. She left us with our dad, me and my older sister in Puerto Rico and then they send us by ourselves over here. I remember being in the airport and that's the first time I saw my dad cry.

It was really exciting – and then really like culture shock. Not knowing anybody, not being close to any family. I remember getting lost my second day of school.

I missed the bus and, who do I call? My mom is at work. She can't get out of work. What do I do? I knew the language in Puerto Rico. We have to learn English and some of the textbooks are in English but because you are not speaking it all the time, you really don't have a good mastery of it.

I was put in the ESL program and the kids



were very welcoming. Everybody had similar experiences – they came from Venezuela or Colombia – and having to learn the language, leaving your whole support network, so we were very tight-knit.

But the rest of the school was a constant struggle ... we would kind of huddle to the side and having kids be like, "Speak English, this is America" [in gringo accent].

We went through a lot of hard times. My mom not finding employment and both of my sisters, they got pregnant and they weren't married and it was just one thing after another and just feeling alone and not feeling like anybody at school could understand. I very much isolated myself.

T: Was there ever a group of people that made you feel okay?

R: I don't think I found that until college.

T: What brought you to Gainesville?

R: My mom got a job here. She was unemployed in Miami, and one of her best friends moved to Gainesville. The first time coming here seeing the university and it was like, oh my god,

I'm in a movie – the brick buildings and stuff. And it was cold so we had to wear jackets. You would go into the stores and they would be like, hey y'all [southern drawl]. And feeling again that sense of small-town that I had lost in Puerto Rico. People actually acknowledge you; you're not invisible as much.

T: What was it like being Latina in Gainesville and at UF?

R: I was kind of Other and a minority but, it didn't feel as isolating as it did in Miami. The other interesting thing in Gainesville was that you kind of had to pick a race. You're either white or black; because we don't know anything else.

In Miami, you can be Latina, but what Latina – you're Cuban or you're this or that. So you have all this different distinctions and you can be like, I'm a black Puerto Rican female. And here it's like, no, black or white, black or white, black or white.

In Puerto Rico we have every single color – we are all Puerto Rican. I remember being with my cousin who looks white, American, we were in this smaller town and they're like, "nigger- lover!" And I was looking around, and I was like, oh my god they mean you and me? That's weird. At UF I got my degree in psychology and women's studies in 2003.

T: What was your first encounter with the Latina Women's League?

R: In 2005 I just happened upon it because they used to have it downtown and they had the Latino festival too.

The Latina Women's League, I want to say they started 2003. We have two Victorias and other women and the majority of them have a graduate degree from their particular countries and then come here and they wanted a forum where other Latinas will give you a blueprint of how this community is.

T: What motivated you to get involved?

R: One of our first things with Victoria was to get to know local government and discuss how that affects us and to get more people involved in the process. My parents were very political back in the island. They were part of the Socialist movement. I remember being little and dragged to rallies and all this stuff so always been interested in politics.

Victoria talked about getting to know the local government, putting ourselves out there, letting them know about the Latino community and how we can partner together.

One of the things that I love, a lot of professional women and we always end up talking about our particular struggles at work or in the community and how to support ... and mentor to one another. I love that.

T: Did those sort of support networks exist for you at UF?

R: I think my situation was unique in the way that I dropped out of school. My parents had tough love and when I decided to get my degree, they're like, you're just going to have to do it yourself. So I had to work full-time while I was at UF.

Working full-time for me meant the graveyard shift, so I was at work all night and then I would get out at five o'clock in the morning so then I had to drive to UF and sleep in the parking for a couple of hours and then go to class. I had class until three, and then go to work, sleep a couple of hours in that parking lot, and work. I didn't get opportunity to explore whether there were any social clubs.

T: What would you say the League's goal is?

R: It's to definitely promote education, not only within our group, to get to know this community and what's out there but also to educate the community. One of the biggest things with the film festival is to put out there issues that really matter to us. We're multidimensional. We care about the environment, or race.

T: What do you personally hope to accomplish with the League?

R: Hopefully to form a really strong relation and support, especially for newcomers and being like, if you need anything, we are here and you don't need to feel isolated.

I do the social services side of law enforcement. I'm the only Spanish-speaking person. I come in contact with a lot of Latinos so I'm always giving them brochures about the League and talking about the struggles – not only the pressing crisis maybe they cannot get food, but all this other underlying things that exacerbate some of the problems.

T: You are currently Program Director of the League.

R: For the film festival. I used to be the secretary for the League and then I stepped down for a little bit. I took a second job at the homeless shelter. Then

I left my second job and I wanted to challenge myself.

Usually we have about seven films that we present. My job is to get with the producers and distributors and directors to get permission to show the films and to negotiate pricing since we're a nonprofit organization and sometimes I'll get to talk with the directors and invite them. This past year we had one of the directors and one of the actresses for different films come here: one from Mexico and one from Panama.

