



# The Gainesville Iguana

January/February 2015

Vol. 29, Issues 1/2

## What President Obama told me about Ferguson's movement: think big, but go gradual



*Journia Cobite and Azaari Mason lead the Dec. 8 march/funeral procession from the King Memorial downtown to 13th St. and University Ave., commemorating the black men, women and children killed by police violence (above). A 15-minute peaceful blockade of the corner by an estimated 300 people followed (right). A die-in and rally with over 80 participants took place outside the Dec. 12 night Gator basketball game. Photos by Justin Dunnivant (above) and Regan Garner (right).*

by Phillip Agnew

*This article was originally published by The Guardian on Dec. 5. See more at [www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com). Agnew is the executive director of the Dream Defenders in Florida.*

On Monday, representatives from a community in active struggle against state sanctioned killing, violence and repression met with the President of the United States of America. Not “civil rights leaders,” no “activists,” not “spokespeople.” This wasn’t a group of “Beltway Blacks,” this wasn’t a delegation of “respectable negroes,” this wasn’t an assemblage of “yes men and women.”

“We” were from Missouri (Ashley Yates, Britany Packnett, T Dubb-O, Rasheen Aldridge), Ohio (James Hayes), New York (Jose Lopez)

and Florida (me). It all happened quickly and, yes, we all were skeptical.

We all knew that the White House stood to benefit more from this meeting than we did. We knew that our movement families would fear the almighty co-opt and a political press photo-op. We have been underestimated at every juncture, sometimes from all sides. But this was an invitation that you accept — period.

The invitation was extended with a clear goal: the president wanted to hear about what was going on around the country. We answered that call with clarity and brutal honesty.

No amount of rehearsal or choreography can truly prepare you for the tense moments standing outside the door of the Oval Office.

*See Ferguson, p. 2*

### BlackLivesMatter:

*Engaging white people in this movement moment workshop*

Please join Gainesville organizers in a discussion and skill share on moving ourselves and other white people to take bold, accountable action against racism.

We will look at white privilege and what white anti-racism can look like in this political moment in Gainesville. What is white privilege? How does it affect our activism and organizations? How do we engage with other white people on topics of race and privilege?

Please join us Saturday, January 24 from 11 am to 3:30 pm at The Civic Media Center, 433 S. Main Street. Lunch will be provided. 🐢

### INSIDE ...

From the Publisher .....	3
Directory .....	10-11
Event Calendar .....	12-13
CMC Events .....	15
GROW Radio schedule .....	22
Editors' Picks .....	24

## Update: Bo Diddley Plaza

by Joe Courter

In the interest of long-range improvements to the Bo Diddley Plaza, there will be a major change to the cultural life of Gainesville that will affect many people. As it stands now, the Plaza will be completely closed as of March 1. This is occurring to allow construction of a new backstage area to accommodate storage of sound equipment and dressing rooms for performers, but also to run plumbing and electric to the NE corner, which will then have some sort of business constructed on it.

This will mean the thriving Wednesday Farmers Market will have to shift to the parking lot across from the former Market Street Pub (now Loosey's) at SE 1st Ave. and 2nd St. The likewise successful Free Fridays Concert Series, and all the other events that annually use the Plaza, are in a bit of limbo. According to David Ballard, it is his hope the City will invest in a portable stage that can be used there, and as well other locations. That would put the concert series and other events at that location, too. The city needs to move on this soon, as the booking for the series needs to happen now.

It would be hoped construction can move in a rapid way and the Bo Diddley Plaza can come back into use as soon as possible. One can't help but remember the transformation of Lynch Park into a dog park a few years ago. The fence went up in short order, but construction did not start for months. This seemed to be a rather heavy handed way of closing the area to people who were seen as undesirable, and created a lot of resentment which persists to this day.

As with any city, a downtown park is a congregating place, and sometimes a sleeping place, for people down on their luck or who have no where else to go. March 1 will disrupt a lot of lives, and for those habituated to the Plaza, this will be especially true. Time will tell how the powers that be manage this situation. 🐾

### *FERGUSON, from p. 1*

Nerves raced through my body. I looked at the faces in our delegation. If anxiety was present in any of them, it didn't show.

The door opened, we sat down, exchanged cordialities, and went to work.

Brittany, director of St. Louis Teach for America, opened and recounted a speech she delivered to her students, on the eighth day of August, imploring them to stand tall and be affirmed leaders only to find that, after the ninth day of August, none of that mattered in the eyes of the state.

"The first time I was teargassed was on the streets of St. Louis with an eighth grader," Brittany said.

Rasheen, who at 20 years old is the youngest member of the Ferguson Commission, told the president that his fight didn't begin on the day Michael Brown died — that he had been committed to the struggle of poor people long before the state killed another unarmed black man.

T Dubb-O, the artist, activist and community voice, laid out with pain and poetic prose how life in St. Louis isn't life but an existence of survival, where none of the "hope" and "progress" of which the president spoke is evident at all.

"I'm tired of rapping about pain and survival," T Dubb-O said.

José Lopez spoke of a 10-year-old in New York, one of the over 17,000 members of the Make the Road New York, who — at a school rally in support of the police — refused to celebrate, who spoke about the fear that they put in her heart. This 10-year-old girl now faces expulsion.

James Hayes came from Ohio to the Oval Office, and he brought John Crawford and Tamir Rice along with him — delivering their eulogy in his introduction.

I brought my mother, my father and my four brothers: Jordan Davis, Israel Hernandez, West Englewood and Trayvon Martin.

Ashley brought home our tale of two countries — of the "other America" — telling the president that women — women like Sasha and Malia — are standing on the front lines, facing the full fury of an oppressive state.

In the streets, Ashley said, "Silence is betrayal."

We told President Obama that we were not the "People's Spokespeople". We told him that we had neither the power, positions, nor desires to stop the eruptions in the

streets and that they would continue until a radical change happened in this country. We told him that we had no faith in anything, church or state. We told him that the country was on the brink and that nothing short of major capitulations at all levels of the government to the demands of the people could prevent it. Straight talk like that.

We asked for the president to utilize his pulpit to spark the governmental culture shift that this movement calls for. We told him to end the Department of Defense's 1033 Program, to end federal funding to police departments with histories of discrimination, harassment and murder. We beseeched President Obama to invest in community-based alternatives to policing and incarceration and challenged him on the lack of data on the state's systematic and underreported killings of unarmed black and Latino people.

He listened. Intently. He responded passionately. He agreed with many of our points and offered his take on the current State of the Union. He presented the reforms that have dominated the discourse in the hours after our meeting. He cautioned us against demanding too big and stressed gradualism. He counseled us that the wheels of progress turn sluggishly and reminded us of the progress that got us to this point: a room full of black folk in the Oval Office. He asked for our help, harkening back to his organizing days when, in the streets of Chicago, the cries of the people shifted the landscape. We debated on the power of the vote and the lack of faith in the Democratic party.

We did not budge.

Only time will tell whether the stories of Renisha, Tamir, Mike, Eric, John, Aiyana and others will shape the course of history in policy, practice or culture. No one knows whether our "impactful" meeting with this nation's first black president will yield any change that people in Ferguson or Flint or Chicago can feel. It is yet to be seen, though one can hypothesize, what will come of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing.

We walked out of that meeting unbought and unbowed. We held no punches. There was no code-switching or bootlicking; no concessions, politicking or posturing. The movement got this meeting. Unrest earned this invite, and we can't stop.

If we don't get what we came for, we will shut it down. President Obama knows that and we know it. No meeting can stop that. 🐾

## From the publisher: Fundamental change and fundamentalism

It was profoundly moving to see the broad national response and outrage over the deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner. That one-two punch to our sensibilities seemed to mark a tipping point in the status quo for many. It also demonstrated the power of our new forms of communication, so many people having cameras, and the ability to spread news outside the old media channels and in fact force the media to recognize and air what otherwise would have been unnoticed and forgotten.

These protests were about a lot more than two incidents. It was about a lot more than police violence. It was about questions right at the heart of our system.

How is it we tolerate a system which decade after decade has people in a poverty situation they can't get out of? Poor schools. Lack of job opportunity. Ensnared in a legal system for minor offenses which act like a sticky web. Even the cops are trapped, having to work in areas which, in a sane and caring society, wouldn't exist.



Joe Courter

One of the signs I saw during our demonstrations here was "Fix The System." That is it, the system we live under in this "free society" means banks get bailed out, but if you're sick you can end up bankrupt. Wall Street swindlers walk free, while selling loose cigarettes to support your family gets you tackled on the street by a half dozen police. Police who should have better things to do than be out messing with people like that.

I guess it could be said what's being called for in these protests is fundamental change. A reorganizing of priorities to give poor and disadvantaged folks a better chance. Health care, education, higher wages. A shift from incarceration and the school-to-prison pipeline to restorative justice. Kind of like what the rest of the world does.

It was interesting when the #blacklivesmatter hashtag was altered to be #alllivesmatter, in a gesture by some for a sort of inclusiveness. The latter is a nice sentiment. The former much stronger, and frankly much more on point for the changes being called for, and as that dynamic played out, it created a teachable moment in what it means to be an ally of others in struggle. In the planning meetings held at the Civic Media Center, it was the Dream Defenders who took the lead, and our events were the better for it.

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From a call for fundamental change, we transition to fundamentalism. "Fundamentalism Stops A Thinking Mind" was the bumpersticker on my old Chevy Vega, and it is so true. Blowing people and things up, killing people with guns, all because you disagree with them, is a madness all over the world.

Car bombs, air dropped bombs, missiles and drones, single-shot snipers and automatic weapons spraying death, we humans invent and use deadly means to make our self-certain point, or to eliminate the others with a different point of view. But fundamentalist inspired death sometimes exerts its power without a weapon. The suicide of Leelah Alcorn (see pg. 9), who stepped in front of a semi truck on an Ohio interstate Dec. 28, was one of many young people made so miserable by their parents that self-destruction seemed the only way out. This needs to change.

Education and tolerance is the key. The tools to overcome fundamentalism are there, but it is a virulent possession of the will. Always has been; burning "witches," killing native people, enslaving other humans. Ignorance and arrogance are versions of fundamentalism, too; choosing not to know things that might disrupt the paradigm, the reality, which we have embraced. That might mean we need to admit we were wrong(!).

We'll see a good bit of that paradigm clinging in the next Congress as their varied strains of fundamentalism rise into unfettered view. Question is, how will it play out? Denial of reality is what gives virulent fundamentalism its power. And that's what needs to fundamentally change. 🐢

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## Rockstar Farmer Tour features Curtis Stone, Jan. 28-29

### Two-day event focuses on building a profitable farming venture

Florida Organic Growers and East End Market are excited to bring the Rockstar Farmer Tour: Farming in the City to Gainesville for an exciting two day event.

The Rockstar Farmer Tour features Curtis Stone, a Canadian farmer who has continually produced \$50,000 on his quarter-acre micro farm in Kelowna, British Columbia.

On Wednesday, January 28th from 6 to 8 p.m., Stone will give a free lecture and virtual tour of his urban farming operation, and describe how, despite having no previous experience and only a shoe-

string budget, he turned a profit of more than \$20,000 his first year and double that profit every year since.

The event is free and open to the public. To register, visit <https://www.eastendmkt.com/events-classes/event-registration/?ee=416>.

On Thursday, January 29th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Stone will host a workshop and go in-depth about the strategic production techniques he uses which focus on high value crops with short growth cycles as well as service specialized and niche market streams such as restaurants, and cooperative CSA's. This workshop is about serious, high production urban farming and focuses on the business of urban farming—specifically how to produce high value crops and how to sell them. He will share the tools and technology to better manage business and to save money.

The cost is \$75 to attend and is open to the public. Visit this website to register <https://www.eastendmkt.com/events-classes/event-registration/?ee=413>.

