



The Gainesville Iguana

April/May 2015
Vol. 29, Issues 4/5

City Election Run-Offs April 14

by Joe Courter

The Gainesville City Commission run-off election is April 14, and the Iguana strongly endorses Harvey Budd for the At-Large seat and Yvonne Hinson-Rawls for the District 1 seat. Please vote. Your vote is rendered even more powerful as the general population seems to be slacking in the civic responsibility of going to the polls. Early voting will run through Saturday, April 11, and can be done at the Millhopper branch library, downtown at the County Administration building, or the Cone library at 2841 E. University Ave. On election day, voting is at your designated polling place.

In the At-Large race, the general election saw a close three-way outcome forcing a run-off between Harvey Ward and Jay Curtis. Coming in a close third was Adrian Hayes-Santos. The Iguana had endorsed Budd, but Hayes-Santos would have been our second choice. Thus we are happy to print the following statement from Adrian:

"I've chosen to endorse Harvey Budd for Gainesville City Commission At-Large 1. Harvey Budd's progressive platform and his focus on equality and fighting poverty

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Jim Hightower:

The TPP Scam — Obama Resorts to Government by Sucker Punch

by Jim Hightower, *Hightower Lowdown* 3/23
This article was originally published on March 25 by Hightower Lowdown. See more at www.hightowerlowdown.org.

Ed, please call home! Edward Snowden, that is: Come quickly; your country needs you.

Once again, the American people are being victimized by a hush-hush blanket of official secrecy, rhetorical dodges and outright lies. This time it's not about wholesale spying on us by our own government, but a wholesale assault on our jobs, environment, health and even our people's sovereignty. The assaulters are a cabal of global corporations and the Obama administration.

Their weapon is a scheme hidden inside a scam. Called the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the scam is their claim that TPP is nothing but another free trade deal — albeit a whopper of a deal — one that ties our economy to Brunei, Vietnam and nine other nations around the Pacific Rim. But of the 29 chapters in this deal, only five are about tariffs and other trade matters.

The real deal is in the 24 other chapters that create a supranational scheme of secretive, private tribunals that corporations from any TPP nation can use to challenge and overturn our local, state and national laws. All a corporate power has to do to win in these closed proceedings is to show

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TPP SCAM, from p. 1

that a particular law or regulation might reduce its future profits.

This is big stuff, amounting to the enthronement of a global corporate oligarchy over us. Yet it's been negotiated among trade officials of the 12 countries in strict secrecy. Even members of Congress have been shut out — but some 500 corporate executives have been allowed inside to shape the “partnership.”

Now that President Barack Obama and his corporate team intend to spring it on us and start ramming TPP through Congress. He recently arranged a briefing to woo House Democrats to support it — but he even classified the briefing as a secret session, meaning the lawmakers are not al-

lowed to tell you, me or anyone else anything about what they were told.

A gag order on Congress? Holy Thomas Paine! The only reason Obama is desperate to hide his oligarchic scheme from us is because he knows the people would overwhelmingly oppose it. So he's resorting to government by sucker punch. It's cowardly ... and disgraceful.

The wonkish, gibberishistic jargon used by the Powers That Be to write these corporate boondoggles they call “trade deals” is toothachingly boring and incomprehensible. Could that be on purpose? Of course! If they wrote these wage-destroying, environment-killing, sovereignty-sucking scams in plain English so we commoners could understand what they're doing to us,

they couldn't get away with it.

So the TPP, by far the largest trade flim-flam in history, is written in legalistic gobbledygook and was negotiated by corporate lobbyists and government lawyers. Even Congress doesn't know what's in it — yet the plan is to hustle TPP into law through a super-rushed, rubber-stamp process called “fast-track.”

No need to worry about the content, though, for an upstanding new group called Progressive Coalition for American Jobs now assures us that this global deal “will support hundreds of thousands of new jobs in the United States.” Hello, do we have sucker wrappers around our heads? That's the exact same claim that President Bill Clinton and the corporate elite made in 1993 for NAFTA, which siphoned hundreds of thousands of jobs and entire industries out of the U.S.

By the way, who are the members of this “coalition”? Every progressive group I know of is adamantly against the TPP, and no progressive has stepped forward to claim ownership of this PR push for corporatizing the people's democratic rights. Is there a coalition? Who's in it? Who funds it? Nobody's talking because nobody's there. The coalition is a fraud, just like TPP.

Reps. Raul Grijalva and Keith Ellison, co-chairs of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, wrote in an op-ed for the Guardian that, “Good trade agreements can only be negotiated in the open. ... The U.S. must stop using trade agreements as investment deals for the world's wealthiest corporations and instead prioritize higher wages, safer work and environmental standards and a healthier world economy. Trade agreements should improve the bottom lines of all Americans, not just of American corporations — or else we shouldn't enter into them at all.” Now that's progressive.

To join the real coalition of progressives like them who're standing tall against the whole TPP fraud, go to StopFastTrack.com. 🐢

“Disobedience, in the eyes of anyone who has read history, is man's original virtue. It is through disobedience that progress has been made, through disobedience and through rebellion.”

-- Oscar Wilde

From the publisher:

My Name is Joe, and I'm a News Junkie

I will confess to being a news junkie. My drug of choice has particularly been National Public Radio, Morning Edition, All Things Considered, Diane Rehm, Fresh Air. The former two I go back decades with. The latter two not as long.

For the most part we got along great, but now, well, things are changing. Some of the change is me, but a lot is them. When we need depth, they've gone shallow. When things have gotten serious, they've gone frivolous. Maybe I am being too harsh, asking for too much, but dammit, they used to at least try. Now it is all “gee whiz, what will happen” ... no history, no holding people and past administrations to account.

Consider this:

The U.S. overthrow of the elected Mossadegh government in Iran by the CIA in 1953 helped set in motion the rise of Islamic fundamentalism. The brutal Shah we installed destroyed all the Left opposition; political, labor, student groups, so that all that was left as opposition was the Fundamentalists. It was they who overthrew the Shah, and then they further suppressed the Left once they took power. Their victory over the Shah inspired further growth and it began to spread; this is the roots of the Mujahadeen in Afghanistan in the 80's, who the US empowered. The Soviets had invaded in order to stop this rise of Fundamentalism from spreading into their southwestern regions. Instead, with US aid, the US intentionally gave them their Viet Nam.

Flashing forward, regarding the Fundamentalists that the U.S. fights against now, they grew first in Afghanistan as the Taliban, who were a reaction to the brutal, corrupt warlords the US built into a powerbase to drive out the Soviets. The instability the U.S. invasion of Iraq caused has only multiplied the volatility of the situation.

But how would any news listener of NPR today, or many other mainstream sources ever make these historic connections? How many people know that Iran is a many centuries old country that has never attacked any other country, while Iraq is less than 100 years old, created by the WWI victors as a means of gaining control of oil? That Pakistan was created in 1948, with lines drawn over tribal areas bordering Afghanistan?

My biggest fear is not climate change, or pollution, or even the proliferation of weapons of more and more deadly capability. It is ignorance and apathy, two maladaptive behaviors that our education and infotainment industries seem committed to. Why? Because it is both profitable for them, and it keeps the powers that be in place, unchallenged by an aware and motivated populous.

It is this nation that is driving so many policies and practices that are having a negative impact on so many around the world. Yet look at the people our broken electoral system is putting into power. Good people are hesitant to run given the funding needed and rancorous, negative campaign ethos, and gerrymandering has made it difficult for progressive, enlightened candidates to win. It is more like, as a sign said at a #BlackLivesMatter demo a couple months ago, “the system isn't broken, it's fixed.”