We offer free English classes for migrant workers or anybody that wants to learn conversational English. We give acculturation and we talk about the different rights that people might not know that they have. We talk about law enforcement, visas, different things like that.

I love that. The other really big program we have is with the migrant workers. We do a health fair where we go out to the fields and we give them health talks. A lot of them are exposed to different pesticides and they don't have the best nutrition. We talk about that.

For the moms, we talk about parenting, domestic violence, and where to get help. We also collect clothes and different first aid things, water, Chapstick, stuff that they might need. And then for Christmas, we adopt the children and we give them Christmas presents, which I love.

We had this one gentleman who was a migrant worker who was here illegally. He got diagnosed with cancer and we were able to collect money to put him up in a hotel while he got the clearance to go back home and die with his family, and get enough money so he can take presents home so he wasn't empty-handed.

The other thing that we did – a group, I think they were from UF – they were doing a project in Peru, and they wanted to get money to go back to that particular village to make water accessible so we were able to help them to get money.

T: What's it like being Latina in Gainesville?

R: The Latino community has grown immensely since 1996 and now there are Cuban places to go eat. There's a whole bunch of Mexican restaurants. There used to be one or two. You hear Spanish at the store. When I started being a victim advocate I was the only one in the county. They're like, Oh, Hispanics they don't need anything with domestic violence and I'm like, really?

T: What has to be done in the future?

R: I think education, education, education. One of the cool things about the League is that we have professional women in different areas, so you have me in law enforcement, and some that are business-owners and accountants.

We want to get better with our English classes. We used to partner with the school board and the school board all of a sudden started charging for the classes so it's hard economically. We want to be seen as a viable part of this community; we can contribute, so it's okay for the community to invest in Latino issues and know that some are kind of unique to us, like language – but at the end of the day some of the bigger issues is universal.

Search for "Ines Rios" at <http://oral.history.ufl.edu/collection/> for the full transcript of this interview. The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program believes that listening carefully to first-person narratives can change the way we understand history, from scholarly questions to public policy. SPOHP needs the public's help to sustain and build upon its research, teaching, and service missions: even small donations can make a big difference in SPOHP's ability to gather, preserve, and promote history for future generations.

Donate online at www.history.ufl.edu/oral/support.html or make checks to the University of Florida, specified for SPOHP, and mail to PO Box 115215, Gainesville, FL 32611. 🐘

Labor Notes

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"Putting the movement back in
the Labor Movement"



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Water: more precious than gold

by Jeannette Hinsdale

Florida has the most amazing aquifer in the world. More water flows from Florida springs than all the springs in the world combined — a rare gift indeed, right beneath our feet!

It's all connected. Springs are windows to the Floridan Aquifer; therefore, the Springs tell us what's happening in the Aquifer that we depend on for our water supply.

Florida Springs are suffering.

Florida has 38 "Outstanding Florida Springs (OFS)." Water expert Jake Varn tells us that 22 OFSs are currently impaired; seven are not; of the other nine, there's not sufficient data to determine if they are impaired yet. That means for Springs we have data on, three out of four are not currently meeting water quality standards!

Fortunately some elected officials in Tallahassee have a soft spot as well as a strong backbone for protecting Florida's Springs. Republican Senator "Charlie" Dean has sponsored a "Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act," Senate Bill 1576, with three Republican and three Democrat co-sponsors. SB 1576 has passed through its first two committee hearings with unanimous support. It is now headed to the Senate Appropriations committee and then to the Senate floor for its final hearing.

When last asked about funding for Springs protection on April 2, 2012, Senate President Don Gaetz replied, "This year, I hope we're going to pass a bill that will establish a framework for improving Florida's water quantity as well as our water quality."

So, SB 1576 has strong bi-partisan support in the Senate. The House is a different story.

The companion bill, HB 1313, sponsored by Representative Brodeur (R) and co-sponsored by Representatives Linda Stewart (D) and Clovis Watson, Jr. (D), has yet to be scheduled for its first hearing, and it's late into the session. House Speaker "Will" Weatherford seems prepared to let Springs wait until next year. Rather inexcusable from someone whose district includes the "City of pure water," Zephyrhills, as well as the Crystal Springs Preserve Learning Lab.

Groundwater pumping and diversion of water from recharge areas has reduced the Floridan Aquifer and the flow of Florida Springs. Groundwater Pollution, largely from fields and lawns, once it occurs, is very difficult to remedy.

The Springs Bill has: a designated funding source to carry out what the bill asks to be done; designated timed goals with deadlines; designated Springs protection zones; and projects based on science not politics. And it addresses all sources of pollution.

The Springs Bill offers important new protections for Springs: (1) Provides that currently compromised Springs shouldn't be harmed by further water withdrawals; (2) Restricts pollution sources in designated Springs protection zones; and (3) Sets up protection strategies for Springs that are trending towards violating water quality standards.