Both events will be held at the Civic Media Center, 433 South Main Street in Gainesville.

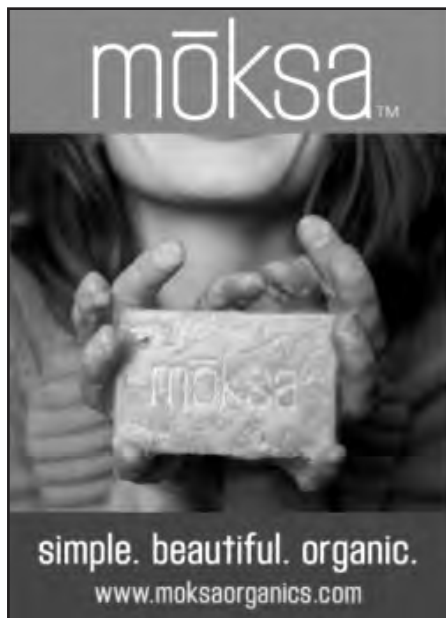
Curtis Stone is the owner and operator of Green City Acres, a commercial urban farm established in 2010 and based out of

Kelowna, BC. Farming under a half acre of land spread over multiple plots in the downtown core, they sell vegetables to some of the city's best restaurants, wineries, and a weekly farmers market. Curtis also works as an educator, consultant, and writer on the subject urban farming throughout North America.

For more information about the event, please visit the event page <https://www.eastendmkt.com/gardening/rockstar/>.

Florida Organic Growers (FOG) is a non-profit organization founded in 1987. FOG promotes organic agriculture and healthy and just food systems. FOG's mission is to inform producers, consumers, media, institutions and governments about the benefits of organic and sustainable agriculture. For more information, please visit <http://www.foginfo.org>.

East End Market is a neighborhood market and food hub in the Audubon Park Garden District of Orlando, Florida. The Market showcases some of Central Florida's top food entrepreneurs, tradespeople, artists, and chefs. The two-story structure is home to a dozen merchants, a large event space, a demonstration kitchen, an incubator kitchen, offices, retail shops, a full-time, award-winning caterer and a world-class restaurant. For more information, please visit <http://www.eastendmkt.com>. 🐾



### Labor Notes

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## New Congress takes aim at Social Security

*Excerpts from the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare's Jan. 6, 2015 statement on the recent threats by the new Congress against Social Security benefits for the most vulnerable.*

"Members of the new 114th Congress had barely taken their oaths of office today when they passed a proposal threatening millions of Americans who receive Social Security benefits."

"Today's unprecedented House vote preventing a routine rebalancing of the Social Security Disability Trust Funds puts politics ahead of policy and partisanship ahead of people. This House Rules change would allow a 20% benefit cut for millions of disabled Americans unless there are broader Social Security benefit cuts or tax increases improving the solvency of the combined trust funds. It is difficult to believe that there is any purpose to this unprecedented change to House Rules other than to cut benefits for Americans who have worked hard all their lives, paid into Social Security, and rely on their Social Security benefits, including Disability, in order to survive."

"Changing the rules of the game to target Social Security in the very first hours of a new Congress sends a clear message to seniors, people with disabilities, survivors and their families — a message that certainly wasn't shared with voters before Election Day — American families who count on Social Security in any way should beware."

Read the entire statement and keep up with the issues at [www.ncpsm.org](http://www.ncpsm.org). 🐾

# “Food Chains” returns to Gainesville

The Alachua County Labor Coalition, the Civic Media Center and the Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice will host a screening of the documentary “Food Chains” at the Civic Media Center, 433 S. Main St., Monday, January 19, at 7pm. This showing is to accommodate the over 50 people who were turned away at the inaugural screening because of the unanticipated overwhelming community response and the previous venue selling out days in advance.

“Food Chains” weaves together the stirring true stories of an intrepid group of farmworkers working to defeat the \$4 trillion global supermarket industry, revealing the rampant abuse of farm laborers in the United States. “Food Chains” exposes the human costs in our food supply chain and the complicity of the supermarket industry. The film focuses on the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), a highly inspiring group of farm workers in the tomato industry from Immokalee, Florida who are revolutionizing the food industry.

Through the Campaign for Fair Food, the CIW has been able to build a national alliance of conscious, mobilized consumers, and over the course of the last decade, successfully pressure the major corporate buyers of Florida tomatoes to address the abuses in their supply chains.

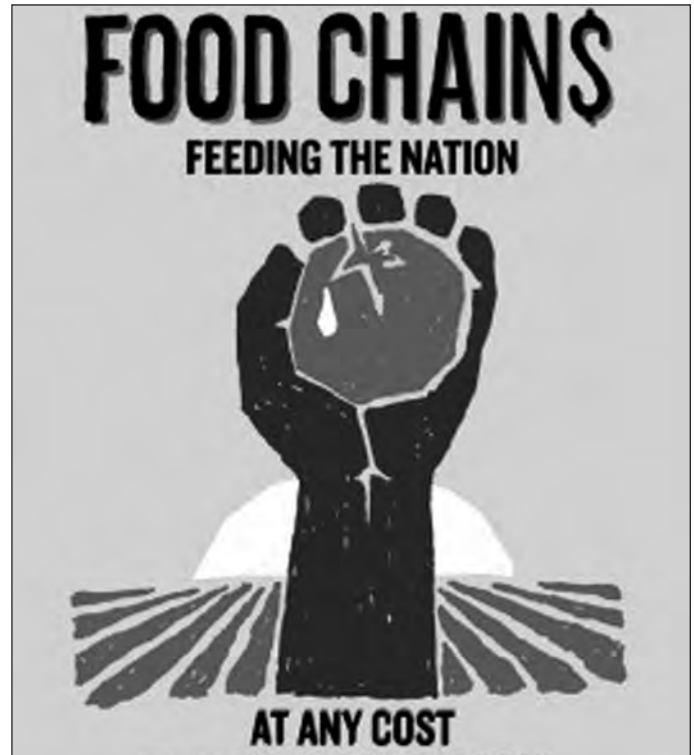
President Bill Clinton called the CIW’s Fair Food Program “the most astonishing thing politically happening in the world we’re living in today,” as he presented the CIW with the 2014 Global Citizen Award.

The CIW has also been recognized with the 2013 Franklin D. Roosevelt Freedom from Want Medal, the 2007 Anti-Slavery International of London Anti-Slavery Award and the 2003 Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award, among other awards.

“Food Chains” is executive produced by Eva Longoria, and includes commentary by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Eric Schlosser (“Fast Food Nation” producer), and is narrated by Oscar winner Forest Whitaker.

Free. Donations accepted.

View the Trailer for the film at: <http://vimeo.com/40126039>, You can also see the Facebook event at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1577388912498110/> 🐾



## Zieger Estate Sale: Jan. 16, 17

There will be a terrific estate sale at 2025 NW 18th Lane in Gainesville on January 16 & 17, 2015. Bob and Gay Zieger, long-time educators at UF and SFC respectively and supporters of the Civic Media Center, recently passed away within months of one another, and a lifetime of treasures — including early American pieces, a fine old train set and household goods — will be sold. The proceeds from this sale will go to support one of their charities, a middle school in Pyapone, a very poor village in Myanmar. For more information contact Jean Chalmers at 352-538-4258. <http://www.estatesales.net/estate-sales/FL/Gainesville/32605/788601> 🐾

“In Germany, they came first for the communists, and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, but I didn’t speak up because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn’t speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time nobody was left to speak up.”

-- Martin Niemoeller, Dachau, 1944

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# Gainesville city elections preview

by Joe Courter

City Commission elections are coming up on March 17, and they will be for two seats. One is an At-Large seat that all city residents vote in, the other for District 1, which is for those in that district only to vote in. Both races will have a number of candidates contesting, and if one candidate doesn't get over 50 percent of the vote, a run-off will occur in April.

The At-Large race will feature all new candidates, as there is no incumbent. In District 1, Yvonne Hinson-Rawls will be attempting re-election.

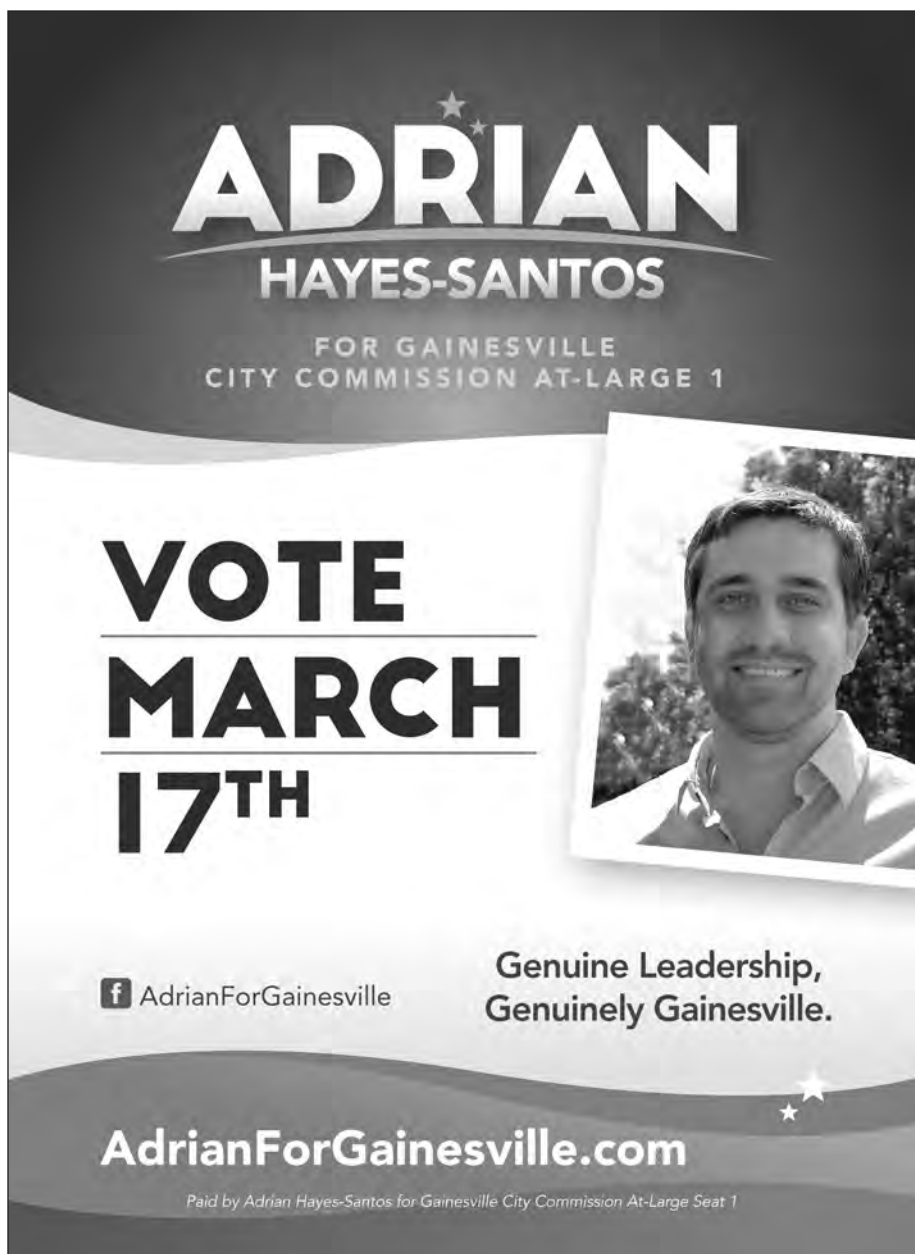
The Supervisor of Elections website has a lot of information on the candidates, as well as their financial reports. The field of candidates won't be closed until January 26. Count on the Iguana to have more information in the March edition, as well as endorsements. As of now we will say we like both Adrian Hayes-Santos and Harvey Budd in the At-Large race. There's a lot of time between now and then, watch for candidate forums, and of course register to vote. 🐢

## Support the Civic Media Center!

Your support of the CMC has multiple options. Membership of course is there, that annual donation in exchange for library check-out rights and the quarterly newsletter. Coming to events is a multiple winner; you get to see something cool, be around community people, and drop something in the donation box. Monthly direct deposit is really great and gives a sustaining income to the CMC. Volunteering to staff a shift gives you time to be in the space, peruse the collection, sit and read or help out with tasks. Inviting friends out to the CMC who have not been there is helpful toward creating new members and supporters. Even subscribing to the Iguana helps, because the Iguana gives a lot of free coverage to the CMC, and it needs to eat, too!