Which is partly why I am so disgusted with my old friend NPR. They used to be a voice that would challenge corrupt power. Now they have transitioned to a bland, neutered version of their old self. Am I still a listener? Yes. But our relationship has changed. I've been listening to other voices, and becoming increasingly aware of my own political evolution as well. Within me is a storm of discontent, frustration. Maybe I was naive back decades ago, when I had trust in NPR, but I don't remember the sense I have now of them intentionally being so lame, and so willing to pander to the right-wing points of view. So now I find myself talking back to my radio, and occasionally just snapping it off.

It is a lesson for us all: to be better informed as citizens we need to seek better sources of information. As Terry Anderson pointed out at the SpringBoard dinner,* we have many other options to know what is going on. We can tap into the internet, and find direct reporting, read newspapers from other lands, find dispatches from reporters on the ground in Sudan, Yemen, or wherever. It is up to us, we have this giant brain at our fingertips. Shame on us if we don't use it.

* Technical problems kept the Iguana from a report on the SpringBoard speech this month. We hope for a detailed report next issue. 🐢



Joe Courter

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is Gainesville's progressive
events calendar & newsletter.

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The Iguana has been published
monthly or bimonthly by volunteers
for more than 25 years. Circulation
for this issue is 4,500.

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paper.

Danny Schechter, ‘News Dissector’ and Creator, Dies at 72

by Jim Naureckas

This article was originally published on March 20 by Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting. Read more at fair.org.

Danny Schechter, groundbreaking media critic and legendary producer for both corporate and alternative media, died on March 19 at the age of 72.

Danny got his start on Boston’s progressive rock station WBCN, doing media criticism on the air as “Danny Schechter, your news dissector.” As John Nichols recalled in The Nation (3/20/15), “He reported to listeners what was happening, then he explained why it was happening, and then he revealed why other media outlets did not tell the whole story.”

Fans of the show included Noam Chomsky, who told Common Dreams (3/20/15):

“No one who was in Boston during the days of “Danny Schechter Your News Dissector” can ever forget the exhilaration of those marvelous broadcasts, their enlightenment and insight and humor, often in dark days, a legacy that Danny left behind him when he went on to a remarkable career of critical analysis and breaking through media and doctrinal barriers.”

Remarkably, Danny went from critiquing corporate media to making it, becoming an Emmy-winning producer at ABC’s 20/20 and later helping to launch CNN. FAIR founder Jeff Cohen points out how unique his role was:

“When I launched FAIR in 1986, we had virtually no allies in the mainstream media. Except for Danny, then a producer at ABC’s 20/20. He was full of encouragement—telling us how important that we launch this group to monitor corporate media misdeeds. He gave us at FAIR crucial advice in those first years.

“And we were amazed at the unique segments on economic or racial injustice he was able to get on 20/20—overcoming many obstacles. From inside the belly of the beast in the late 1980s, he told us of his concern that FAIR might be overemphasizing corporate control, because it sometimes sounded as if we were letting mainstream journalists off the hook who he felt should have been fighting harder to get the big stories told.”

As the space in corporate media to do independent work narrowed, Danny struck out on his own, launching Globalvision, a production company best known

for South Africa Now, which chronicled the historic rise and triumph of the anti-apartheid movement. FAIR’s Steve Rendall remembers it as milestone:

“I never heard Danny Schechter in his Boston ‘News Dissector’ days. But South Africa Now, the weekly show on the anti-racist struggle in South Africa that he, Rory O’Connor and the crew at Globalvision produced, was an incredible achievement.

“Testimony to its power was the tremendous pressure it came under from the right. Supposed free speech champion David Horowitz bragged to the Los Angeles Times about getting the show canceled by KCET, before popular pressure, aided by FAIR, got it returned to the air. (That episode has been my go-to wooden stake on occasions I’ve appeared opposite the vampire Horowitz.)

“But, as usual, it was the fearful and unprincipled center that was the real problem. In initially caving to Horowitz’s twisted arguments, KCET announced that South Africa Now ‘does not consistently meet KCET standards for fairness and balance in news programming.’ Apartheid proponents and other racists were underrepresented on the show.”

Danny wrote a piece for Extra! (Summer/89) on the success of South African press restrictions in reducing coverage in corporate meeting – and chilling global activism:

“Media coverage of events in South Africa had fueled protests overseas, including calls for divestment and sanctions, turning the battle inside South Africa into a global cause. But when coverage fell off – especially the TV footage of confrontations between the army and the community in the townships – public pressure on Congress also subsided. Dwindling news attention resulted in the perception that matters were no longer in a crisis stage, demanding action.”

That awareness of the interaction between control of media and control of the political agenda goes a long way toward explaining why Danny got into – and got out of – the commercial TV news business.

In another piece published in Extra! Update (4/99), Danny used the culmination of the Monica Lewinsky sex scandal as an emblem of the devolution of TV news:

“You saw the pictures: camera crews surrounding grand-jury witnesses, hurling questions, often blocking their way to

get a closer shot. Many witnesses needed escorts to get through what often looked like a pack of wild animals, shouting, shoving or even pawing the people they were there to cover

“The TV news machine ... thrives on conflict and confrontation. If you consider news just another programming format, as the industry does, there isn’t much difference between news and other shows.

“Have you noticed that as televised wrestling becomes more wild, so do the pundit shows, where yelling and screaming is now a staple? News divisions are increasingly accountable to entertainment executives; they utilize Hollywood formulas in their programming, e.g., three acts, character conflict and narrative arcs.”

Danny Schechter, an outsider who got to the inside and came back out again, never forgot that news – far from being just another programming format—is the lifeblood of democracy. 🐘

ELECTION, from p. 1

in Gainesville are ideas that I can get behind. This is what we need to see more of on the city commission. I urge you to vote for Harvey Budd on April 14. This election and your support have been incredible. Thank you all so much! I will continue to be involved in improving our community and supporting issues that help all Gainesville residents.”

So yes, Please vote Harvey.

In District 1, the Iguana endorsed Chris Weaver, a promising newcomer. Chris never caught fire, and in a crowded field Yvonne Hinson-Rawls came in first, with Charles Goston second. Between these two, we have no question in endorsing Yvonne. She has a long record of positive community service, and adds to a collegial atmosphere on the commission, something her opponent would not do. She deserves another term on the Commission. 🐘

“[Capitalism is] the astonishing belief that the nastiest motives of the nastiest men somehow or other work for the best results in the best of all possible worlds.”

--John Maynard Keynes

Film Screening: Lesbians, Gays Support Miners

Alachua County Labor Coalition and Pride Community Center are teaming up for a showing of the film “Pride.” Join these groups Monday, April 13, at 7pm at the Pride Community Center of North Central Florida for the Labor Coalition’s monthly film series screening of this 2014 film about the 1984 UK Miners Strike and the unlikely allies who rallied to show their support for union workers.

The London chapter of Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners (LGSM) decide to collect money to help the striking miners. While some Londoners support the efforts of LGSM, others spit at them as they try to collect money. LGSM members stand fast, with the knowledge that the only people the homophobic British press hates more than gay people are the miners.

The dour machismo of the miners is contrasted with the sparkle of the lesbians and gay men. Much of the humor in this hilarious movie revolves around misunderstandings between the two communities and their growing fascination with one another.

Amid the jokes about lesbian cuisine and the Welsh mining community’s obsession with bingo, the director conveys the devastation that will face the miners if the pits close. Equally woven into the fabric of the film is the ’80s paranoia and misinformation about AIDS, and the danger of being out and proud in a hostile environment.

The characters depicted in the film realize that we are all not that different from one another, and we can use all the help we can get. The LGSM raised 22,000 pounds for the impoverished Welsh mining community and formed deep and lasting friendships with the people affected by Margaret Thatcher’s pit closures. Pride won Best in Film at the British Independent Film Awards.

“Pride” celebrates camaraderie and solidarity. Isn’t that what we are all looking for?

Monday, April 13, 7pm, Pride Community Center of North Central Florida — 3131 NW 13th St., Gainesville.