Many of us who have lived in Florida long enough to see the decline of eel grass and the rise of algae in Florida's world-premiere Springs know that they are at a tipping point.

The time is NOW, more than ever, for a strong comprehensive "Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act" rather than a piece-meal approach.

As bill-writer Senator Simmons put it, "If we don't do it now, I think we will be so far behind, it will be many generations before we catch up, and it will be a lot of economic pain on all of us."

Last year, Florida legislators named April "Springs Protection Awareness Month." So, Let's Get At It!

In politics there are two kinds of numbers, \$ and people, and people count. The political will needed for passage of this bill in both houses has to come from the people. Tell House Speaker Weatherford,

that doing nothing is not a solution. Ask him to please schedule HB 1313 onto the Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee (ANRS) agenda. Will.Weatherford@myfloridahouse.gov

Water is a source for joy and living a healthy life. Our relation with the environment is that we cannot live without it, as Florida Commissioner Adam Putnam acknowledged on Jan. 21 when he pointed out that, "If you don't know you are going to have a safe and sustainable water source to support all your environmental and business needs, you won't survive."

This bill, by paying to clean up the messes we've made, is a Jobs-Creator. Think about all the environmental scientists, septic tank contractors, construction workers, engineers, etc. Jobs!

So, "Let's Get to Work!" Ask Governor Rick Scott to encourage House Speaker Weatherford to get the ball rolling and schedule HB 1313 for a hearing on the ANRS before it's too late. Rick.Scott@eog.myflorida.com

Ask the area's representatives Keith Perry and Elizabeth Porter to please get on board with "Springs Protection Awareness" and become co-sponsors of HB1313. Keith.Perry@myfloridahouse.gov, Elizabeth.Porter@myfloridahouse.gov

And, let's work on raising awareness of the world beneath our feet and show our gratefulness for this rare gift by our very lives, by the way that we look at and use water. 🐢

Thursdays with Terry Plumeri at the Bull



One of the best kept musical secrets in Gainesville is what takes place almost every Thursday night at The Bull, 18 SW 1st Ave.

Between 10 pm and midnight, one of the world's best bass players performs two sets of free form jazz, bowing and plucking his upright bass with skill and feel that need to be seen.

Go. Just go and experience Terry Plumeri. Trust me.

Can you judge someone by the company they keep? From his website: "Terry has played with such jazz greats as Cannonball Adderley, Herbie

Hancock, Wayne Shorter, Quincy Jones, Arthur Prysock, Frank Sinatra, Joe Williams, Les McCann, Yusef Lateef, John Abercrombie and Woody Herman. Notable performances include Carnegie Hall/New York City, Albert Hall/London, Herodius Atticus Theater/Athens, Tchaikovsky Hall/Moscow, as well as the Newport, Monterey and Montreux jazz festivals."

And oh yeah; no cover. Go. 🐢

NWL remembers revolutionary Black Nationalist Leader Chokwe Lumumba

March 30, 2014

To the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, New Afrikan People's Organization, National Conference of Black Lawyers, Friends and Family of Mayor Chokwe Lumumba:

On behalf of National Women's Liberation, I write to send our love and solidarity as you mourn the great loss and celebrate the life of Mayor Chokwe Lumumba. I attended the celebration of Chokwe Lumumba in Brooklyn last night and was struck by the powerful, radical community present in the church. There was a feeling of hope and strength that inspired me as a women's liberation fighter and labor union organizer. The stories, laughs, ritual, leadership, community, political unity and honesty raised the bar for me as an organizer and the kind of community we all need to build to make radical change. A testament of that was when his daughter, Rukia Lumumba, movingly spoke of this community that she could count on now that her parents were gone and then spoke of her dedication to continuing to build that work as a member of it.

We lost an important freedom fighter on February 25, 2014. When I heard the news, my heart sank. Our best radical movements are strong, but when leaders like Chokwe Lumumba die, the loss is a big hit.

While I didn't know Lumumba personally, I knew MXGM and have long respected the deep, thoughtful work you all do. When we were forming National Women's Liberation we looked to Malcolm X Grassroots Movement on important questions of structure and decision-making. We consulted with members of MXGM as we were building our member-based group to fight for women's liberation. We are grateful for the work Lumumba and others did to build this group and owe some of our foundation to lessons we've learned from you.

There are many contributions to the freedom fight I could cite in celebration of Chokwe Lumumba's life — freeing the Scott sisters, defending Assata Shakur, founding MXGM and the New Afrikan People's Organization. Many groups have written extensive memorial statements that moved me immensely. So I echo all that they have commended him for.

I would like to add that from last night's celebration the two things that struck me most about this beloved freedom fighter was his courage in challenging authority and how deeply he trusted the people. From stories of him challenging a judge and calling him a racist dog, to building a defense for Mutulu Shakur arguing his acts were not criminal offenses but acts of war and resistance in the face of genocidal oppression in the United States. These were just some of the bold and brave examples that inspire me to be a better activist.