The point is, the CMC is a great resource for the community, but it needs community input to survive. Films in January include "Food Chains" (19th), "Brother Outsider" (22nd), and "In His Own Home" (26th). There is music from Harmonious Wails and Blackfire on the 30th, and the great song-writing and performing of Pierce Pettis on the 24th. Trust me, these are great films, great performers. More is in the works for February. Keep up with the weekly email announcements; contact coordinators@civ-icmediacenter.org to get on that list.

Yes, the Iguana toots the horn for the CMC a lot. It is because the Iguana roots for the underdog, and trying to get coverage in the Sun, the Alligator, or on TV and radio is hard, partly because this great little town has so darn much other stuff going on. Do what you can as you can to help the CMC survive; there are no grants, no foundational support, just you. 🐢



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# Ft. Lauderdale homeless hate laws developments

by Bailey Riley

Since mid-November, in Ft. Lauderdale, there have been multiple changes in approach and methods of action, both on the legislative end and in circles of those directly participating in the resistance against the homeless hate laws.

When the end of Jillian Pim's second week of hunger strike was rolling around, over 700 people participated in a one-day solidarity fast, including some international folk. Subsequent to that, at least seven others joined her indefinitely. They all had the same goal in mind: starving themselves until the food sharing ban was either lifted or enforcement was ceased.

Arnold Abbot, the 90-year-old chef from Love Thy Neighbor, who was the first cited for sharing food under the ban, brought a law suit against the city which resulted in a 30-day injunction against the ban beginning on the third of December.

Later, the city tried to appeal the injunction on the ban, but the end result culminated with Judge Lynch, the initial ruling judge, extending the lift of the ban from 30 to 45 days. News lately has it that there haven't actually been any formal charges filed against Abbot, and it's assumed that the same goes for the eight participants who were arrested at the sit-in at the Downtown Development Authority's (DDA) office), the faction of the downtown government who pioneered the efforts for these laws to be born, on November 4.

It's also worth mentioning that the Ft. Lauderdale police have hardly shown any enthusiasm for enforcing these ordinances—though numerous people have since been cited for sharing food at regular gatherings—and that the courts seem to harbor no concern over prosecuting people cited for sharing. It seems that the city is alone in their fight for these laws to stand.

In fact, it can be assumed that these laws, which criminalize houseless activity, are mere methods of intimidation. Injunction or not, Ft. Lauderdale FoodNot Bombs (FNB) has continued their resistance and condemnation of the discriminatory laws by actively having demonstrations at restaurants owned by Tim Petrillo, who is the treasurer of the DDA and was a member of the "Homeless Task Force," where there

was a major push for these ordinances.

FNB has also focused on targeting some of the city's key events, such as the annual "Christmas on Los Olas." The Los Olas strip of downtown, which consists of restaurants and shopping centers, is pretty consolidated (88 percent) into the hands of one person, Michael Weymouth, who is the Vice Chair of the DDA — making the Los Olas stretch another focal point of protests.

Food Not Bombs has continued their weekly sharings, 4:30 pm on Fridays at Stranahan Park, in conjunction with these other activities. On the first of December, the hacker group Anonymous showed their support for the resistance by effectively shutting down

both JACKSEILER.COM (the mayor's website) and FORTLAUDERDALE.GOV, thus bringing further attention to the issue.

With the police no longer enveloping the FNB sharings, there was a visible relaxation in the community, and many people who'd stopped participating in sharings returned. The injunction officially stopped as of January 5, and the police are again obliged to enforce and cite or arrest people participating in sharing food outdoors. Groups including Love Thy Neighbor, the Peanut Butter and Jelly Project, and Ft. Lauderdale Food Not Bombs will continue to challenge the illegality. For more updates please visit <http://homelessshatelaws.blogspot.com/>. 🐾

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[womensliberation.org](http://womensliberation.org)

## Local libraries provide free help enrolling in health coverage

A certified HealthCare Navigator will be available at six Alachua County Library District locations through February 15, to provide information about health insurance options available under the Affordable Care Act as well as assist with signing up for health coverage.

Anyone wishing to enroll in health insurance, shop for a new plan or renew their health coverage can visit one of these locations for free, unbiased assistance. Information on local resources available for those who doesn't qualify for

the discounts and can't afford the insurance is also available.

Cone Park Branch, Headquarters Library, Library Partnership and Tower Road Branch will have a bilingual (Spanish-English) HealthCare Navigator at the dates and times listed below. HealthCare Navigators are trained and scheduled by Suwannee River Area Health Education Center and the Epilepsy Foundation.

Please call branch libraries or check for the latest schedule updates at [www.aclib.us/events](http://www.aclib.us/events).

**Alachua Branch, 14913 NW 140 Street, Alachua, Phone: 386-462-2592**

Mondays 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., January 12, February 2

**Cone Park Branch, 2841A E. University Avenue, Gainesville, Phone: 352-334-0720**

Bilingual HealthCare Navigator: Thursdays 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., January 8, 22, February 12

**Headquarters Library, 401 E. University Avenue, Gainesville,**

Bilingual HealthCare Navigator: Wednesdays 5 to 7:30 p.m., January 7, 14, 21, 28, February 4, 11

Fridays 12:00 p.m. to 6 p.m., January 9, 16, 23, 30, February 6, 13

**High Springs, 135 N.W. 1 Avenue, High Springs, Phone: 386-454-2515**

Mondays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., February 9 – canceled

Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., January 23 – canceled

**Library Partnership, 1130 N.E. 16 Avenue, Gainesville, Phone: 352-334-0165**

Bilingual HealthCare Navigator: Thursdays 12 to 6 p.m., January 15, 29 February 5

**Millhopper Branch, 3145 N.W. 43 Street, Gainesville, Phone: 352-334-1272**

Tuesdays 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., January 6, 13, 20, 27

Tuesdays 1 to 6 p.m., January 6, 13, 20, February 3, 10

Thursdays 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., January 8, 15, 22, 29

Saturdays 1 to 5 p.m., January 10, 17, 24, 31

**Tower Road Branch, 3020 S.W. 75 Street, Gainesville, Phone: 352-333-2840**

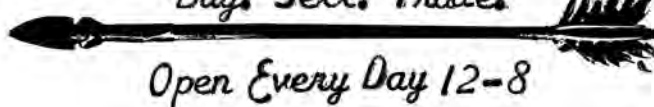
Bilingual HealthCare Navigator: Mondays 1 to 7 p.m., January 12, 26, February 2, 9

HealthCare Navigator: Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., January 7, 14, 21, 28, February 4, 11

Fridays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., January 9, 16, 23, 30, February 6, 13

Sundays 1 to 4:30 p.m., January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 8, 15

For more information, please visit the Library District's eBranch at [www.aclib.us](http://www.aclib.us) or contact Nickie Kortus at (352) 334-3909, [nkortus@aclib.us](mailto:nkortus@aclib.us). For information about HealthCare Navigators from Well Florida Council in the North Florida area, please visit <http://ncfnavigators.org/English>. 🐾

**Arrow's Aim Records**  
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# Leelah Alcorn's Final Words



If you are reading this, it means that I have committed suicide and obviously failed to delete this post from my queue.

Please don't be sad, it's for the better. The life I would've lived isn't worth living in ... because I'm transgender. I could go into detail explaining why I feel that way, but this note is probably going to be lengthy enough as it is. To put it simply, I feel like a girl trapped in a boy's body, and I've felt that way ever since I was 4. I never knew there was a word for that feeling, nor was it possible for a boy to become a girl, so I never told anyone and I just continued to do traditionally "boy-ish" things to try to fit in.

When I was 14, I learned what transgender meant and cried of happiness. After 10 years of confusion I finally understood who I was. I immediately told my mom, and she reacted extremely negatively, telling me that it was a phase, that I would never truly be a girl, that God doesn't make mistakes, that I am wrong. If you are reading this, parents, please don't tell this to your kids. Even if you are Christian or are against transgender people don't ever say that to someone, especially your kid. That won't do anything but make them hate them self. That's exactly what it did to me.

My mom started taking me to a therapist, but would only take me to Christian therapists, (who were all very biased) so I never actually got the therapy I needed to cure me of my depression. I only got more Christians telling me that I was selfish and wrong and that I should look to God for help.

When I was 16 I realized that my parents would never come around, and that I would have to wait until I was 18 to start any sort of transitioning treatment, which absolutely broke my heart. The longer you wait, the harder it is to transition. I felt hopeless, that I was just going to

look like a man in drag for the rest of my life. On my 16th birthday, when I didn't receive consent from my parents to start transitioning, I cried myself to sleep.

I formed a sort of a "fuck you" attitude towards my parents and came out as gay at school, thinking that maybe if I eased into coming out as trans it would be less of a shock. Although the reaction from my friends was positive, my parents were pissed. They felt like I was attacking their image, and that I was an embarrassment to them. They wanted me to be their perfect little straight Christian boy, and that's obviously not what I wanted.

So they took me out of public school, took away my laptop and phone, and forbid me of getting on any sort of social media, completely isolating me from my friends. This was probably the part of my life when I was the most depressed, and I'm surprised I didn't kill myself. I was completely alone for 5 months. No friends, no support, no love. Just my parents' disappointment and the cruelty of loneliness.

At the end of the school year, my parents finally came around and gave me my phone and let me back on social media. I was excited, I finally had my friends back. They were extremely excited to see me and talk to me, but only at first. Eventually they realized they didn't actually give a shit about me, and I felt even lonelier than I did before. The only friends I thought I had only liked me because they saw me five times a week.

After a summer of having almost no friends plus the weight of having to think about college, save money for moving out, keep my grades up, go to church each week and feel like shit because everyone

there is against everything I live for, I have decided I've had enough.

I'm never going to transition successfully, even when I move out. I'm never going to be happy with the way I look or sound. I'm never going to have enough friends to satisfy me. I'm never going to have enough love to satisfy me. I'm never going to find a man who loves me. I'm never going to be happy.

Either I live the rest of my life as a lonely man who wishes he were a woman or I live my life as a lonelier woman who hates herself. There's no winning. There's no way out. I'm sad enough already, I don't need my life to get any worse. People say "it gets better" but that isn't true in my case. It gets worse. Each day I get worse.

That's the gist of it, that's why I feel like killing myself. Sorry if that's not a good enough reason for you, it's good enough for me. As for my will, I want 100% of the things that I legally own to be sold and the money (plus my money in the bank) to be given to trans civil rights movements and support groups, I don't give a shit which one. The only way I will rest in peace is if one day transgender people aren't treated the way I was, they're treated like humans, with valid feelings and human rights. Gender needs to be taught about in schools, the earlier the better. My death needs to mean something. My death needs to be counted in the number of transgender people who commit suicide this year. I want someone to look at that number and say "that's fucked up" and fix it. Fix society. Please.

Goodbye,  
(Leelah) Josh Alcorn 🐢



**HELP END HOMELESSNESS!**  
The Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless and Hungry, Inc., a 501(c)(3), is starting a Motor Donor program to support the GRACE Marketplace

**PLEASE DONATE**  
Cars, trucks, boats, RVs, motorcycles  
and scooters (running or not!)

**352 575-8307**

# Iguana Directory

Call 352-378-5655. or email [gainesvilleiguana@cox.net](mailto: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@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](http://AlachuaConservationTrust.org)

**Alachua County 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. [alachuagreens.weebly.com](http://alachuagreens.weebly.com), [alachuagreens@gmail.com](mailto:alachuagreens@gmail.com), 352.871.1995.