Sponsors: Alachua County Labor Coalition, Pride Community Center of North Central Florida. 🐘

Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom Celebrates 100 Years


by June Littler

The centennial (100th) birthday party for the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom will be held Tuesday, April 28, at the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship, 4225 NW 34th St., Gainesville from 7:30-9 p.m.


It is co-sponsored by WILPF, Code Pink, Vets for Peace, Society of Friends, UUF and others interested in world peace with racial, social, and economic justice for everyone, everywhere. WILPF was organized during World War I with Jane Addams as its first president. It works to achieve through peaceful means world disarmament, full

rights for women, racial and economic justice, an end to all forms of violence, and to establish those political, social, and psychological conditions which can assure peace, freedom, and justice for all.

Everyone is invited. The Honorable Jean Chalmers will be the president, Dr. Barbara Oberlander with give a short history of the organization, and certificates of appreciation will be presented to organizations whose programs have forwarded the cause of peace. A vocal group and local folk dancers will offer entertainment that is performed in other cultures’ festivals and celebrations. Admission is free, donations welcomed. 🐘

HARVEY**BUDD**

FOR CITY COMMISSION AT-LARGE SEAT 1





**Adrian Hayes-Santos Endorses
Harvey Budd for City Commission At-Large 1**

PROUDLY ENDORSED BY

- 4As - African American Accountability Alliance
- Sierra Club Suwannee - St. John's Group
- North Central Florida Central Labor Council (NCFCLC)
- The Gainesville Iguana

- Stonewall Democrats of Alachua County
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Paid for by Harvey Budd for City Commission At-Large 1



Jason Fults (left) of Gainesville Loves Mountains and the Alachua County Labor Coalition was the Jack Penrod award winner at the CMC SpringBoard fundraiser. Photo by Nick Vera.

Report from CMC’s SpringBoard

The Civic Media Center held a successful SpringBoard fundraiser on, appropriately, the first day of Spring, March 20. The Wooly was the location again, and they provided a great spread of food, sound system, tables and chairs to accommodate the approximately 110 people who came to support the event. The picking of raffle winners and a silent auction closed out the evening.

Thanks are due to the artists and businesses that donated to the event, the CMC coordinators and Board who organized the event, the staff at the Wooly and Arrows Aim Records, and McIntyre Stained Glass for selling advance tickets. Video highlights of the event should be posted on the web soon, if technical difficulties can be resolved.

The Freewheel Project Comes to Gainesville

by The Freewheel Project

The Freewheel Project is an exciting new addition to the blooming S. Main area. They will host an open house on Saturday, May 9, and volunteer days are Sundays and Mondays from 11am to 10 pm.

The Freewheel Project is our way of giving back to the cycling community. We believe that Gainesville has the potential to be the cycling epicenter in the South and it needs The Freewheel Project as one of the key leaders to help it reach that potential. We plan on doing that by advocating and facilitating for cycling education, accessibility, and infrastructure.

Our goal is to expose as many people as possible to cycling and help empower the culture that already exists. We’ve seen firsthand the incredible impact it has on people’s lives and we want to share that

with everyone. That’s why we’re going to put bicycles in the hands of the people and provide the means to maintain them.

We hope that through our programs, we can inspire the next generation of cyclists and shift the paradigm so bicycles aren’t looked down upon as a product of circumstance but rather a choice made from experience.

We’re going to create a space for cyclists to feel at home. If you’re interested in using a bike for commuting, we want to support you; if you’re interested in using a bike as a form of recreation or exercise, or for competitive racing, we want to support you; if you’re interested in a car-free lifestyle, we want to support you.

There’s already a strong cycling scene in Gainesville, but cyclists still struggle to be a valid voice on the road, in

the sporting world or perceived as a legitimate form of tourism.

We want to create a hub for cyclists. A space where they can sit down and engage with each other or just be in the company of other like-minded individuals. This can be a place where people not only come to learn about bikes, but also share their stories.

Our headquarters is located at 618 S. Main St. in over 12,000 square feet of space, and nearly three acres of beautiful land to build our vision. This beautiful old building is the perfect space for this project to take form.

For us, it’s about breathing new life into bikes, and communities, and people.

If you’re interested in getting involved, or want to learn more, visit us on facebook, or at www.thefreewheelproject.org. ☘

Florida’s Legislative Update

The 60-day legislative session is just over halfway over, but there’s still a lot of things that can happen until May 1, the last day of session. Below is a partial summary of some of the more interesting bills working their way through the legislative process.

Healthcare:

Budget: The Florida House has passed their \$76.2 billion budget, but it’s about \$4 billion off from the proposed Senate budget and is almost entirely due to health care. Florida has continued its refusal to expand Medicaid due to Obamacare, which will now result in a loss of \$2.2 billion hospital funding for the Low Income Pool (LIP) program. The LIP funding is crucial for hospitals that treat large populations of the working poor. The Senate budget has allocated money to fill this shortfall as well as \$2.8 billion to expand a Medicaid-esque program in Florida. What’s more important for the Florida House — to help the working poor or to spite Obama?

Chances: Both budgets must be identical before the end of session. If LIP and Medicaid expansion isn’t fixed, there might need to be a special session called.

Bill: HB633/SB724 - the “abortion waiting period bill.”

Summary: This bill would require women seeking an abortion to receive counseling 24 hours before the procedure. This burdensome requirement isn’t imposed on any other medical procedure.

Chances: Very likely to pass this year. The bottleneck for this bill will be in the Senate. Call Senate Judiciary Chair Sen. Miguel Diaz de la Portilla at (850) 487-5040 and tell him to oppose the bill.

Anti-Worker

Bill: HB113/SB 778 - the anti-buy local bill.

Summary: When local governments are seeking to build
See LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, p. 16

South Main Update

by Joe Courter

South Main Street’s got a lot of activity going on these days, and in the future it can be expected to be a hub of activity for all of Gainesville. The new traffic circle is open at Depot and South Main Street, and south of there will soon be a streetscape project in preparation for the construction and opening of the Cade Museum of Innovation. South of there, at the old Eddie C’s/Backstage Bar location, will be the new home of “The Doris,” an art space that was formerly up on North Main Street until landlord issues forced their temporary closing.

Just North of the new Doris and east a block on Veitch Street, First Magnitude Brewing Company is going great and has become a frequent host to benefit events for the community. Being one block from the Gainesville Hawthorne Bike trail, it is a super location.

Just east of that traffic circle is the long abandoned Poole Roofing and Sheet Metal building, right across Depot Ave. from the restored Depot building and Depot Park. Chris Fillie has a two-year purchase option on that property and is creating an industrial arts incubator, as well as space for organizational offices. Sequential Artist Workshop will be expanding into there, as well as the climate change advocacy group “We Are Neutral.” The space (it is big) will also host a large art gallery and event space. It will also be a parking asset to events at the new Depot building and park. More info on goings on there is available from Chris Fillie at chrisfillie@gmail.com.

North of the circle is the old Gainesville Neon building and property. The Freewheel Project will be an amazing mixed-use dedicated to all things bicycle. (Please see article on page 6.) This is right across from the entrance to the Baird Center, home of the Acrosstown Repertory Theater and Akira Wood.

Immediately North of the Baird Center at 6th and Main, SoMa Arts Center has opened, filling the vacuum following the closing of Central Florida Office Plus for art and architecture supplies, and with an unmatched level of coolness and community sensibility.

Further north on Main, between SE 5th and 6th Avenues, the planning stages for constructing the new fire station have begun, with the first community meeting set for April 9. Preliminary plans looks promising for retention of parking access for Citizen’s Co-op, Wild Iris and the Civic Media Center. Approximately 20 angle parking spaces and a sidewalk on SE 5th Avenue will compensate for the existing parking lot being lost to construction of the new station. Citizen’s Co-op has been doing better since settling their labor issues, and in the CMC, the Rad Press Coffee shop has reopened after a reorganizing period.