Probably most moving though was his belief in the people. I wrote down in my notebook a quote of his that someone cited, "If you don't love the people, sooner or later you'll betray the people."

As I learned more and more about his politics throughout the service, I kept thinking, this man ran for office and was the mayor

of Jackson, Mississippi? There is just no way he could have done that without an intense belief in the people and an amazing ability to explain his learning process.

As a feminist activist and union organizer, sometimes I shortcut when there is a high stakes election coming up or when a concept is difficult to explain (probably when I haven't taken the time to try to understand it better myself).

Listening to Chokwe Lumumba's comrades speak about his politics, about how true he stayed to his beliefs and the movement, and how much he accomplished among the people — it made me reflect and want to be a better soldier of the people, a better leader. Thank you for sharing the life and lessons of your visionary leader, loving father, steadfast comrade. We pledge to put them to good use in carrying forward our corner of the freedom banner.

In Solidarity,
Erin Mahoney

On behalf of National Women's Liberation 🐾

Learn more at www.womensliberation.org.

THE REPURPOSE PROJECT

HOURS: Mon-Fri: 3-7pm & Sat: 10am-6pm
519 S Main St, Gainesville

The Repurpose Project is a non-profit community based effort to divert useful resources from the landfill, redirect these items to the public for art and education, inspire creativity, and help us all rethink what we throw away.

Valuable materials are thrown away everyday. We believe that everything is a gift from the earth and should be used and reused as much as possible before taking more. Join us on our journey to a sustainable future.

www.repurposproject.org

Gainesville City election report

by Joe Courter

First off, congratulations to Helen Warren, one of the genuinely nicest people I have ever met, on winning a very close runoff election for City Commission on April 8. With the unexpected loss by Susan Bottcher back in March, the Gainesville City Commission is in a very polarized situation ideologically, and is also made up of some very contentious people. Helen's promised role as a facilitator and peacemaker will be sorely tested in the coming years; I wish her strength and wisdom in dealing with what lies ahead, but it is up to citizens to show up and have make their voices heard, too.

Secondly, I was appalled by the negative campaign waged by the Democratic Party against Annie Orlando, and frankly am surprised that the mud slinging campaign worked; usually in Gainesville it is the Right that stoops down to that level, and it is usually a losing strategy. As I said last month, it was no surprise that the anti-biomass and Tea Party crowd supported Annie; but that did not make her one. I know her to be a decent, independent-minded person, a longtime Democrat, and to see

the tactics used to defeat her was quite disheartening. Party organization and Get Out The Vote (GOTV) strategy trumped all those (perhaps too many?) signs, I guess.

Those who ran Helen's campaign may feel it worked, but at what cost, and what precedent does it set for the future? There were a lot of good liberal democrats who know Annie well, or who just worked on her campaign out of genuine concern over issues like the biomass plant and solar feed-in tariff, who probably share my discomfort with the way things went down. In the case of this election, just because an opponent doesn't sign a Democratic Party loyalty oath doesn't give you the right to lie about them.

One solution would be that each candidate be more active in setting the tone and reigning in their more zealous and perhaps offensive campaigners; truly it is in the candidate's name that the campaign is being run, and they need to take on that responsibility, be it via social media or at forums, and not let false charges and/or personal attacks drag the campaign into the mud.

There will be a good test coming this August with a contested Democratic primary for a County Commission seat featuring Ken Cornell and Kevin Thorpe. We shall see if we can move past this or if the divisions continue, and weaken the progressive side's chances in the Fall. 🐾



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Gainesville  **Chapter 14**

WGOT gets FCC go-ahead for full-time broadcast status

By Fred Sowder

On February 11, the Federal Communications Commission issued a construction permit for WGOT-LP to migrate up the dial to 100.1FM to its own frequency. The station currently is in a time-shared agreement with two other stations on 94.7FM: WGLJ-FM (belonging to Calvary Baptist Church) and WVFP-LP (owned by Faith Presbyterian Church).

These are exciting times for the radio project of the Civic Media Center, which has already been streaming a 24/7 schedule in anticipation of this news for well over a year.

Funding will be a vital key to getting WGOT to full-time status, which is almost certainly going to require a physical studio space and related audio equipment as well as a new transmitter and antenna.

All of these things combined will be of considerable cost, and the exact amount needed for this transition is still being researched. Regardless, a crowd-sourcing

and membership campaign is in the works to launch later this year.

There are many ways the citizens of Gainesville and the surrounding areas can help make WGOT's bid to go full time a reality. Please visit the station's website at wgot.org to become a supporter, underwriter, staffer, or even board member.

WGOT staff meets at least a couple times each month in the courtyard behind the CMC and Citizens Co-Op. Whether it is at staff meetings or on the website, you can find out how you can begin to put together your own radio show on WGOT.