**Alachua County Labor Coalition** 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](http://FloridaLaborParty.org), [ACLP@FloridaLaborParty.org](mailto: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](mailto:bstandly@aclufl.org)

**Amnesty International** UF campus chapter of worldwide human rights movement; [www.facebook.com/ufamnesty](http://www.facebook.com/ufamnesty) or [UFAmnesty@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.citizensclimatelobby.org), [cclgainesville@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.civicmediacenter.org).

**The Coalition of Hispanics Integrating Spanish Speakers through Advocacy and Service (CHISPAS)** Student-run group at UF. [www.chispasuf.org](http://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](mailto:CodePink4Peace.org), [jacquebetz@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://alachuadems.org).

**Edible Plant Project** Local collective to create a revolution through edible and food-producing plants. 561-236-2262 [www.EdiblePlantProject.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.thefineprintuf.org).

**Florida School of Traditional Midwifery** A clearinghouse for information, activities and educational programs. 352-338-0766 [www.midwiferyschool.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.gaaponline.org), [info@gaaponline.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:gainesvillefnb@riseup.net). [www.facebook.com/#!/groups/143660782367621/](http://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](mailto:gainesvilleiaij@gmail.com) or [www.gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com](http://www.gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com)

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

**Gainesville NOW** [www.gainesvillenow.org](http://www.gainesvillenow.org). [info@gainesvilleNOW.org](mailto:info@gainesvilleNOW.org) NOW meeting info contact Lisa at 352-450-1912.

**Gainesville Socialists** is a bi-weekly reading and discussion group. Meetings are open to all who consider themselves socialists, are interested in socialism, or are otherwise curious. Meetings are held at the CMC every other Tuesday at 8 pm, [gainesvillesocialists@gmail.com](mailto:gainesvillesocialists@gmail.com)

**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](http://www.womensliberation.org), P.O. Box 14017, Gainesville, 32604, (347) 560-4695, [nwl@womensliberation.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:officers@ufgau.org), [www.ufgau.org](http://www.ufgau.org)

**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](http://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.org](http://www.harvestofhope.org)

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](http://www.gainesvillehumanists.org) or [facebook.com/humanistsocietyofgainesville](https://facebook.com/humanistsocietyofgainesville); [gainesvillehumanists@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:ufhumanistsoncampus@gmail.com), alternative: [j.bontems@ufl.edu](mailto: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.net](mailto:Gainesvilleiww@gmail.net). [www.gainesvilleiww.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:gainesvilleiso@gmail.com).

**Kindred Sisters** Lesbian/feminist magazine. PO Box 141674, Gainesville, FL 32614. [www.kindred-sisters.org](http://www.kindred-sisters.org), [KindredSisters@gmail.com](mailto:KindredSisters@gmail.com).

**Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteers to join its advocates who protect elders' rights in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, family care homes. Training and certification provided. 888-831-0404 or <http://ombudsman.myflorida.com>.

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

**Move to Amend, Gainesville** is an organization dedicated to amending the US Constitution to establish that money is not speech, and that only human beings have constitutional rights. [movetoamend.org/fl-gainesville](http://movetoamend.org/fl-gainesville)

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:nlggainesville@gmail.com) or [www.nlg.org](http://www.nlg.org)

**NCF AWIS** is an advocacy organization championing the interest of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) across all disciplines and employment sectors. Meetings are usually the first Monday of the month (except holidays) from 5:30 -7:30 PM Millhopper Branch, Alachua County Public Library. All meetings open to the public. Email [ncfawis@gmail.com](mailto:ncfawis@gmail.com) or go to [www.ncfawis.org](http://www.ncfawis.org) for more information.

**Occupy Gainesville** is about engaging local people in grassroots, participatory democracy, 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](http://www.occupygainesville.org) and <https://www.facebook.com/occupygainesville>.

**Our Santa Fe River and Ichetucknee Alliance** are two of a number of grassroots environmentalist groups campaigning to protect and restore the rivers and springs. See: <http://www.oursantaferiver.org/> and <http://www.ichetuckneealliance.org/>

**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](http://pflaggainesville.org). Confidential Helpline 352-340-3770 or email [info@pflaggainesville.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.grove.ufl.edu/~pride).

**United Faculty of Florida Union** represents faculty at University of Florida. 392-0274, [president@uff-uf.org](mailto:president@uff-uf.org), [www.UFF-UF.org](http://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/](http://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/](http://www.afn.org/~vetpeace/).

**WGOT 94.7 LP-FM** Community low-power station operating as part of the Civic Media Center. [wgot947@gmail.com](mailto:wgot947@gmail.com), [www.wgot.org](http://www.wgot.org).





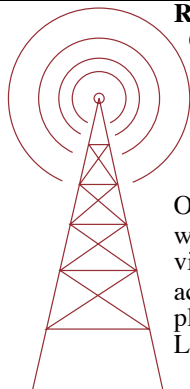
Enero-  
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The Gainesville Iguana

Iguana, c/o CISPLA, P.O. Box 14712, Gainesville, FL 32604  
(352) 378-5655 www.gainesvilleiguana.org

January-  
February

Sunday  
Domingo



**Radio Notes:** Find schedules for WUFT, WGOT, and Grow Radio, our local non-corporate stations, at [www.s.wuft.org](http://www.s.wuft.org), [wgot.org](http://wgot.org), & [growradio.org](http://growradio.org) respectively. WGOT is a part-time over-the-air broadcast; and like Grow radio is streamed on the internet. More info on local independent radio on pg 22.

On the music side of things, those on the east side or with antennas might appreciate the music on Jacksonville's public radio station at 89.9 FM, ranging from acoustic to electronic, jazz and blues, in an eclectic and pleasant mix in the evenings and night.

LISTEN TO AND SUPPORT COMMUNITY RADIO!

For more events, event details, and irregularly updated calendar entries, see [www.gainesvilleiguana.org/calendar](http://www.gainesvilleiguana.org/calendar).

**18 Black Lives Matter** talk with Zoharah Simmons, UUFG (4225 NW 34th St), 11 am.

**Fla Coalition for Peace & Justice** weekly potluck & eco-village tour, 4 pm: [fcjp.org](http://fcjp.org)

**Green Party** meets, Friends Mtg Hse (702 NW 38th St), 1st & 3rd Sundays, 3:30 pm  
**1882: A. A. Milne born.**



**25 1,500 Years in Alachua County** at Matheson Museum (513 E. Univ Ave), 1-4 pm.

**Keep up with the CMC** at [www.civicmediacenter.org](http://www.civicmediacenter.org) for events created after this calendar was printed, and into the future (also see pgs 6, 18 & 24).

**Feb 1 Greens** meet - see 1/18.

**Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike** final shows, Hipp, 2 & 7 pm.

**South Rail**, DC-based live music at 1st Magnitude Brewing (1220 SE Veitch St), 4-7 pm.

**Women's Movie Night**, 1st Sundays, Pride Center (3131 NW 13th St), 7 pm.



**8** If you appreciate this calendar, please consider supporting the *Ig* with a donation &/or subscription: PO Box 14712, Gainesville FL 32604.

**15 Greens** meet - see 1/18.  
**Acoustic Eidolon** at Sandhill Stage, Prairie Creek Lodge (7204 SE CR 234), \$20, 7 pm.  
**1820: Susan Brownell Anthony born.**

**22 1819: US buys Florida from Spain** for \$5,000,000.  
**1938: Ishmael Reed born.**



Monday  
Lunes

**19 MLK Rally**, BD Downtown Plaza, noon; march to MLK Ctr on Waldo Rd, 1 pm.

**Food Chains** doc on Immokalee farm workers, sponsored by Alachua Cty Labor Coalition, CMC, 7 pm (pg 5).

**Gvl Citizens for Active Transportation** meets at CIED (530 E. Univ Ave), 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7 pm.  
**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY**

**26 In His Own Home:** doc on shooting of UF grad student Kofi Adu-Brempong in 2010 by University Police Dept Critical Response Team, CMC, 7 pm.



**2 CMC documentary** hosted by Food Not Bombs, title tba, 7 pm.

**Gvl Citizens for Active Transportation** meets - see 1/19.

**1882: James Joyce born.**

**9 PETA's Dan Mathews** speaks, UF Pugh Hall Ocora, 7 pm.

**Science Café: Florida Hurricanes**, Saboré (13005 SW 1st Rd, Tioga), 6:30 pm (register at [tinyurl.com/ng919ex](http://tinyurl.com/ng919ex)).

**CMC documentary** tba, 7 pm.

**16 The Curators** (of hip-hop), *Vol I* film & discussion w/ director/producer Jermaine Fletcher; CMC, 7 pm (live hip-hop to follow).

**Talking Service for Veterans** reading/discussion group, Beltram Peace Ctr, 1236 NW 18th Ave, 3rd Mons, 7 pm.

**Gvl Food Security Group** meets 3rd Mondays, Highlands Church, 7 pm.  
GCAT meets, 7 pm - see 1/19.  
**PRESIDENTS' DAY**

**23 The Vagina Monologues** at the Hipp, noon.  
"Moving Florida's Children Forward" talk, UF Pugh Hall Ocora, 6 pm.

Tuesday  
Martes

**13 County Farmers' Mkt** on N 441 by Hwy Patrol Tues/ Thurs/Sat, 8 am-noon.

**Anti-war signholding** - 1st/3rd Tues, Archer Rd & 34th St, 2nd/4th Tues, Univ Ave & 13th St; 4:30-6 pm.

**Alachua County Comm** meets, 2nd & 4th Tues, 9 am & 5 pm, County Admin Bldg; citizens comment, 9:30 & 5:30.

**G'ville Poets & Writers** meet Tuesdays at Books A Million, 2601 NW 13th St, 6:30 pm.

**20 John Paul Stevens** talks w/ UF law profs, Phillips Ctr, 12:30 pm.

**School Board** meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 620 E Univ Ave, 6 pm: see [sbac.edu](http://sbac.edu).

**G'ville Socialists** reading/discussion group meets every other Tues at CMC, 7 pm.

**PFLAG** meets, United Church (1624 NW 5th Ave), 7 pm.

**27 Alachua County Comm** meets - see 1/13.

**"Fla & Mariel Boatlift"** talk, UF Pugh Hall Ocora, 6 pm.

**Alachua County Labor Coalition** meets, ACEA Hall (618 N 13th Ave), 6:30 pm.

**3 School Board** meets, 6 pm.

**"Price of Poverty"** talk, UF Pugh Hall Ocora, 6 pm.

**Alachua Cty Labor Coalition** meets, ACEA Hall, 6:30 pm.

**Rivera Sun** reading & signing her new book *The Dandelion Insurrection*, CMC, 7 pm

**Gvl Socialists**, CMC, 7 pm.  
**FULL MOON**

**10 Alachua County Comm** meets - see 1/13.

**"Florida's Got the Blues"** exhibit at Matheson Museum, \$5, Mon-Thurs thru 4/30, 9:30-3:30 pm.

**17 School Board**, 6 pm.  
**Gvl Socialists**, CMC, 7 pm

**PFLAG** meets, United Church, 7 pm; see 1/20 & pg 23.

**Mermutants** puppet/theater at the A Space (1125 SE 4th St).

**24 Alachua County Comm** meets - see 1/13.  
**League of Women Voters Candidate Forum**, location tba, 6 pm - see [lwv-alachua.org](http://lwv-alachua.org).