Yes indeed, South Main has it goin’ on. With all this being said, it is important to take into account the impact of all this on the Porters neighborhood just west of South Main. The real estate sharks are circling, and it is up to the City to help keep that longtime neighborhood whole by not allowing detrimental zoning changes, and taxing to run people out of their homes. Changes like those delineated above should lift all boats, and not throw people overboard. ☘

Rad Press Café Re-Opening

by Rad Press Café

We’re here to serve you a cup you can feel good about. We offer espresso and coffee from locally roasted Strong-tree coffee, teas from Eco Prima and Starwest Botanicals, shop-made soda and lemonade, and vegan baked goods from Karma Cream. Jon Church, former chef for Groove-shark and The Citizen’s Co-Op (our next-door neighbor), is whipping up sandwiches, wraps, salads, and more.

Local non-homogenized dairy milk from Wainwright Farms will now be an option for our coffee beverages. Our milk options have always been researched, and we do our best to minimize harm and buy from companies that source and conduct business ethically.

If you haven’t met us yet, Rad Press Café is one of Gainesville’s only worker-run collectives that operates non-hierarchically, and with consensus-based decision making. We aim to help support the Civic Media Center and our neighborhood. We took several months off to regroup and train new members, and are excited to be open for business again, and share our labor of love with you.

If you’re interested in how the collective runs, or want to get involved, just ask! New regular hours will be Monday through Saturday from 10am to 6pm, and we’ll be open later in the evening for select Civic Media Center events.

Rad Press wants to see your smiling faces and get your feedback. Stop by, or connect with us on Facebook for events, menu, and specials. ☘



Hours:
10am-6pm
Mon-Sat

433 S. Main Street
Gainesville

facebook.com/RadicalPressCoffeeCollective



10 N. Main Street
Gainesville, FL
32601

352-371-2121

Helping Gainesville’s Homeless Community Digitally Store Documents

by Mark Watson, Three Rivers Legal Services

Recently there’s been a lot of talk about Gainesville’s homeless community. With the building of a new shelter on 39th Avenue called GRACE Marketplace, the closing of Tent City, the creation of Dignity Village, the closing of Bo Diddley Plaza, and recent efforts to create laws that directly affect the unhoused, there’s surely a lot to talk about. However, if we put aside the controversy and look for simple solutions to old dilemmas, I’ve noticed a real need that has an easy fix. For the last few years while working within the unhoused community, I’ve noticed that often times, folks are not able to obtain social services, apply for jobs, access public benefits, or surmount so many other obstacles, due to a lack of necessary documents needed to open the door to improving their current situation. What if they had a safe free storage space that could be accessed anywhere? Like on the Internet? Cloud-based storage!

It’s no surprise that persons experiencing homelessness are at a higher risk for theft, victimization, loss of possessions, and exposure to the weather. Furthermore, with the general instability

of homelessness, keeping important documents and photos safe and undamaged is extremely difficult. Nevertheless, as you most likely know, if you’ve ever tried to get a driver’s license, applied for a job, or walked into a secured building, without important documents such as birth certificates, social security cards, state ID cards, military discharge papers and the like (not even to mention trying to save personal memories and pictures), good luck, because it’s not going to happen and you’re not getting anywhere.

Now compound that with the fact that you’ve been living on the streets and are just trying to get assistance paying for much-needed medications from a local provider and they’re telling you that they can’t help you. Why? Because you can’t prove who you are. Even though you know exactly who you are. What if all that provider had to do was open your Google Drive or Dropbox account, find your ID, birth certificate, or SS card and email themselves a copy? Now the person has proof of who they are, the provider has a copy of their documentation and they’re now able to obtain medicine. It’s such an easy solution!

Three Rivers Legal Services (TRLS) is proposing an outreach project to host document storage drives that assist participants who are homeless in maintaining a safe and secure space for important documents, as well as making it easier for them to gain access to public benefits and services. Participants will establish an account or online identity using cloud-based technology (Google or Dropbox), and TRLS will assist them in scanning important documents to be stored in the cloud. Additionally, TRLS will store the person’s documents in its own secure case management system, as a back-up to the back-up. If a person indicates that their documents have been lost, stolen, or otherwise destroyed, we will assist them in obtaining replacement documents, if possible, and see that those documents are then securely electronically stored.

What are the benefits? Well, first there’s easy access to documents anywhere an accessible computer is connected to the Internet (computer labs, libraries, etc.). It will also streamline services while helping persons gain access to immediate needs. Additionally, it creates an online identity for people while increasing computer literacy among marginalized populations.

All that’s needed to get the project started is a sturdy lightweight scanner, a sturdy lightweight computer, a portable laminator, laminating sleeves, cards, and extra money for incentives and program expenses. If you could help get this project started, that’d be great! We envision helping at least 100 persons with establishing cloud-based storage and digital identities over the year and hope to expand beyond that in the future.

For information and to make donations go to <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/digital-home-identity-project>.

Viva la Vulva

On April 18, Wild Iris Books will feature “Viva La Vulva” <<https://www.facebook.com/events/1409930782648379/>>, an art collaboration presenting interviews and images from the community, at Wild Iris Books located behind the Civic Media Center. Doors open at 7pm, music starts at 9pm.

The exhibit will display photographs of vulvas of people from diverse backgrounds who have shared their stories. Local poets and local singer/songwriter Maria Carter will take the stage at 9pm. Wine and beer will be available by donation.

Wild Iris will hold additional gallery hours on Sunday, April 19, from 12-4pm. Tickets are available in advance at the store, online, and the day of the event at a sliding scale of \$5-\$10.

How to Tell If Your Religious Liberties Are Being Violated

Your liberties ARE being violated	Your liberties are NOT being violated
You are not allowed to attend a religious service of your choosing.	Others are allowed to go to religious services of their own choosing, or not at all.
You are not allowed to legally marry the person you love.	Someone else is allowed to marry the person they love no matter what your religion says.
You are being forced to use birth control even though it is against your religion.	You are unable to prevent others from using birth control.
You are not allowed to pray privately in your home or in a public place.	You are not allowed to force others to pray publicly.
You are not allowed to purchase, read, or possess religious books and materials.	Others are allowed access to books, movies, and websites that you don’t like.
You are not allowed to teach your children creation stories of your faith, in your own home.	Public school science classes are teaching children science.

Sixth Annual Very Queer Variety Show

Saturday, April 25 at 8 pm

1123 SE 4th Street, Gainesville

Benefit for Gran Lakou and Gainesville Books for Prisoners





NOW SERVING BREAKFAST ALL DAY

Breakfast at 8:30AM • Lunch at 11AM
Sunday Brunch 9:30AM - 3PM
1202 NE 8th Avenue • 378-9870

Come celebrate and learn about ways to help protect our fragile, beautiful, threatened Mother, our Home!
The Second Earth Day Fest
Sunday, April 19, 1:00 to 5:00 PM
Possum Creek Park, 4009 NW 53rd Ave, Gainesville

**MUSIC, GAMES, VENDORS,
LEARN AND PLAY TOGETHER!!**
There will be an egg hunt for kids, too!!
For more info call Karen Epple 352-642-6843
or find the facebook event page sponsor,
Alachua County Environmental Caucus





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




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The voice of activists who are “Putting the movement back in the Labor Movement”



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Subscribe \$30/year

Iguana Directory

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

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

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

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

Alachua County 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, 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, ACLP@FloridaLaborParty.org, 352.375.2832, 14 East University Ave, Suite 204, Gainesville, FL PO Box 12051, Gainesville, FL 32604

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

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

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

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

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

0010, www.civicmediacenter.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gainesville NOW www.gainesvillenow.org. 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

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

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

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

Grow Radio Non-profit provides opportunities for community members to create and manage engaging, educational, locally-generated programming to promote fine, musical/visual arts and humanities for enrichment of the community. www.growradio.org. PO Box 13891, Gainesville, 32604, 352-219-0145 (v), 352-872-5085 (studio hotline)

Harvest of Hope Foundation Non-profit provides emergency and educational financial aid to migrant farm workers around the country. [\[harvestofhope.net\]\(http://harvestofhope.net\), email: \[kellerhope@cox.net\]\(mailto:kellerhope@cox.net\).](http://www.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

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

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

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

Industrial Workers of the World Local union organizing all workers. Meetings are at the Civic Media Center the first Sunday of the month at 4:30 pm. Gainesvilleiww@gmail.com. www.gainesvilleiww.org

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

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

Kindred Sisters Lesbian/feminist magazine. PO Box 141674, Gainesville, FL 32614. www.kindred-sisters.org, 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

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Support, education and advocacy for families and loved ones of persons with mental illness/brain disorders. 374-5600. ext. 8322; www.namigainesville.org.