The station has hosted a few teach-ins on the basics of producing your own radio show at the CMC, and more are planned for the future. Finally, if you own a local business, becoming an underwriting sponsor is a win-win: providing an inexpensive way to get word out about your business as well as supporting grassroots community radio.

WGOT has been on the air in Gainesville

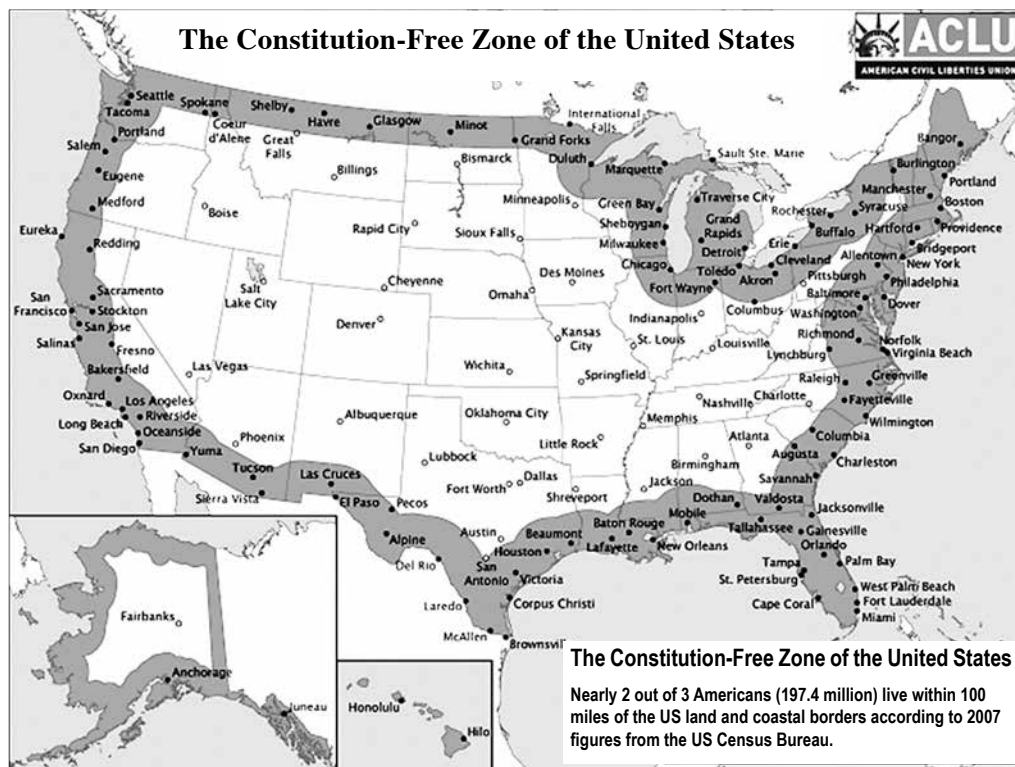
well over six years and has featured nationally known programs such as *Democracy Now!* with Amy Goodman as well as programs formerly aired on WUFT-FM such as *Alternative Radio* with David Barsamian and *Afropop Worldwide*, hosted by Georges Collinet.

We've also augmented our schedule with vitally needed local and national Spanish language programs such as *Informativo Pacifica* and *Noche Latina*.

These programs and countless other locally produced shows are only possible thanks to the generous donations from local individuals and businesses and the countless musicians and venue-owners who have participated in dozens of WGOT benefit concerts. Please keep an eye out for WGOT to have more of these in the future.

For years, WGOT has been inviting you to "Go Low!" Now you're being invited to help WGOT also "Go Big!" Your continued support is appreciated beyond words. Thank you. 🐸

No Fourth Amendment protections in Florida Officials can ignore language against unreasonable search and seizure



Earlier this year, a federal judge ruled that the "constitution exemption zone" -- a federal government policy allowing officials to ignore Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable search and seizure -- extending 100 miles from any U.S. border, is lawful.

As illustrated by the map, this zone covers roughly 2/3 of all U.S. citizens, and it essentially blankets the entire state of Florida.

The American Civil Liberties Union originally challenged the law, which led to the judge's recent decision.

Learn more at www.aclu.org. 🐸

Photo courtesy of the ACLU

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Iguana Editorial Board Reading Recommendations

Noam Chomsky Breaks Down the Zombie Apocalypse by ProgLegs, Daily Kos member

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2014/02/16/1278055/-Noam-Chomsky-Breaks-Down-the-Zombie-Apocalypse#>.

This article explores the comment made by legendary linguist/philosopher Noam Chomsky, who recently suggested that America's obsessions with zombies "might be a sign that a national with a history of brutal oppression suffers subconscious fears of retribution."