Wednesday  
Miercoles

**14 Free confidential walk-in HIV testing** at Alachua County Health Dept, 224 SE 24th St, 9 am-3 pm, M-F; & at Pride Ctr, 3131 NW 13th St, 4-6 pm on 1st & 3rd Thurs; info: 334-7961.

**Zine Workday**, CMC, noon-2 pm every Weds.

**Downtown Farmers' Market** every Wed, Dntn Plaza, 4-7 pm;  
**Edible Plant Project**, 2nd Weds.

**Move to Amend** meets, Pride Ctr, 6 pm, every Wednesday.

**"Law Enforcement & African-Americans"** town hall mtg w/ mayor, police chief, more:, MLK Ctr, 6 pm.

**21 Black History Month** keynote talk by Tessa Thompson (star of *Dear White People*), UF Univ Auditorium, 6:30 pm.

**Humanists**, UUFG (4225 NW 34th St), 7 pm.

**28 Florida Organic Growers** presentation, CMC, 6 pm - see 1/29 & pg 4.



Please support Citizens Co-op, a community resource. Shop Co-op first & keep your \$\$\$ local!

**1986: Challenger shuttle explodes.**

**4 Vagina Monologues Labor of Love Gallery** & silent auction opens at Hipp, 6:30 pm.

**Vets for Peace** meet, 7 pm: call 352-375-2563 for directions.

**1913: Rosa Parks born.**  
**1921: Betty Friedan born.**

**11 Citizens' Climate Lobby** meets, downtown library, 6:30 pm.

**Democratic Executive Committee** meets, County Commission meeting room, 7 pm.

**V-Fest Variety Show:** musical theater, comedy, more; CMC (433 S. Main St), 9 pm.

**18 Humanists**, UUFG (4225 NW 34th St), 7 pm.

**Mr Burns, A Post-Electric Play** opens at Hipp, 7 pm: [thehipp.org](http://thehipp.org)  
**1931: Chloe Anthony "Toni Morrison" Wofford born.**

**25 2000: 4 NYC cops acquitted of murdering (unarmed) Amadou Diallo with 41 shots.**



Thursday  
Jueves

**15 CMC Volunteers** meet every Thursday, 5:30 pm.

**Execution Protest carpools** from UUFG & St Aug Catholic Ctr, 4:30 pm - info, 352-332-9780.

**Stonewall Democrats**, 901 NW 8th Ave, 3rd Thursdays, 6 pm.

**Acoustic Blues** weekly open mike Cymplify, 5402 NW 8th Ave, 6 pm.

**Open Poetry** every Thursday at CMC, 9 pm: Gvl's longest-running poetry jam, open to all; informal & welcoming to both readers & listeners.

**1929: Martin Luther King, Jr. born.**

**22 Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin**, sponsored by United Way, plus free HIV testing; CMC, 7 pm.



**Arlo Guthrie 50th Anniversary Alice's Restaurant Tour**, Phillips Ctr, \$30-50 (students \$10), 7:30.

**Open Poetry**, CMC, 9 pm.

**29 Florida Organic Growers** workshops, CMC, 9 am-5 pm.  
**CMC Volunteers**, 5:30 pm.

**Biotechnical Reproduction** talk at Smathers Library E, 5:30 pm.

**Italian Language & Culture Seminar**, CMC, 7 pm.

**Open Poetry**, CMC, 9 pm.

**5 CMC Volunteers**, 5:30 pm.  
**Joe Crookston** at UF Squitieri Studio Theatre, 7:30 pm.

**SSJ Sierra Club** meets; UUFG (4225 NW 34th St), 7:30 pm.

**Open Poetry**, CMC, 9 pm.

**12 Cinema Verde Environmental Film & Arts Festival** at Paramount Plaza Hotel (2900 SW 13th St) runs thru 2/15 - see pg 21 & [cinemaverde.org](http://cinemaverde.org).

**Democracy** talk, UF Pugh, 7 pm.

**Women's Band Roulette Showcase** at 1982.

**Open Poetry**, CMC, 9 pm.  
**DARWIN DAY**

**19 Stonewall Democrats**, 901 NW 8th Ave, 6 pm, 3rd Thursdays.

**"Race & Politics"** talk by Dr. Paula McClain, UF Pugh Hall Ocora, 6 pm.

**26 "Tampa Red & Hokum Blue:** Roots of Rock & Roll", Matheson Mus., free, 6 pm.  
**Acoustic Song Circle**, Loosey's.

Friday  
Viernes

**16 Bob & Gay Zieger Estate Sale**, 2025 NW 18th Lane, 1/16-17; see pg 5.

**WGOT 7th Anniversary Benefit** at The Atlantic w/ D.P., Bill Perry Orchestra, Letters, & Ceramicats, \$7-10, 9 pm.

*There will doubtless be events scheduled that aren't on this calendar at press time: check various websites and listings, and support events in our wonderfully active community.*

**1991: US-led "coalition" starts bombing Baghdad.**  
**RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY**

**23 Ovid's Metamorphoses** at UF Constans Theater, through 1/29, 7:30 pm.

**Race** by David Mamet opens at Actors Warehouse (608 N. Main St), runs thru 2/8, 8 pm - see [actorswarehouse.org](http://actorswarehouse.org).

**Another Antigone** opens at Across-town Repertory (619 S. Main St), runs through 2/8, 8 pm - see [acrosstown.org](http://acrosstown.org)

**1973: Richard Nixon announces US troops to leave Vietnam in 60 days.**

**30 Gvl Artwalk**, 7 pm - see pg 16.  
**Gay Movie Night** last Fridays, Pride Ctr, \$2, 7:30 pm.

**Harmonious Wails** (Gypsy jazz) & **Black Fire** (eclectic Gypsy klezmer & beyond), CMC, 9 pm.

**Parquet Courts, Merchandise, Soda, Cold Waste** at The Wooly, 9 pm.  
**1909: Saul Alinsky born.**

**6 Earthskills Gathering**, Little Orange Creek Nature Park, 24115 SE Hawthorne Rd, Hawthorne; runs 2/5-8 - see [floridaeartskills.org](http://floridaeartskills.org).  
Benefit event, 1st Magnitude, 2/3, 6-10 pm.



**13 Public Interest Envir. Law Conf** at UF Levin Law College, 2/12-14 - see [ufpiec.org](http://ufpiec.org).

**Transgender Movie Night**, 2nd Fridays, Pride Ctr (3131 NW 13th St), 7 pm.

**Gator Tales** play based on African-American oral histories opens (runs thru 2/22), UF Blackbox Theater, 7 pm.

**Against Me, Creepoid, Worriers** at The Wooly, 9 pm.

**V-Fest Live Band Show** at 1982.

**20 IGUANA Deadline** for March issue is Feb 26th; write [gainesvilleiguana@cox.net](mailto:gainesvilleiguana@cox.net) or call 378-5655 with events, updates, advertisements & info.

**27 Gay Movie Night** - see 1/30.  
**Gvl Artwalk**, last Fridays, 7 pm.  
**1991: US "coalition" "liberates" Kuwait.**

Saturday  
Sabado



**17 Gvl Barter Project**, Highlands Presbyterian Church (1001 NE 16th Ave), 3rd Saturdays, 1-4 pm.

**Savants of Soul, Plush Monsters, GUTS, Slims** at The Wooly, 9 pm.  
**1931: James Earl Jones born.**  
**1942: Cassius "Muhammad Ali" Clay born.**

**24 Muslim-Christian Dialog**, Emmanuel Mennonite Church (1236 NW 18th Ave), 10 am.

**Hoggetowne Medieval Faire**, County Fairgrounds, \$17 adults/\$7 ages 5-12; 1/24-25 & 1/30-2/1 10 am-6 pm: [hoggetownefaire.com](http://hoggetownefaire.com).

**"#BlackLivesMatter: Engaging White People in This Movement Moment"** - workshop on anti-racist white allyship; CMC, 11am-3:30 pm - see pg 1.

**Singer-songwriter Pierce Pettis**, CMC, \$10-15 at door, 8 pm.

**Stargazing at Paynes Prairie**, Hickory Ranch (9300 SE CR 234, Micanopy), 6-9 pm.

**NWL Roe v. Wade** benefit - see pg 7.

**31 Great Invader Rally** (aka Air Potato Roundup), Morningside Nature Center, 9 am.

**350 Gainesville** meets at CMC, 2 pm.

**Chili Cook-off**, Pride Ctr, \$5, 6-8 pm.

**7 Green Generation Youth Environmental Summit**, GRU East-side Ops Ctr (4747 N. Main St), 9:30 am-2 pm (lunch provided).

**Health Care Navigation** ("Obama-care" how-to & free HIV testing), CMC, 2-6 pm - see pg 8.

**Veg For Life** vegan potluck, UUFG, 1st Saturdays, \$1+veg dish, 6:30 pm.

**14 Muslim-Christian Dialog**, Emmanuel Mennonite Church (1236 NW 18th Ave), 10 am.

**The Vagina Monologues** opens at the Hipp, 6:30 pm.

**V-Fest Live Band Show**, Boca Fiesta.  
**VALENTINE'S DAY**

**21 Muslim-Christian Dialog**, Emmanuel Mennonite Church (1236 NW 18th Ave), 10 am.

**Author Fair** at Wild Iris Books (22 SE 5th Ave), noon-6 pm.

**The Vagina Monologues** at the Hipp, noon.

**Hip Hop & Art Show** with Chester Watson, Duke, Nu Age Syndicate, more: CMC, 8 pm.

**28 Leo Kottke** in concert at SFC Fine Arts Hall, 7:30 pm.  
*Whether here or anywhere: please support live music!*





# History and the people who make it: Hiram Ruiz

*Transcript edited by Pierce Butler*

*This is the 24th in a series of transcript excerpts from the collection of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida. Hiram Ruiz was interviewed by Jess Clawson [C] in 2012.*

**C: Hiram has brought some photographs that he is going to describe.**

**R:** This photo is on the cover of one of the books about the Gay Liberation Movement, taken on the first anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in New York. I spent that summer in New York. This was one of the first pride marches.

In junior college in Miami, I started coming out to friends just before I went to Tallahassee, in the autumn of [19]69.

In that era, you really had negative stereotypes: no positive imagery, no groups, there wasn't anything on TV. So I went up to Tallahassee and some people invited me to a party in Cataloochee, a small town outside Tallahassee. It was the first time I'd gone into a gathering of gay people. And people were dancing. I don't think I'd ever conceptualize[d] same sex couples dancing, and that in itself was very liberating, my first eye-opener.

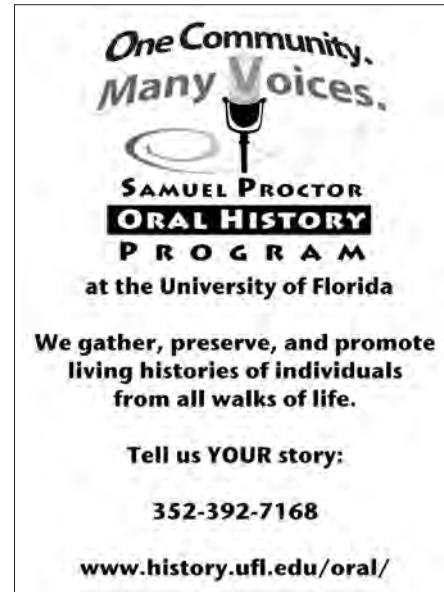
In February of 1970, I went to Mardi Gras. There were people holding hands in the street, being very visibly gay. It was really so liberating and inspiring and it was like why isn't it like this?

Shortly after that I went to visit my grandfather in LA and there was a gay liberation [front] in LA as active or known as the one in New York. I found out about a meeting and I went. Again, I was completely wowed and motivated by the whole experience.

We went back to Tallahassee and started to talk to my friends. We decided we would start our own gay liberation front.