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

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

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 or go to 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 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. Confidential Helpline 352-340-3770 or email info@pflaggainesville.org.

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

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

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

River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding provides innovative ways to resolve conflict and provides services like mediation, communication skill building and restorative justice. www.centerforpeacebuilding.org. 2603

NW 13th St. #333, 352-234-6595

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

Sister City Program of Gainesville links Gainesville with sister cities in Russia, Israel and Palestine, Iraq, and Haiti. Meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Mennonite Meeting House, 1236 NW 18th Avenue (across from Gainesville HS). <http://www.gnvsistercities.org>.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Abril-Mayo

The Gainesville Iguana

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

April-May



Sunday Domingo



Radio Notes: Find schedules for WUFT, WGOT, and Grow Radio, our local non-corporate stations, at www.wuft.org, wgot.org, & 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 pp 22 & 23.

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.

12 Marisa de los Santos in Authors at the Library talk, Millhopper Branch, 2 pm.

Al Poindexter & Brad Lauretti, 2nd Sunday house concert, Stetson's in Beluthahatchee, 2 pm - reservations: 904-206-8304.

Fla Coalition for Peace & Justice weekly potluck & eco-village tour, 4 pm: fcj.org.

Crystal Gala benefits Star Center Theatre, Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl), 6 pm, **Philip Glass & Tim Fain**, Phillips Ctr, 7:30 pm, \$35-60.

19 Activist Anton Flores at Em. Mennonite Church (1236 NW 18th Ave), 10 am.

Campaign Training by Ruth's List, LifeSouth (4039 W. Newberry Rd), noon-4 pm.

Earth Day Fest 1-5 pm: pg 8.

Viva La Vulva, Wild Iris, 1-4 pm.

Doubt - final performance, Actors Warehouse (608 N. Main St), 3 pm.

Tim Barry at Loosey's, 8 pm.

26 5th Ave Arts Fest continues - see pg 20 and culturalartscoalition.com.

FOL Book Sale, noon-6 pm.

1711: David Hume born.
1785: John J. Audubon born.



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

Creepoid & Ann Pragg in concert at Atlantic, 8 pm.

FULL MOON

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

MOTHER'S DAY

Monday Lunes

13 Deepwater Horizon disaster talk, Graham Ctr, UF Pugh Hall, 6 pm.

Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice meets, Mennonite Church (1236 NW 18th Ave), 6 pm.

Forks Over Knives: Dinner & a Movie night sponsored by Food Not Bombs, CMC, 7 pm.

Pride doc on gay/lesbian support of British miners' strike, Pride Ctr, 7 pm.

1962: Rachel Carson publishes *Silent Spring*.

20 *Neurotypical* at CMC, 7 pm.

Gvl Food Security Group meets 3rd Mondays, Highlands Presbyterian Church (1001 NE 16th Ave), 7 pm.

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

1939: Billie Holiday records "Strange Fruit".

27 FOL Book Sale, noon-6 pm.
The Leech and the Earthworm, Civic Media Center (433 S. Main St), 7 pm.

1825: Boston carpenters strike for 10-hour workday.

1960: Student protests over rigged election force resignation of S. Korean president Syngman Rhee.

4 *Out in the Nights*, CMC, 7 pm.

1961: CORE launches Freedom Rides to desegregate buses across southern US.

STAR WARS DAY:
MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU

11 Science Café: Bioluminescence, Blue Gill Quality Foods (1310 SW 13th St), - tickets at eventbrite.com/e/flmnh-may-science-cafe-tickets-14708416269; 6 pm.

Tuesday Martes

7 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.

School Board meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 620 E Univ Ave, 6 pm: see sbac.edu.

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

Yoga w/ Teonia!, CMC, Tuesdays, 5 pm, \$3-10 sliding scale.

14 Gvl City Runoff - VOTE!

Iguana recommendations: H. Budd & Y. Hinson-Rawls
Alachua County Commission meets, 2nd & 4th Tues, 9 am & 5 pm, County Admin Bldg; citizens comment, 9:30 & 5:30.

G'ville Socialists reading/discussion group, CMC, 7 pm.

"Mellow Soul" open mic night at CMC, 9 pm.

Company Man, Miss Tess, & **Howleez** at Loosey's.

21 School Board meets, 6 pm.

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

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

1967: Military overthrows Greek republic.

28 FOL Book Sale, half-price day, noon-6 pm.

Alachua County Comm meets - see 4/14.

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

WILPF (Women's Internat'l League for Peace & Freedom) 100th birthday party, UUFG, 7:30-9 pm; see pg 5.

5 School Board, 6 pm.

The Conch - storytelling night every 1st Tues, Lightnin' Salvage, 7 pm.

1925: John Scopes arrested for teaching evolution.
CINCO DE MAYO

12 **1820: Florence Nightingale** born.



Wednesday Miercoles

8 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.

Downtown Farmers' Market every Wed, SW 1st St & 1st Ave (by Market St Pub), 4-7 pm; **Edible Plant Project**, 2nd Weds.

Marty Jourard on '70s music, Matheson Museum, 6 pm, \$5.

Suwannee River talk by Dr. Ken Sulak, Prairie Creek Lodge (7204 SE Cty Rd 234), 6:30 pm.

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

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

Just Health Care meets, 14 E. University Ave, Ste 204, 7 pm.

15 Humanists meet, topic: "If Not the 10 Commandments, Then What?" - UUFG (4225 NW 34th St), 7 pm.

1912: RMS Titanic sinks.
1955: 1st McDonald's opens.

22 Earth Day Celebration - 1st Magnitude Brewing (1220 SE Veitch St), yoga, dinner, live music, talks: benefits We Are Neutral; 4-9 pm, \$22.

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

1922: Charles Mingus born.
EARTH DAY

29 FOL Book Sale, 10¢ day, noon-6 pm.

Keep up with the CMC at www.civicmediacenter.org for events created after this calendar was printed, and into the future (also see pg 18).

1968: Hair! opens on Broadway.
2004: Abu Ghraib photos outrage world.

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

Justice Roll Down, Emmanuel Mennonite Church, 7 pm.

1527: Troops of Holy Roman Empire loot & burn Rome.

13 **1985: Philadelphia cops** bomb "MOVE" house, kill 11.



Thursday Jueves

9 CMC Volunteers meet every Thursday, 5:30 pm.

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

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

Open Poetry every Thursday at CMC, now at 8 pm: Gvl's longest-running poetry jam, open to all; informal & welcoming to both readers & listeners.

1865: Insurgents surrender at Appomattox, VA.
1898: Paul Robeson born.

16 CMC Volunteers, 5:30 pm.
"Startup Democracy" talk on ancient Athens, UF Pugh Hall, 5:30 pm.

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

Little Jake Mitchell live & Cotton Club doc in Fla blues series at Matheson Museum (513 E. Univ Ave), 6 pm, \$5; see pg 21.