EDITORIAL: Do the Math (but not the science)! by EcologyFlorida

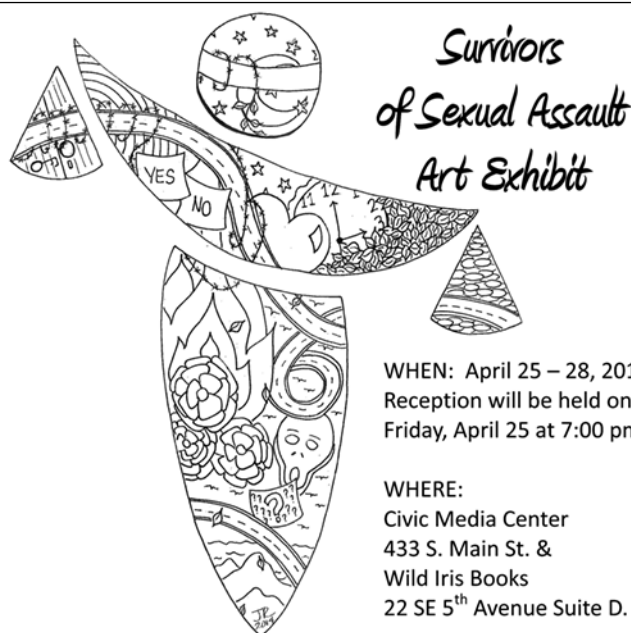
<http://www.ecologyflorida.org/2014/04/do-the-math-but-not-the-science/>

A discussion about the issues and "embarrassment" of Florida having at least 164 voucher-eligible schools that teach Creationism.

The 'Real Racists' Have Always Worn Suits by Mychal Denzel Smith

<http://www.thenation.com/blog/179304/real-racists-have-always-worn-suits>

This Mother Jones article elaborates on Hank Aaron's recent quote in USA Today about how the framing of our national discussion of racism is inaccurate. ✂



WHEN: April 25 – 28, 2014.
Reception will be held on
Friday, April 25 at 7:00 pm.

WHERE:
Civic Media Center
433 S. Main St. &
Wild Iris Books
22 SE 5th Avenue Suite D.

This event is part of Art Walk for April.

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The \$50 Billion Koch Brothers

The joint fortune of Charles and David Koch
has risen by 800 percent in 10 years to \$50
billion. Data: Forbes. Chart: Center for
American Progress Action Fund.

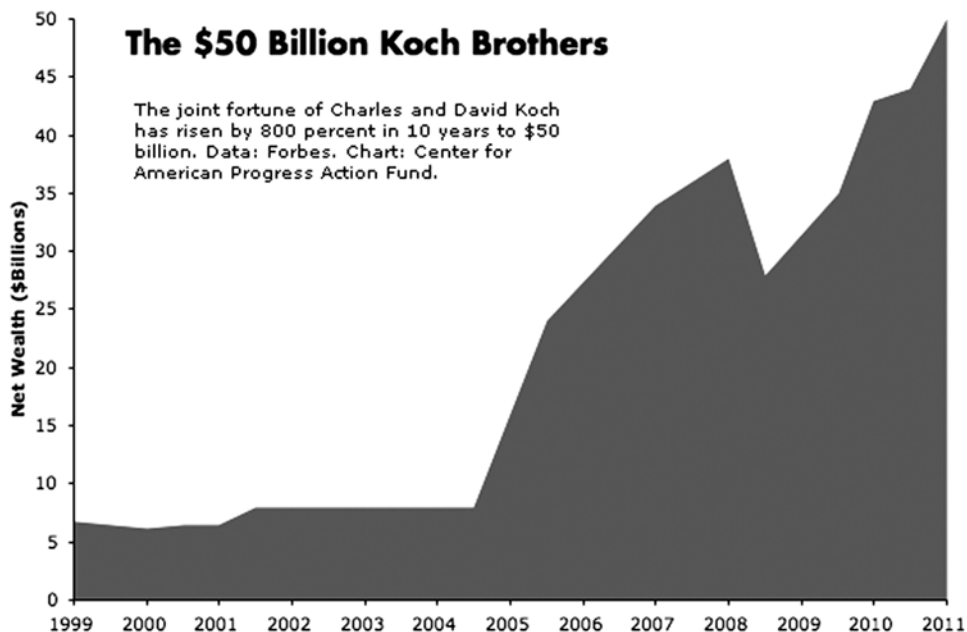


Image shared by Robert Reich on Facebook on March 22.

The Koch brothers, whose more than \$50 billion of wealth — made largely from their petrochemical businesses — exceeds that of the bottom 45 percent of Americans put together, and who make enough money every second to feed a homeless American for an entire year, are pouring ever more of their money into politics.

The Koch brothers shouldn't be demonized because they have a humongous amount of money,

or because most of it has been made in petrochemicals, or because of their right-wing views. As long as they've obeyed the law and played by the rules, they're entitled to their money and their opinions.