We started by putting up signs around campus and the first symbol we used was derived from the gay liberation front in LA, a riot there. Police attacked the bar, and people were running away, a lot of people had ink on their hands. There were all these hand prints on walls, that became a symbol, so we used that, before fist and all that came around. We had two-three meetings and then summer comes and everyone dispersed.

I went to New York for that summer. I got very much involved in the Gay Liberation front during its peak year. I was in a consciousness raising group that was all minorities, blacks and Hispanics. We all went to Washington to the Third World Revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention.



Back to Tallahassee in autumn of [19]69 and we were raring to go. I moved in with three friends into an apartment building right near the campus. During the summer we made this banner, when I was in New York in these marches.

**C: The Florida State Gay Liberation Front.**

**R:** We began trying to put ads in the newspaper. The first meeting was in our apartment. Something like 40 people came, including professors and students.

We were freaked out — we had no clue what we were doing. In LA I had met a transsexual named Angela Douglas and — I don't even remember now — but for whatever reason, Angela Douglas showed up in Tallahassee. It was really very challenging for us because we're being bold enough being gay, but here's this transsexual walking around, obviously not a woman physically, but being a woman.

That was very challenging, being out in public with her. She was very political and she forced us to deal with a lot of our own issues and stereotypes and hang-ups.

So it was a lot of growing going on on a lot of different levels.

We were very identified with all the other liberation movements going on. This is 1970, so all the activist people, you could fit us all in one room in all varieties. So having her there, we were going to be really different. We got evicted shortly after the first meeting, because we were gay. So that group split up.

That was the beginning of the intense period that whole academic year [19]70-71. Nixon came to Tallahassee, not in the city, but off at the airport. This is a protest we had at the airport when Nixon came.

There were a lot of things going on around campus. The women's group was very active, the black group was very active. Vietnam was the big [thing], and we were a part of all that.

The great thing about the gay liberation front at that time is that it sought to be a part of a broader movement. It wasn't just about us being gay, but it was the whole social revolution for everybody.

Some other groups didn't necessarily want us. I'm talking about nationally, not necessarily Tallahassee. Like the whole history of the GLF in New York. The Gay and Lesbian Activist Alliance was all about the GLF alliance as a part of the broader social movement and the GLAA thought that you needed to concentrate on gay rights. GLF was so intensely political.

The GLF in New York just fell apart in a couple of years. GLAA grew and led into the mainstream in subsequent years.

These are just pictures around Tallahassee. I don't know if you've ever come across the term love-in, sit in — this was our gay-in that we had in Tallahassee.

This is Judy Fee, the person who came and spoke with me in Gainesville later. The key leadership was Judy, myself and Jose Fernandez, a friend of mine also from Miami.

We tried to get recognition as a student group. They even voted in student government to recognize us, but the university wouldn't allow it. This is simultaneous with businesses preventing us from having ads in the paper. People in the paper supported it, but the university

threatened to close down the paper, and they couldn't have survived without advertising, so they had to cave.

They used to have something in Tallahassee called the military ball. We did a protest and held a kind of mock anti-military ball. It got in the campus paper.

By that time, I had become very confrontational. On campus I was out there to the point that some of the gay folks who would attend meetings and see me coming and cross the street. We are talking about a time, a place, very dangerous for gay people. This was a Hilton downtown. We threw flowers at social workers.

The Miami [Herald] does this series called "the homosexual." It was just scathing – like homosexuals were pedophiles – prissy beauticians who had high-pitched voices and who carry on and just – all the stereotypes, all the negative.

So I contacted the Herald and said, What are you doing? They arranged for the woman who had done the series to interview me. I did some investigation, her son had been molested, and that's what had driven the series.

She did actually made an effort, and did one focused on me and one focused on the movement. I didn't use [my name] because I was not out to my family yet, and that year that did happen, but it was still the times. This is at that point the only, that I'm aware of, movement going on in the south – nothing going on in Miami, nothing in Atlanta.

The University of Florida invited us to come and speak. There was a full car load of us, and we turned it into a party. I did some kind of speech, but nothing that would wow a crowd. And then Judy comes on stage and takes the mike and says, "My name's Judy Faith, I drink beer, and I'm a lesbian." The whole crowd went into a roar and she just took it from there. I never had any other contact with UF until after I graduated and moved to San Francisco in 1971.

I wound up being there for two years. I went into social work. The first place I did field work was the counseling center at FSU. But the second one was the mental health center in Gainesville and I wanted to do group peer counseling on campus.

I did an announcement in the newspaper, and the psychology building gave us a classroom. Something insane like a

hundred people showed up, and I was neither expecting or prepared for that.

There's clearly a need here. Is this the first time in two years that the word gay has been mentioned on campus in Florida? Maybe it was. I don't know if that became anything or not.

We had one friend who wanted to start a gathering place most other gay groups were against bars because they were generally Mafia run and just as oppressive as other parties in the community. We helped to pull together and they opened a gay bar in downtown Tallahassee. It did last for a few years.

#### **C: Do you remember what it was called?**

**R:** It closed, they re-opened somewhere else. That other bar, I'm sure, it's called Elsewhere. Because every time they'd gone to bars, they'd say that they don't want you there, go elsewhere. When I came back from grad school, that other bar was open. This one was like a dance bar, which is ironic given that in 2012 there is no gay bar in Tallahassee.

It was raised in the state legislature that Jose and I should be thrown out of the university. On campus there was clearly a lot of hostility. Our posters were constantly being torn down. We would put them up at four or five in the morning and by nine most of them were gone and then we'd go out and do it again.

#### **C: You didn't feel threatened?**

**R:** No, not physically threatened.

Angela got arrested for being dressed in women's clothes. I don't remember the eventual disposition of that. She was released, but she was only in Tallahassee for a week or ten days and then she up and left. I'm sure there's a lot more to Angela's story than we ever knew.

If you look at the Yearbook from FSU from 1970, you will see that the whole yearbook is about the student movement and women's lib. There's no mention of gay lib and it was far more in the newspaper than any other groups. There was one little line with something to do with the student government. So it's like we never existed.

In January of [19]75 I left for London, a huge study abroad program.

The specific group might not have survived but it really changed a dynamic. It's like opening the closet door. Not just

opening it but springing it wide open and saying, here we are. The movement evolved in many different ways and in many different directions, but it never went back.

Life has changed so radically – who could have even conceptualized gay marriage to be of an agenda and presidential debate?

We see things, even if it's just young couples that are just walking on the street holding hands, kids would go to the prom with their same-sex partner and you feel like wow.

When I was growing up, there was no gay anything. The only time I had ever seen gays on television had been these exposes that had been like the gay life all in the shadows and everything all dark. There was nothing gay and positive. All this began to change: people were marching and standing up, demanding rights. People started coming out.

#### **C: Within or around the GLF, was there any issues of race?**

**R:** There were a lot of issues in GLF. What were we gonna be a part of? Were we going to be a part of this movement or this? What do we do with a black movement that's homophobic? How do we deal with the emerging women's liberation movement that doesn't want to be thought of as lesbians. And our small group had its own little level of diversity and it was really an issue.

There were a lot of issues at that time. FSU and FAMU were threatened that if they didn't integrate they'd lose some federal funding. All these things are going on at the same time.

It's exciting for me to see young people who take interest in how did we get to where we are. Obviously it's still not here.

Search for "Hiram Ruiz" 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.* 🐉



# Gainesville production of The Vagina Monologues partners with Alachua County Labor Coalition

The Community of Gainesville's VDAY campaign, in partnership with One Billion Rising, organizations that aim to end violence against women, are sponsoring a benefit production of The Vagina Monologues to raise funds for Peaceful Paths, a local domestic abuse shelter and advocacy center. This year the theme is One Billion Rising for a Fair Wage. For this reason the Gainesville Production of the Vagina Monologues is also proud to partner with the Alachua County Labor Coalition (ACLC) to raise awareness about the need for a living wage for women and for Alachua County employees.

The Alachua County Labor Coalition is trying to raise awareness about the impact of low wages not only on families but the entire community where they reside. Workers with Alachua County and its contract partners deserve a wage that allows them to support themselves and their families. The Alachua County Labor Coalition is proud to launch a campaign for a Living Wage Ordinance that will set the starting wage at a livable wage.

The Labor Coalition and its partner organizations feel passionately that every worker deserves a wage that will allow them to live in dignity.

Together TVM and ACLC will create an art exhibit displaying the work of local women artists and provide information regarding both campaigns including a petition to raise the minimum wage for county workers and methods for community involvement.

Forty percent of all proceeds from art sales will be donated to Peaceful Paths.

## EVENT SCHEDULE

February 4-14: TVM Art Installation and silent art auction in the Hippodrome Gallery

February 14 (6:30PM doors open, 7:30PM show): Opening night; special evening show; Valentine gift bag included.

February 21 (12PM doors open, 1PM show): Saturday Matinee

February 23 (6:30pm doors open, 7:30PM show): Monday Evening Performance

Purchase tickets on EventBrite (Search for "Vagina Monologues.")

Ticket admission is good for the show and also for a Gallery V-day Art Soiree prior to showtime, during which drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served while patrons can peruse art by or about women. A portion of all art sales will be donated to Peaceful Paths.

## ABOUT THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

The award-winning play is based on V-Day Founder/playwright Eve Ensler's interviews with more than 200 women. With humor and grace the piece celebrates the sexuality and strength of women. Through this play and the liberation of this one word, countless women throughout the world have taken control of their bodies and their lives. For eighteen years, The Vagina Monologues has given voice to experiences and feelings not previously exposed in public.

Join us on V-day and during the month of February to show your support for women and positive change in the workplace. Through your actions, financial support, and enduring advocacy, come be a part of this inspiring campaign for equality! This event will be held to raise awareness of the global issue of violence against women and girls, to support One Billion Rising for Revolution toward a fair workplace, and to give financial support to PEACEFUL PATHS Domestic Abuse Network. The mission of Peaceful Paths is to help stop domestic violence and encourage people in our communities to make informed and healthy choices.

For more event information, visit: [laborcoalition.org/living-wage-campaign/](http://laborcoalition.org/living-wage-campaign/) or contact [info@laborcoalition.org](mailto:info@laborcoalition.org). 



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**Chapter 14**

# When cartoons upset the ‘wrong people’

by Khalid Albaih

*This article was originally published by Al Jazeera English on Jan. 8. Read more at [www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com).*

As an Arab and Muslim political cartoonist living and working in the Middle East, the fear of upsetting the “wrong people” is part of daily life.

My politically charged images rose to prominence during the early stages of the Arab Spring protests in 2011. Like so many young people in the Middle East, I found an outlet on social media. I was quickly labelled “an artist of the revolution”.

Today, my work is shared around the world. In my native Sudan, as well as in Yemen and Tunisia, my cartoons are used by revolutionary groups and by political activists.

This is my passion. I don’t make a living off these political cartoons. In fact, I encourage people to copy and share them. It is an honour, but it does not come without dangers.

## All levels of censorship

It’s no easy feat to come up with a cartoon that can pass all levels of censorship - starting with self-censorship then gov-

ernment-imposed “coronership”, which in many countries in this region, is actually somebody’s job - to pick apart and find potentially offensive meanings.

That’s why I understand why the West is fighting so hard to keep that freedom of speech as free as it should be. In the wake of the deplorable attack on the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo, I wholeheartedly join the rest of the world in condemning the actions of those three young men.

I condemn the attacks on the cartoonists even though I don’t agree with the publication’s editorial slant, which I have often found to be hurtful and racist. Nevertheless, I would continue to stand for their freedom of speech.

I believe that the assailants’ religion or ideology is irrelevant; I believe they were simply looking to wage an attack; they would have attacked something else if they didn’t attack Charlie Hebdo.

Muslims seem to lose either way. They are constantly asked to apologise for crimes they neither committed, nor supported. They, too, are victims of the violence of extremists. Still, they are asked to apolo-

gise and somehow atone for these crimes that were committed in the name of their religion. Then they must face the wrath of extremists who attack them for refusing to approve of the methods they view as the only way to defend Islam.