Open Poetry, CMC, 8 pm.

Waxahatchee at The Wooly.

23 Peace4Gainesville trauma responsive community meeting, SFC CIED (530 W. University Ave), 5:30 pm - see peace4gainesville.org.

Open Poetry, CMC, 8 pm.

1947: Bernadette Devlin (McAliskey) born.



30 Open Poetry, CMC, 8 pm.
KRS One in concert at High Dive, 8:30 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.

7 CMC Volunteers, 5:30 pm.
"Pillars of Peacebuilding" - 6:30 pm: see pg 15.

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

Open Poetry, CMC, 8 pm.
NATIONAL DAY OF REASON

14 **1961: Alabama racists** burn Freedom Ride bus.



Friday Viernes

10 "A Community of Calling In" intervention skills workshop, CMC, 6 pm.

Gary Gordon hosts '70s Gvl music retrospective at Matheson Museum, 6:30 pm, \$5.

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

The Two Musketeers opens at Hipp, runs thru 5/3; 8 pm - see thehipp.org.

Early Voting Ends Sat, 4/11.

1972: 74 nations (including USA) sign Biological Weapons Convention.

17 "New Power" talk, Jeremy Heimans, Graham Center, UF Pugh Hall, 6 pm.

"Form and Function 2" popping jam presented by UF Hip Hop Collective, CMC, 7 pm.

Girls Rock Camp Benefit Show w/ Captain Lovely, SOUNDTRACK, Jenarchy, others: 1982 bar (919 W. Univ Ave), all ages, 8 pm, \$5-10 sliding scale; see pg 18.

Whether here or anywhere: please support live music!

1962: US invades Cuba's Bay of Pigs.

24 Survivors of Violence Art Exhibit reception, CMC, 7 pm (exhibit open through 4/30); see pg 19.

Gvl Artwalk, 7 pm - see pg 21.

Gay Movie Night last Fridays, Pride Ctr, \$2, 7:30 pm.

1916: Irish independence insurgency begins.
1954: Mumia Abu-Jamal born.



May 1

Equality Florida Gvl Gala, Thomas Ctr (306 NE 6th Ave), 7 pm, \$50 - see eqfl.org/gainesvillegala.

1886: Chicago police kill 4 protesters at Haymarket labor rally.

MAY DAY
US-INSPIRED HOLIDAY CELEBRATED AROUND WORLD BUT NOT IN US.

8 **IGUANA** Deadline for May-June issue is May 12th; write gainesvilleiguana@cox.net or call 378-5655 with events, updates, advertisements & info.

1974: US Congress opens Nixon impeachment hearings.

15 **1897: Max Spohr** founds Gay Liberation Society in Munich.
NAKBA DAY

Saturday Sabado



11 Spring Arts Fest downtown, Sat/Sun - see *Scene* for details.

Tent City Cleanup, SE 10th & Veitch Sts, 9 am. Info: kabc.org, 352-371-9444

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

Gosia & Ali in concert, Prairie Creek Lodge, 7 pm, \$20.

Books for Prisoners dance benefit, Ace Base, 9 pm.

18 "You Should Run" workshop by Ruth's List, LifeSouth (4039 W. Newberry Rd), 9 am-noon.

"Viva La Vulva", Wild Iris, 7pm, pg 9

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

Earth Charter+15 Celebration, Sustainable Living Ctr (10665 SW 89th Ave, Hampton), 1-8 pm: fcpl-slc.org

Green Party meets, dntn library (401 E Univ Ave), 3rd Saturdays, 3 pm.

Gvl Roller Rebels All-Stars vs Chattanooga Roller Girls, Cty Fairground (2900 NE 39th Ave), bout 6 pm; pg 17.

John Gorka, UF Univ. Aud, 7:30 pm.

25 Yard Sale to benefit Rural Women's Health Project, E.M. Church (1236 NW 18th Ave), 8 am.

Friends of the Library Book Sale opens, 430 N. Main St, 9 am - 6 pm - great bargains: see www.folacld.org.

Muslim-Christian Dialog, Emmanuel Mennonite Church, 10 am.

5th Ave Arts Fest 10am-5pm: pg 20.

John Scalzi in Authors at the Library talk, downtown library, 1 pm.

Wild Iris Free Store, CMC, 2-4 pm.

6th Annual Very Queer Variety Night benefit, Elestial Sound Headquarters (1123 SE 4th St), 8 pm; pg 9.

2 Gamble Rogers Folk Festival - see pg 24.

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

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

Peace Poetry Contest awards, w/ readings & music, UUFG (4225 NW 34th St), by Vets for Peace, 2 pm

Wild Iris Free Store, CMC, 2-4 pm.

The Currys return to Prairie Creek Lodge, 7 pm, \$20.

16 Gvl Roller Rebels vs Dub City Derby Girls, Cty Fairground, 6 pm.

History and the People Who Make it: Medea Benjamin

Transcript edited by Pierce Butler

This is the 26th in a series of transcript excerpts from the collection of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida.

Medea Benjamin was interviewed by Derick Gomez [G] in 2014; the first part of this transcript was featured in the March 2015 Iguana.

B: I moved to Washington, D.C. about five years ago after my children finished college. I put most of my focus onto issues of war and peace. But I also am involved in local things, like gentrification, where so many black families that have been there for decades are getting priced out of their own city.

Just this week, people came to town from around the country who were involved in fracking, and I went out at 7 [AM] to their demonstrations to say, right on! It was a lot of young people, and it made me cry to see them blocking the entrances of the Federal Energy Commission, locking arms and getting arrested. I think, that’s our future.

G: You have experienced a lot of police intimidation here and abroad.

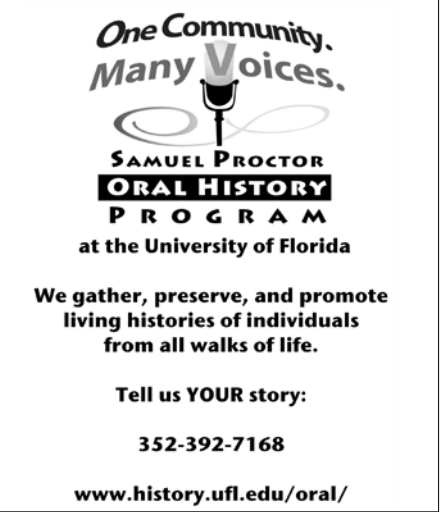
B: I have had many problems at home and overseas in terms of police brutality against peaceful protestors, or military who are killing peaceful protestors. It scares away a lot of people. It’s important that we force our police to see us as the community that they’re there to preserve and protect, not as the enemy.

One thing is to stop the militarization of our police. I get absolutely disgusted when I see these tanks, these MRAPs in our communities. I want to jump off my bicycle or get out of my car and run over there and, you know, say “stop, get out of here!”

We should not accept militarization of our police forces, police abuse of peaceful protestors, police shooting down young men, especially men of color. We have to have citizen review boards, to change policing policies.

In Washington, I have formed good relationships with police. That has helped a lot to stop them from arresting us in brutal ways, in treating us fairly. At the Federal Energy Commission, the Chief of Police was there and he said, Medea, I saw that you’re a grandmother now, congratulations. He takes out his phone and shows me pictures of his

grandchildren. This is like five minutes before he’s gonna order the arrest of these young people blocking the entrance. We hugged each other and I said, this is the way it should be. The police should be members of our community, who protect us when we need protection, who, yes, remove us when we are sitting there doing civil disobedience.



I saw an amazing action in Ferguson, Missouri in front of the police station, put on by the faith based community. They decided to form a line and talk individually to each police person and tell them stories of what was happening in the community. The police were sort of stoic, like, you’re not gonna break me. These reverends, rabbis, and imams were talking to the police, telling them this story about a family where the young man just went out to get some milk and he was stopped by the police. That young man, who was paying for his grandmother’s apartment, is now in prison. She can no longer afford to live there.