But in using their vast wealth to alter those laws and rules, they are corrupting our democracy. For this they deserve to be widely denounced. 🐸



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Clinical Psychologist

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**LaQianya Thompson Huynh presents My Valentine The Musical
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America's talented and innovative modern romantic poet, author, and performance artist has creatively written/ choreographed Lindy Hop Swing, Interpretative, Contemporary and Modern Ballet dances along with professional dancers to beautifully illustrate, in motion, her romantic prose poetry.

This unforgettable production is a must see event that promotes, diversity, music appreciation, performance art, dance, and Romantic Prose Poetry as patrons reminisce and experience the emotions that My Valentine The Musical induces. Remember somewhere on earth love is paramount within the heart of all mankind.

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Co- Director, Performing Artist, Choreographer & Certified Zumba Fitness Instructor, L'Tanya Van Hamersveld

Hugo Miguez & Stacy Kay Dance Professionals

www.HugoAndStacyDance.com www.HugoMiguez.com www.Stacy-Kay.com

Nia Blue Belt Instructor, Architect & Project Manager, Sarit Sela

S- Connection Samba Performer, Corey Souza

Brazilian Cultural Arts Exchange, Florida Performers;

Contra-Mestre Bohasha Porto- Choreographer, Artistic Director (BCAE) and co-founder (NOVA Capoeira, Washington DC)

Catherine E. Powers A.K.A. Graduada Delicada- Executive Director (BCAE)

Tico Richardson A.K.A. Peninha

The Urban Ballerina, Jacqueya Lee

Liturgical Dance Extraordinaire, Barbara Clark Porter

English Country Organizers, Randy Thorp & Annette Merrit Vintage Waltz Performers

Lindy Hop Performers & Vocalists, David Leino, Pedro Da Silva & Lisa Marie Manley

Ritmo Y Sabor Salsa Dancers; London Butterfield, Jacob Curtis & Kara Marie Schifer

Belly Dancer, Kara Marie Schifer

Introducing:

LaQianya's Love Note Orchestra:

Ben Grier, Saxophone, Clarinet & Flute, Music Education Major and Minor Jazz Studies at the University of Florida

<http://bengrierjazz.com>

Dante Frisiello, Lead Guitarist, Composer

Kevin Hicks, Trombonist

George Scott, Trumpeter

Jacques Marzi, Bassist

Lincoln Antoni Pianist

Eli Tragash, Violinist

Walter Jones, Percussionist

David Willcomm, Percussionist

Aboubacar Soumah , Percussionist

Vocalists

Rachel A. Hunt, PhD, RN www.huntlegalnurse.com , Antoinette Gainey, Tariq Evans, Blair Nembhardt A.K.A. Blazebars

Executive Producer, Executive Creative Producer and Director, LaQianya Thompson Huynh, Romantic Poet & Author

Post Production Film Producer, Michael McShane, MFA www.sonofsham.com

Videographer & Film Editor, Evan Frazer AllThingsFrazer@Gmail.com

Photography, Michelle Nargi Photography

Photography & Data Engineering William McCombie

Hair Design, Rhyen Kearse, CEO Fantasy Cutz Salon & Spa

Make Up Artist, Tori Haddock

www.LaQianya.com

Grassroots support keeps it going



What the Civic Media Center does:

- repository of information
- creator of community events
- incubator for future activists and organizers

What you can do:

- become a member or monthly sustainer
- keep up with events on email
- attend and bring friends to events

For information:

- web: www.civicmediacenter.org
- email: coordinators@civicmediacenter.org
- phone: 352-373-0010



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GROWRADIO.org

programming schedule

Grow Radio is a listener-supported, Gainesville-based Internet radio station that provides community members an opportunity to create and manage engaging, educational, informative, locally-generated programming to promote fine, musical and visual arts and humanities for the enrichment of the Gainesville community. The following schedule is subject to change, and not all programs are broadcast each week. Check growradio.org for updates.

Sun	1 pm	Knife Hits
	3 pm	A Notch in My Pistol
	5 pm	Joe and Craig Show
	7 pm	Thru the Rhythm
	9 pm	The Sum of Your Life
Mon	11 am	Dr. Bill's Super Awe ..
	1 pm	The Kitchen Sink
	3 pm	Lost Sharks
	5 pm	Street Nuts
	7 pm	Malum
	8 pm	New Day Rising
	9 pm	Culture Wars
Tue	3 pm	Very Amazing and Co.
	7 pm	What's the Story
	9 pm	The Experiment
Wed	12 am	Pyramid Society 64
	9 am	Sax and Violins
	1 pm	The 2nd Ave. Shuffle
	3 pm	The Quiet City
	5 pm	A Brazilian Commando
	7 pm	Homebrew Talk
	9 pm	The Otherness
Thu	11am	Things Be Blowin'
	2 pm	The Breakup Song..
	3 pm	Hope & Anchor
	5 pm	Erosion
	7 pm	florida rules
	9 pm	Eagle Death
Fri	11 am	The Breakup Song
	1 pm	4D Meltdown
	5 pm	Artichokeification
	7 pm	The Bag of Tricks
Sat	10 am	Jazzville
	12 pm	Cosmic Sataurdaze
	4 pm	Alewife Outbound
	6 pm	Planet of Sound
	8 pm	Reality Bites



WGOT 94.7 LP FM

Gainesville's Progressive Community Radio Station WGOT is on the air

Sunday: 1-4 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 1 - 4 p.m.. 8 p.m.-midnight
Tuesday, Thursday: midnight-5 a.m., 1- 4 p.m., 8-9 p.m.