## Constructive role

This situation is a perpetuation of what’s happening in the Middle East right now — it’s far more complex than the cartoon business. For us to help, to play a constructive role, we should desist from pointing the finger at others, and we must examine what motivates these young people to turn to violence and extremism.

Freedom of speech is a powerful weapon and one I have never fully had - but for those who do have it, I wish they would stop taking it for granted.

Instead, they ought to ask the right questions — the questions that need to be asked — rather than accusatory ones that fuel the stereotypes that have originated in mainstream media.

Their work must focus on conveying the right message. They must work toward-bridging the gap — and not widening it. 🐘



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## Civic Media Center events - Jan./Feb. 2015

Every Thu:	Weekly Volunteer Meeting, 5:30 pm
Every Thu:	Poetry Jam, 9 pm
Mon, Jan. 19:	Documentary Screening of "Food Chains" sponsored by the Alachua County Labor Coalition at 7 pm.
Thu, Jan. 22:	Screening of "Brother Outsider: The Bayard Rustin Story" co-sponsored by United Way of North Central Florida at 7 pm.
Thu, Jan. 22:	FREE HIV Testing provided by WellFlorida Council from 7 pm to 9 pm.
Sat, Jan. 24 :	#BlackLivesMatter: Engaging White People in This Movement Moment, a discussion and workshop focusing on anti-racist white allyship in the #BlackLivesMatter movement. Lunch will be provided. Event from 11 am to 3:30 pm.
Sat, Jan. 24:	Singer/songwriter Pierce Pettis performing at CMC. Tickets \$10-15 at the door. 8pm
Mon, Jan. 26:	Documentary Screening "In His Own Home," local documentary made about the shooting of Kofi Abu-Brempong by University of Florida Police Department. 7 pm
Wed, Jan. 28:	Florida Organic Growers Presentation from 6 pm to 8 pm.
Thu, Jan. 29:	Florida Organic Growers workshops from 9 am to 5 pm.
Thu, Jan. 29:	Italian Language and Culture Seminar at 7 pm.
Fri, Jan. 30:	Live Music with Harmonious Wails and Black Fire at 9 pm.
Tue, Feb. 3:	Author Rivera Sun Book Signing and Readings from The Dandelion Insurrection at 7 pm.
Sat, Feb. 7:	Health Care Navigation Event sponsored by The Epilepsy Foundation with FREE HIV Testing from WellFlorida Council. Event from 2 pm to 6 pm.
Wed, Feb. 11:	V-Fest Variety Show, musical theater, comedy, acoustic acts and more, 9 pm.
Wed, Feb. 11:	FREE HIV Testing from WellFlorida Council, time TBA
Mon, Feb. 16:	"The Curators Vol 1: A Story of Independence," documentary by The Curators of Hip Hop, dir./producer Jermaine Fletcher in discussion after, and maybe some live Hip Hop, too! 7pm
Sat, Feb. 21:	Wild Iris Books Author Fair, 12 pm to 6 pm.
Sat, Feb. 21:	Hip Hop and Art Show with Chester Watson, Duke, Nu Age Syndicate and more, 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.*



## GRACE Marketplace

*by Jon DeCarmine, Director of  
Operations at GRACE Marketplace*

We see homelessness and poverty so much, so often, that it's easy to be a little bit calloused and jaded about it all. It's so prevalent that it can start to seem, somehow, normal. We've grown accustomed to seeing people sleep on park benches—the woman pushing a shopping cart filled with everything she owns, the guy outside the gas station looking for change. We're used to looking the other way. We've mastered the art of avoiding eye contact—because we have to, because the problem will never go away.

The problem seems so big and insurmountable that it's hard to imagine that we could ever do anything big enough to really make a difference.

I've worked with homeless folks in Gainesville for 19 years, and I still struggle with feeling overwhelmed and jaded most days. Mostly, I feel like a cross between Sisyphus and some sort of cut-rate undertaker, moving one person into housing just in time to watch another roll back down the hill to take their place.

For the first time in my life, and in my career, I feel like we're actually moving in the right direction, like we're putting the pieces we need into place to actually make a difference. Finally, we have GRACE Marketplace. Finally, we have a real shot at doing this the right way, meeting people where they're at and working with them to stop this endless parade of poverty flowing through our shelters, emergency rooms, and parks.

Because of GRACE, we've got stories like Wayne's. He's a homeless vet who had been living on the Bo Diddley Plaza before moving into Dignity Village, the tent city that has sprung up on the fringes of the GRACE campus. He hooked up with some of our partners to get an apartment after almost a year on the streets and in a tent. Not long after moving in, he was at a bus stop watching a thunderstorm gather on the horizon. He reached down and, feeling the keys in his pocket, started to tear up because he knew that when the storm rolled in, he finally had a place to go.

GRACE is our best shot at ending homelessness in our community. It's the best chance we've had to create a world in which we don't have to keep looking the other way.

For more information, check out their IndieGoGo campaign at <http://igg.me/at/fundgracemarketplace>. 🐾



# In Memory of Hernán Vera-Godoy



by Candi Churchill

Dr. Hernán Vera-Godoy—loving and devoted spouse of 51 years to Maria Vera, father, grandfather, friend, law school graduate and sociology professor and United Faculty of Florida leader—died peacefully at home in November at age 77, surrounded by his family. He will be greatly missed by the UF and Gainesville community and beyond.

I cannot possibly convey all of the love and warmth, humor and history shared in the overflowing banquet room for Hernán at the Vera Family Memorial service last fall. Please carry on his work in whatever way you can. All I can try to do is convey some of the things I learned from him and why he was so special to so many.

I first met Dr. Vera as his student in Principles of Sociology in 1996. He assigned us to interview a living grandparent. I learned so much from my grandmother about her life, and it brought to life world events, particularly around the Depres-

sion, Civil Rights Movement and Women's Liberation Movements, which we'd studied in class. Hernán taught me right then to ground myself in history and in such a stunning way—look at your own history! This sparked something in me that I still use: listen and ask questions, investigate history, understand the world by exploring where you fit into it.

Hernán got me to speak up and articulate my questions or confusions; no question or analysis was stupid, we did not have to try to prove something. He could bring out the best in any student's point. He respected and admired the activist work I did on campus for the NOW; we talked about campaigns and actions, he connected me to other people and lent me books. We were barely twenty, protesting the UF police and state attorney for sexism and UF housing for racism. He took us seriously and made us take ourselves seriously. He mentored with love and support, even when we had strong differences of opinion.

Hernán Vera was an esteemed critical race scholar and liberation sociologist. He not only taught and wrote about white supremacy and its impact on nearly every aspect of life in the U.S., he promoted social justice movements and mentored organizers and students doing research on oppression. Hernán valued what I wanted to do with my own life: study freedom movements and help make social change. Today, few faculty do that, and the ones that are need colleagues to support the young people who want to make UF and the U.S. a better place to work and live.

When I began working for his union (UFF) in 2002, Hernán helped me learn about faculty work issues and never hesitated to be involved in organizing drives, provide feedback on published material or stuff envelopes when needed. And Hernán was an incredibly bold and sharp union strategist. He encouraged me to subpoena UF President Bernie Machen after a highly-published internationally recognized woman of color faculty member was denied tenure by UF. He always asked the tough questions of those in power and tried to hold them accountable.

He loved students, he shared empanadas with us at his home. He pushed us and gave us confidence, helping us produce better versions of ourselves well past our college years. Students long before me named him our "Beloved Master" and he was, always will be. I thank Hernán for giving me confidence and making me feel capable. And I will honor his memory by encouraging and supporting people around me in my own work, and encouraging faculty to do what he did as a professor and UFF leader.

The family encourages donations in his memory to the Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP) Foundation <https://give.psp.org/> or to Haven Hospice of North Florida <https://havenhospice.org>. If you are a UF faculty or graduate employee at UF, please get active with United Faculty of Florida or Graduate Assistants United in his honor.

You can learn more about Hernán's life at <http://oral.history.ufl.edu/2014/12/02/remembering-dr-hernan-vera/>. 🐾



*It was a morning of joy, smiles, love and amazement outside the old Courthouse in Downtown Gainesville on Tuesday, Jan. 6, as dozens of gay and lesbian couples took advantage of their new freedom to marry. Ministers from United Church of Gainesville offered a free religious ceremony for those who chose it, others were happy with the "blessings" of the Clerk of the Court upstairs. Among the couples were Kate Norvis and Katie Browder (lower right) and Will Dougherty and Edo Carter (upper right). Others came out of the building and took group photos and socialized. That evening a celebration was held at a packed and joyful Pride Community Center. Photos by Joe Courter. 🐾*



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## Ursula K. Leguin: 'We'll need writers who can remember freedom'

*Speech in acceptance of the National Book Foundation Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters*

*Ursula K. Leguin is one of the best writers to combine social and political analysis with the science fiction and fantasy genre. With her major award, she took the opportunity to let fly an incredibly important and timely speech on Nov. 19. It is reprinted here with the hope readers will seek out her books and read them. You can see the original and learn more about Leguin at [http://www.ursulakleguin.com/UKL\\_info.html](http://www.ursulakleguin.com/UKL_info.html).*

To the givers of this beautiful reward, my thanks, from the heart. My family, my agents, my editors, know that my being here is their doing as well as my own, and that the beautiful reward is theirs as much as mine. And I rejoice in accepting it for, and sharing it with, all the writers who've been excluded from literature for so long — my fellow authors of fantasy and science fiction, writers of the imagination, who for fifty years have watched the beautiful rewards go to the so-called realists.

Hard times are coming, when we'll be wanting the voices of writers who can see alternatives to how we live now, can see through our fear-stricken society and its obsessive technologies to other ways of being, and even imagine real grounds for hope. We'll need writers who can remember freedom — poets, visionaries — realists of a larger reality.

Right now, we need writers who know the difference between production of a market commodity and the practice of an art. Developing written material to suit sales strategies in order to maximize corporate profit and advertising revenue is not the same thing as responsible book publishing or authorship.

Yet I see sales departments given control over editorial. I see my own publishers, in a silly panic of ignorance and greed, charging public libraries for an e-book 6 or 7 times more than they charge customers. We just saw a profiteer try to punish a publisher for disobedience, and writers threatened by corporate fatwa. And I see a lot of us, the producers, who write the books and make the books, accepting this — letting commodity profiteers sell us

like deodorant, and tell us what to publish, what to write.

Books aren't just commodities; the profit motive is often in conflict with the aims of art. We live in capitalism, its power seems inescapable — but then, so did the divine right of kings. Any human power can be resisted and changed by human beings. Resistance and change often begin in art. Very often in our art, the art of words.

I've had a long career as a writer, and a good one, in good company. Here at the end of it, I don't want to watch American literature get sold down the river. We who live by writing and publishing want and should demand our fair share of the proceeds; but the name of our beautiful reward isn't profit. Its name is freedom.

Thank you. 🐾

## Propaganda

"The conscious and intelligent manipulation of the organized habits and opinions of the masses is an important element in democratic society. Those who manipulate this unseen mechanism of society constitute an invisible government which is the true ruling power of our country ...

"We are governed, our minds are molded, our tastes formed, our ideas suggested, largely by men we have never heard of. This is a logical result of the way in which our democratic society is organized. Vast numbers of human beings must cooperate in this manner if they are to live together as a smoothly functioning society ...

"In almost every act of our daily lives, whether in the sphere of politics or business, in our social conduct or our ethical thinking, we are dominated by the relatively small number of persons ... who understand the mental processes and social patterns of the masses. It is they who pull the wires which control the public mind."

-Edward Bernays, 1928 🐾



# Sixth annual Cinema Verde Film, Arts Festival focuses on sustainable solutions, environmental concerns

The Cinema Verde Festival features over 40 films, music and art focusing on sustainable solutions for environmental concerns.