I saw police start crying. I saw their jaws quivering and the tears rolling down, and I thought, that is power. Treating each other as humans is really powerful.

G: What suggestions would you give to someone who’s young and angry?

B: I totally understand the anger. Think about whether it’s building a movement or it’s hurting the movement. Taking a rock and throwing it into a—whatever—McDonald’s, Starbucks, a police car, usually is giving the media what they want, focusing on the movement as violent. It oftentimes makes people afraid to join, especially people who might have immigration issues, can’t be arrested. Sometimes that large presence would

Who might want to bring their family out, and don’t feel like they can without putting their kids at risk.

We want to build movements where people can do civil disobedience. But if they want to be with the group not doing civil disobedience, they can choose that as well. We wanna build movements taking the moral high ground. So, it’s important to have conversations about, does property violence, does the angry mode build or not? That’s not to say that I don’t get really angry sometimes and do things that I later regret because the emotion is there.

Music is really important in the movement. When I feel myself getting really angry, like I want to take somebody and shake ‘em, I start singing. Singing calms me down and it calms down people around me and it changes the mood.

Singing in the Civil Rights Movement was such an integral part of that movement. Look at the South African anti-apartheid movement, singing was central – they sang in five part harmony which was really something glorious to listen to.

G: What are some of the heroes that you have?

B: Sometimes, heroes tend to be people that we know about, like Nelson Mandela. But I think more of ordinary folks I’ve met who are not well known but give me so much inspiration. For example, there was a woman named Elvia Alvarado from Honduras I met when I was researching the wars we’re waging in Central America. She had gotten picked up by the U.S. military there, put into prison and tortured.

I went down to meet her and found out she was an activist, a poor peasant woman whose main goal was to get land that wasn’t being used into the hands of people who didn’t have land so they could grow their own food. She was risking her life, because the landowners, even if they weren’t using the land, didn’t want anybody to take it over, and police were in the pockets of those landowners.

This woman has never used a computer, never had a cellphone, and she could get hundreds of people out at three o’clock in the morning by word of mouth. At three o’clock—and I’ve been out with her—the police and landowners would be confronting hundreds of people including children and old people and families.

Sometimes that large presence would

keep the police from shooting. Her daughter was shot, her young children -- before she was an organizer -- died from malnutrition, and she’s seen many of her colleagues shot. I would say to her, how do you keep coming out day after day and doing this? Don’t you get depressed? She said, I don’t have the luxury of getting depressed, of stopping. I have to do this because we’re trying to feed ourselves, to keep our children alive.

That has nourished me for many years now. I should have that same burning sense of mission that Elvia Alvarado had and it does keep me going.

G: Your background was in NGOs and international aid organizations. How did that help create the person that you are today?

B: I studied public health and nutrition and thought I would go around the world teaching or helping people to feed themselves. I realized as I went around the world that mothers know how to feed their children.

It’s really a question of, do they have the land they need to grow the food? Do they have jobs to make money to pay for food? It really is about how we organize our societies. Aid organizations are like Band-Aids – you cut yourself, you want a band-aid, but it’s not going to stop people from getting wounds. If you are constantly pulling people out of the lake and helping them to get resuscitated, you wanna ask, who’s the bastard throwing these people in the lake?

I still believe that humanitarian aid is very important. We have allowed NGOs to take the role of institutionalizing change and it doesn’t do a very good job of it. To make change, you need the kind of passion that the Occupy Movement had. Passion makes social movements tick. In some ways, NGOs take the brightest, most passionate people and put them into these nine-to-five jobs.

I left the NGO movement and helped create Code Pink because I wanted to work with people that do this because they are committed to change. If you’re passionate, you find a way to do it. Live collectively. Live simply. Find ways to make time so that you can do the activist work.

G: You’ve said Obama being elected took a lot out of the peace movement.

B: During the Bush era, we had a huge movement. Code Pink, we never even wanted to become an organization. We thought we were gonna do a couple

actions, government was gonna change its mind and we’d go on to our other lives. Instead, we had three hundred thousand people on our mailing list before we knew what to do with the mailing list. We had over three hundred Code Pink local groups. People felt a great desire to join any peace group they could find.

Obama came in and it all fizzled. People thought, he’s going to get us out of Iraq, he’s gonna be a peace president. The economic crisis happened and a lot of people found themselves more concerned about saving their homes, student debt issues, working to save other people’s homes. There wasn’t a peace movement anymore. Part of that is because Obama continued the policies of Bush, but in different ways. They started using drone warfare, killing people by remote control, in secret. Most Americans didn’t know we were killing thousands of people in Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia.

That’s why I got involved in researching drone warfare, writing a book about it, and going to hundreds of cities and talking about it. We managed to change public opinion, to force the government to talk about this secret program and admit civilians were being killed. Secret wars make it much more difficult to organize, and now we have a horrible group, ISIS, out there beheading people.

So a population in the U.S. that had become very anti-war after thirteen years of endless wars has switched and become pro-war again. We have to start all over, to build an anti-war movement, to tell people, look, ISIS is terrible but this is counterproductive. It’s actually justifying ISIS saying, look, we’re fighting the West and the war against Islam. They’re gaining thousands more recruits once the U.S. started bombing.

We have to show people that the weapons the United States is putting into the mix actually end up in the hands of Al Qaeda affiliates and ISIS. We have to

promote political solutions. People say, oh, you’re so naïve if you think there can be political solutions. We have to say, you’re naïve if you think there are military solutions. Over the last thirteen years, we haven’t eliminated extremism, we help [it] proliferate all over north Africa, all over the Middle East.

We need political solutions like forcing our allies, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, to cut off funds to these extremist groups, to stop weapons being sent to these groups, to stop recruits from getting there. Go back to negotiating in Geneva between the Syrian government and the rebels. The solutions are political.

Part of what we the people have to do, is to say that we want a Congress that acts as a check on the executive, on perpetual war. We want a Congress that cuts the budget of the Pentagon and puts it into life-affirming activities that improve the lives of citizens.

We can’t improve the lives of the people while we spend over 50 percent of our discretionary funds on the military. That money has to go into things like infrastructure projects, green energy, things that will move our country into a positive direction and make people feel their future can be better than the future of their parents, which is not what this generation feels right now.

Go to <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/1AA00030951/> 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. ☛

Pillars of Peacebuilding: A Community Dialogue

**Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Juvenile Justice System
Thursday, May 7 at 6:30 PM - 322 SW 4th Avenue, Gainesville**

Join with retired Gainesville Police Department Captain Will Halvosa, Jeffrey Weisberg and members of the Dream Defenders as they discuss the disproportionate contact that minority youth have with law enforcement and share information about their joint cutting edge program of bringing together law enforcement and youth in dialogue. Community members are encouraged to participate in the discussion as together we seek to continue to repair the harm of this national epidemic and prevent continued occurrences. ☛

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, from p. 6
something they often give a preference to local contractors in the belief that these tax dollars will be spent locally. This bill would stop this long-standing practice.

Chances: Very likely to pass. Call bill sponsor Rep Keith Perry at (850) 717-5021 to tell him to pull the bill.

Environment

Bill: HB1205/SB1468 - the Fracking bill.

Summary: This is the first step to opening up Florida to the environmentally damaging oil and gas extraction practice known as hydraulic fracturing. This process could prove even more damaging due to the unique aquifer structures in Florida.

Chances: Likely. Call Senator Richter at (850) 487-5023 and tell him to pull his bad bill.

Budget: Florida Amendment 1 land acquisition dollars.

Summary: Amendment 1 was passed by 75% of the voters in 2014 and set aside some \$740 million to purchase and maintain environmentally sensitive land. The House has proposed spending just \$10 million and the Senate \$35 million for land buying. Before 2009 the legislature regularly allocated \$300 for land buying and Amendment 1 was meant to enhance this.