Saturday: 1- 9 p.m.

Check out wgot.org for upcoming events and a detailed schedule.

We are streaming 24/7 using Shoutcast. You can find the WGOT stream under the Shoutcast directory.

To listen from your iOS, Android, or Blackberry mobile device, you can use any radio streaming apps such as Tune In. We are listed in iTunes Radio under the Eclectic category. Direct feed at www.wgot.org/listen/.

94.7 is a Low Power FM station with a transmitter at NW 39th Ave and I-75, so best reception is within 5 miles, but many people are able to pick up the station in their car.

Questions? Comments? E-mail us at info@wgot.org.



Democracy NOW! airs
Mon.-Fri. 1 p.m. & Mon.-Thur. 8 p.m.

5 key takeaways from the frightening IPCC Climate Change Report

by John Light

This article was originally published on March 31 on Bill Moyers' Moyers & Company news site, billmoyers.com. See the original here: <http://billmoyers.com/2014/03/31/five-key-takeaways-from-the-frightening-ipcc-climate-change-report/>.

The United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued its latest report today. It focuses on how climate change will affect human society in coming years painting a picture of a world destabilized by a rapidly changing environment. While many of the events it details are familiar to those who follow the research on climate change, taken together in the 2,600-page report assembled by more than 300 scientists, they're almost overwhelming to consider.

"Throughout the 21st century, climate-change impacts are projected to slow down economic growth, make poverty reduction more difficult, further erode food security, and prolong existing and create new poverty traps, the latter particularly in urban areas and emerging hot spots of hunger," the report declared.

The longer we dither about taking action, it warns, the worse the impacts of climate change will be.

Here are five takeaways from the report:

1. The food supply is in trouble → "Nobody on this planet is going to be untouched by the impacts of climate change," Rajendra K. Pachauri, chairman of the IPCC, said at a news conference presenting the report. Climate change has already affected the global food supply; crop yields for wheat, for example, are beginning to decline even as the human population continues to grow.

2. The poor will be hit hardest, but the rich will feel it too → As with most natural disasters and food shortages, the poor will be hit hardest. But the rich will also feel it. "A warmer world will push food prices higher, trigger 'hotspots of hunger' among the world's poorest people, and put the crunch on Western delights like fine wine and robust coffee," Seth Borenstein reports for the AP. "Food prices are likely to go up somewhere in a wide range of 3 percent to 84 percent by 2050 just because of climate change, the report said."

3. The world will become less stable → A dwindling food supply coupled with an increase in natural disasters will exacerbate tensions in already-tense areas "by amplifying well-documented drivers of these conflicts such as poverty and economic shocks," the report says. This could mean more or worse regional conflicts and civil wars, like what has unfolded in recent years in drought-stricken Syria, with national security implications for the U.S. (For more on those risks, take a look at the Center for Climate and Security's blog.)

4. Wealthy countries are minimizing their responsibility → The World Bank estimated that poor countries would need as much as \$100 billion per year to offset the affects of climate change. Yet, as Justin Gillis reports for The New York Times, wealthy countries, including the U.S., tried to have that figure stricken from the 48-page executive summary that most readers and the press would peruse before turning to the full report. Gillis writes, "The edit came after several rich countries, including the United States, raised questions about the language, according to several people who were in the room at the time but did not wish to be identified because the negotiations were private.... Many rich countries argue that \$100 billion a year is an unrealistic demand; it would essentially require them to double their budgets for foreign aid, at a time of economic distress at home. That argument has fed a rising sense of outrage among the leaders of poor countries, who feel their people are paying the price for decades of profligate Western consumption."

5. The next big chance to do something is later this year → It's possible to stave off the worst affects of climate change now if countries move quickly to cut emissions, the report says. World leaders will have that chance when they meet this autumn in New York City for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will be completed in 2015. As part of the UN's effort to push international leaders to do something about climate change, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has challenged attendees to bring "bold pledges" and to "[i]nnovate, scale-up, cooperate and deliver concrete action that will close the emissions gap and put us on track for an ambitious legal agreement." 🐢

The Gainesville Iguana

(established 1986)



The Gainesville Iguana

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To list your event or group, contact us at:

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You can find the current and past issues of the Gainesville Iguana online (complete issues are available as PDFs) at www.gainesvilleiguana.org