The 6th Annual Cinema Verde Festival runs from 5 PM on Thursday, Feb. 12 through 8 PM Sunday, Feb. 15, 2015. The Paramount Plaza Hotel & Conference Center located at 2900 SW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL 32608 is this year's venue.

Events include:

- Over 40 films (local, national, international, and student - college and high school)
- Director discussions
- Eco Art Gallery
- Eco-Fair
- Music
- VIP Opening Night Reception
- Local Food Potluck

Ticket prices range from a \$100 VIP Pass (all inclusive-films and events), \$50 Half Access VIP Pass, \$25 1 day pass, to \$10 single film.

Tickets are available at <http://cinemaverde.org/film-screenings/>.

A list of films is available at <http://cinemaverde.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Cinema-Verde-2015-Film-Selections-1.pdf>.

Cinema Verde's mission is to provide environmental education to the public through film, arts, workshops, events, tours and any other forum or media; to increase public awareness of environmental practices that enhance public health and improve quality of life in urban, suburban and rural settings. We bring community organizations, businesses and citizens together to help forge

sustainable solutions for our future. Cinema Verde provides environmental education through film and the arts.

Trish Riley is founding director of Cinema Verde, an environmental film and arts festival held in Gainesville, Florida since 2010. Trish is a national award-winning investigative and environmental journalist and author, with work published in major newspapers, national and international magazines. She is the founder of [www.GoGreenNation.org](http://www.GoGreenNation.org), a website designed to promote green jobs, resources and businesses. 🦎

**Interested in editing, graphic design  
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Contact Editor Jessica Newman for more details at:  
[jnew751@gmail.com](mailto:jnew751@gmail.com).

## FL Earth Skills Benefit Show

*Tuesday, Feb. 3, 6–10pm*

First Magnitude Brewing  
1220 SE Veich St. (off S. Main)

with Wax Wings, Lobo Marino,  
Swamp Trees & Blackfire  
Contra dance with Mourning  
Glorys afterwards

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**[www.repurposeproject.org](http://www.repurposeproject.org)**



# WGOT seeks volunteers after 7 years on air

by Fred Sowder progressive voice in our community.

It's now been 7 years since WGOT-LP first signed on the air on 94.7FM, providing a grassroots broadcasting voice for the Civic Media Center and the entire Gainesville community. We recently celebrated this milestone with a fundraiser and celebration at The Atlantic thanks to the help of fine local musical acts D.P., The Bill Perry Orchestra, Letters, and Ceramicats.

2015 promises to be a busy and exciting year for WGOT, with immediate goals of getting a permanent studio location and equipment to enable broadcasting 24/7 on 100.1FM, a change the FCC has already granted.

This is where YOU come in. WGOT cannot make these huge milestones happen without your help. Please consider donating time or funds to help WGOT become an even bigger

You can visit our website ([www.wgot.org](http://www.wgot.org)) or our page on Facebook to find out when and where our next staff meetings will take place. We're in the process of welcoming many of the music programs previously found on GROW Radio to our airwaves and you'll be able to hear many of these programs in the weeks to come.

Also on the website, you can fill out a program proposal form for us to consider. If being in front of a hot microphone isn't your thing, you can still be a huge asset to the CMC's broadcast service by volunteering in other ways such as organizing fundraisers, establishing sponsorships, or overseeing our scheduling procedure or our website.

Feel free to email ([info@wgot.org](mailto:info@wgot.org)) or call (352-519-4680) us any time for more information. Go low! 🐸



## 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](http://growradio.org) for updates.

Sun	5 pm	Joe and Craig Show
Mon	5 pm	Street Nuts
	7 pm	Malum
	8 pm	The Sum of Your Life
Tue	10 am	The Serene City
	4 pm	Copyright Issue
	6 am	Your Used To Be
	8 pm	Lost Sharks
Wed	12 am	Pyramid Society 64
	9 am	Sax and Violins
	1 pm	The 2nd Ave. Shuffle
	3 pm	The Quiet City
	5 pm	An Average Day
	9 pm	The Otherness
Thu	12 pm	Things Be Blowin'
	2 pm	The Breakup Song
	4 pm	Hope & Anchor
	6 pm	The Kitchen Sink
	8 pm	florida rules
	10 pm	Eagle Death
Fri	3 pm	Ectasy To Frenzy
	5 pm	Artichokeification
	7 pm	Jazzville
	9 pm	Bag of Tricks
Sat	3 pm	Brazillian Commando
	7 pm	Planet of Sound
	9 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](http://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/](http://www.wgot.org/listen/).

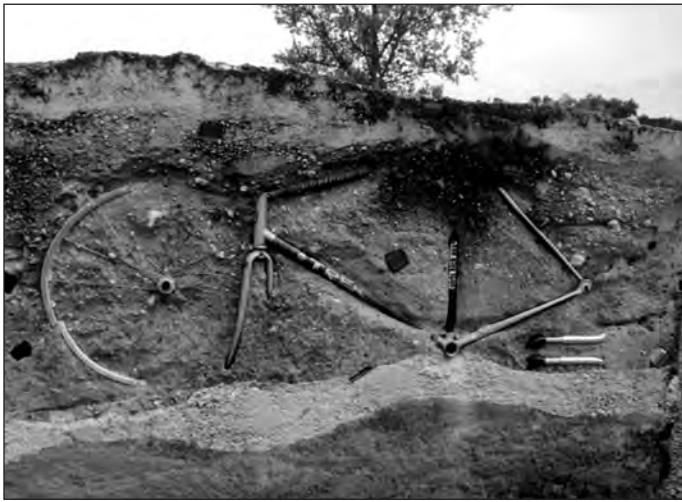
94.7 is a Low Power FM station with a transmitter at NW 39th Ave and I-75, so best reception is within 5 miles, but many people are able to pick up the station in their car.

**Questions? Comments? E-mail us at [info@wgot.org](mailto:info@wgot.org).**



**Democracy NOW!** airs  
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# Bike Florida campaign tops \$13K to restore Gainesville's Depot Avenue 'Share The Road Memorial' sculptures



*by Ron Cunningham, Executive Director of Bike Florida*

Following a year-long campaign, Bike Florida, a non-profit 501c3 corporation, announced that it has raised just over \$13,000 to restore and enhance six sculptures erected on Gainesville's Depot Avenue in memory of a group of cyclists who were struck down by a distracted driver on the day after Christmas in 1996 as they were riding from Gainesville to St. Augustine.

Two of those cyclists, Margaret Raynal and Doug Hill, were killed. The other four Lauri Triulzi, Jessica Green, Eric Finnan and Charles Hinson were severely injured.

The sculptures, erected by friends and supporters of the cyclists in 1997, consist of six "rammed earth" structures embedded with bicycle parts salvaged from the accident scene in Clay County. The original information kiosk explaining the story of the sculptures has been removed and some restoration work is needed. In addition to new signage, funding will go toward landscaping, amenities such as a bench and water cooler, and an educational "call to action" exhibit intended to promote the Share The Road message.

"While the sculptures remain in relatively good condition, the two that represent the killed cyclists, need to be elevated 2 feet to restore their full dimensions. Their concrete foundations will facilitate the excavation and lifting procedure. This will preserve the integrity of the rammed earth for years to come as well as reveal the 40 percent of the sculptures buried by the new grade of the depot," said Eric Amundson, the artist who created the sculptures.

The sculpture restoration will be incorporated into the Gainesville Community Redevelopment Agency's plans for the adjoining Depot Park—a 32-acre community park planned to open in 2016. All improvements will be undertaken in collaboration with the Gainesville Community Redevelopment Agency, which has been a strong partner in Bike Florida's restoration campaign.

"The cyclist memorials were built to heal our community and seek positive action from a tragic event. We hope the sculptures will resonate with all who visit Depot Park and positively influence people's actions even beyond the park's boundaries," said Diane Gilreath, project manager for the Gainesville CRA.

"At the beginning of 2014 Bike Florida decided to dedicate its 20th anniversary year to the sculpture restoration project," said

Ron Cunningham, Executive Director of Bike Florida. "Our intention was not only to make sure that what happened to these cyclists would not be forgotten, but also to continue to spread the word about the need for motorists and cyclists alike to respect each others' rights and to 'Share The Road' safely."

As tragic and senseless as this accident was, public reaction to it mobilized the cycling community and ultimately resulted in some positive and long-ranging benefits for Florida cycling.

"Creating the rammed earthen memorials gave a physical 'release' to many who knew and loved Margaret and Doug," said Linda Crider, a founder of Bike Florida who helped create the sculptures. "Out of the grieving process came passion toward many things that these cyclists stood for, including the resurrection of the Florida Bicycle Association as a strong voice for cyclists rights, the passing of legislation creating the "Share the Road" license plate as a fundraiser for bicycle/motorist safety education, and the state of Florida pilot project for Safe Ways to School."

Consequently, said Cunningham, "These six sculptures are, in a very real sense, a Share The Road Memorial for all of Florida."

Over the course of 2014, Bike Florida raised \$12,711 in donations through silent auctions, raffles, a direct mail campaign and the sale of Share The Road Celebration of Cycling tee-shirts and other merchandise. In addition, at its Dec. 7 meeting, Bike Florida's Board of Directors voted to donate \$5,000 to the project. This donation not only covered all of the administrative, overhead and promotional costs incurred by Bike Florida in conducting the fundraising campaign, but boosted the total amount available for restoration to \$13,276.

"Our Board of Directors decided that Bike Florida would absorb all costs associated with raising these funds," Cunningham said. "Every dollar donated by individuals, bicycle clubs and other organizations will go directly to the restoration project."

With the conclusion of the fundraising campaign, Bike Florida, Crider, Amundson and other stakeholders will work with the Gainesville CRA on the specifics of the sculptures' restoration and enhancement project.

"We want the Share The Road Memorial to complement and be compatible with Gainesville's comprehensive plan for development of the Depot Avenue Park," Cunningham said. "The result should be a memorial that all cyclists and all of Gainesville can be proud of." 🐾



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## Editors' picks: the news that didn't fit ...

### ✦ **Ten Reasons Why the TPP Must Be Defeated by Bernie Sanders**

by Bernie Sanders

The Trans-Pacific Partnership is a disastrous trade agreement designed to protect the interests of the largest multi-national corporations at the expense of workers, consumers, and the environment.

<http://www.commondreams.org/views/2014/12/31/ten-reasons-why-tpa-must-be-defeated>

### ✦ **10 Good Things About the Year 2014 by Medea Benjamin**

by Medea Benjamin

A much-needed positive outlook on last year and what's to come in 2015.

<http://www.commondreams.org/views/2014/12/30/10-good-things-about-year-2014>

### ✦ **The NYPD's 'Work Stoppage' Is Surreal**

by Matt Taibbi

In an alternate universe, the New York Police might have just solved the national community-policing controversy.

<http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/the-nypds-work-stoppage-is-surreal-20141231#ixzz3Obr7gxaA>

### ✦ **Jeb Bush v. Hillary Clinton: The Perfectly Illustrative Election**

by Glenn Greenwald

"Having someone who is the brother of one former president and the son of another run against the wife of still another former president would be sweetly illustrative of all sorts of degraded and illusory aspects of American life, from meritocracy to class mobility."

<https://firstlook.org/theintercept/2014/12/17/jeb-bush-v-hillary-clinton-perfectly-illustrative-election/>

### ✦ **5 Tips for Being an Ally**

Video by Chescaleigh

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_dg86g-QIM0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_dg86g-QIM0)

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(established 1986)



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[facebook.com/gainesvilleiguana](https://facebook.com/gainesvilleiguana)

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

## 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](http://www.civicmediacenter.org)
- email: [coordinators@civicmediacenter.org](mailto:coordinators@civicmediacenter.org)
- phone: 352-373-0010

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