Chances: Tossup. Call Senator Dean at (850) 487-5005 and tell him to honor the will of the voters and fully fund the land acquisition program.

LGBTQ+

Bill: HB7111 - the gay adoption ban bill

Summary: This bill would allow private agencies to deny a family an adoption for moral reasons. It's clear that this bill is meant to serve the religious right in the crusade against LGBTQ+ families.

Chances: Unlikely as there's no senate companion bill filed.

Bill: HB583/SB1464 - the "continual Republican obsession with bathrooms and transgendered peoples" bill.

Summary - This bill would make it a crime for anyone to a bathroom that is different than their biological sex at birth. It is aimed at pre-empting local ordinances, like those in Alachua County and Gainesville, which allow transgendered people to use the bathroom of their preference. Despite there being no incidences of abuse of these local ordinances lawmakers are still seeking to squash this imaginary threat..

Chances: Tossup. The bill has stalled in the Senate but there's still a chance it could make it to the floor. Call Senator Dean at (850) 487-5005 and tell him to pull this discriminatory bill.

Other:

Bill: HB7131/SB7020 - the corrections overhaul bill.

Summary - This bill would require use of force against inmates to be videotaped, make it a felony to abuse prisoners, and

add other much needed oversights for our state prisons. Currently the Senate version would create an independent oversight commission for the corrections department. This much needed oversight commission is missing from the House version.

Chances: Unless the House agrees to the Senate version this bill will likely die. Call bill sponsor Rep. Trujillo at (850) 717-5105 and tell him that the Department of Corrections needs an oversight commission. 🐢

GAU Making Moves



GAU says Fee Relief will contribute to making UF a Top 10 research institution.

by Graduate Assistants United (GAU)

GAU is making moves. After a successful "Spring Broke" Rally on March 13, we've kept up the pressure on administration by directing our action towards the Board of Trustees.

On Thursday April 2, the first day of their meetings, our co-presidents Kevin Funk and John Hames did an excellent job representing Graduate Assistants during the public comment portion of Board of Trustees Meeting. They spoke eloquently about the issues GA's at UF face, due to the impact of having to pay fees, and made a strong case for why UF should provide Fee Relief as a way of reaching our collective goal of making UF a Top 10 research institution. Several trustees

approached them afterwards to congratulate them on their presentation.

The next day, we held a tabling event called, "A seat at GAU's Table" outside of Emerson Hall, as the second day of meetings continued to invite trustees to join us in crafting a collective solution to improve the lives of GA's. We believe the easiest way to achieve this would be to provide us with Fee relief. Simply put, this would alleviate the financial burden (average of \$1,400 a year) for many GA's who are already struggling to make ends meet. We've made our voices heard, now it is up to the University of Florida to join in the conversation and propose a meaningful solution to improve the working conditions of some of the hardest working members of the Gator Nation. 🐢

WORSHIP WITH FRIENDS

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

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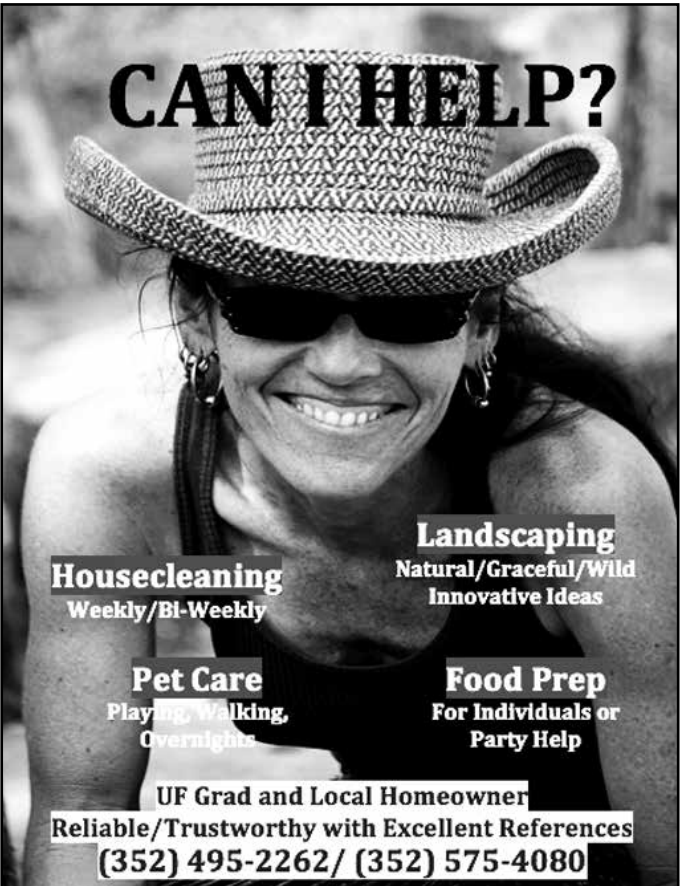


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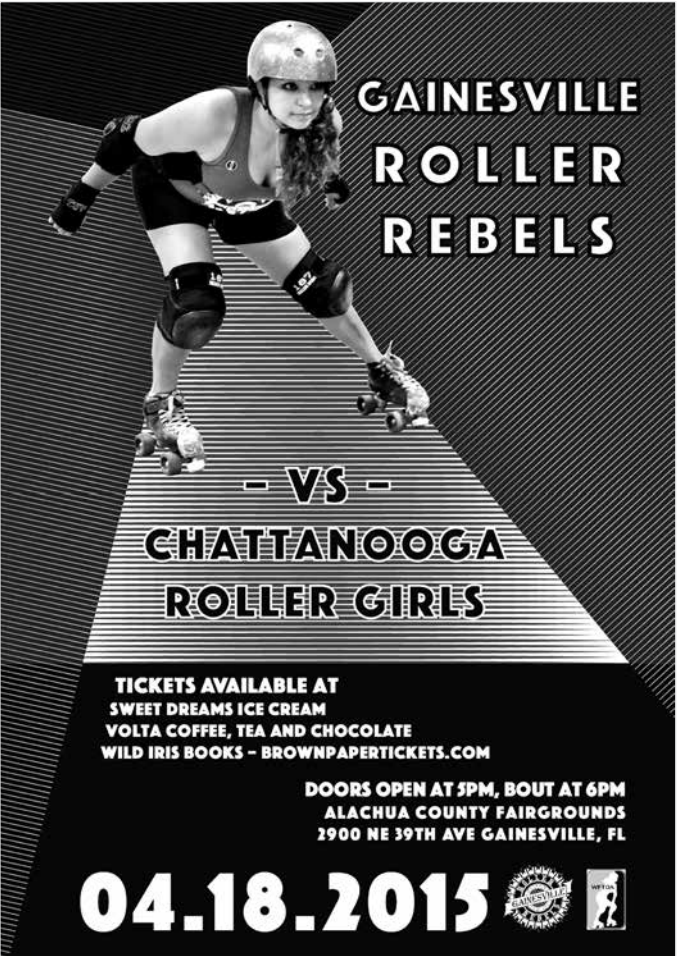
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Civic Media Center Events - April/May 2015

Every Thursday	Weekly Volunteer Meeting at 5:30pm
Mon, April 6	Screening of "Machuca" at 7pm
Tue, April 7	Community Yoga with Teonia at 5pm
Tue, April 7	Gainesville Socialists at 7pm
Thu, April 9	Poetry Jam at 8pm
Sat, April 11	Women of Color Healing Collective 12pm to 5pm
Mon, April 13	Food Not Bombs Dinner & Movie: "Forks Over Knives" at 7pm
Tue, April 14	Community Yoga with Teonia at 5pm
Tue, April 14	Gainesville Socialists at 7pm
Tue, April 14	Mellow Soul Open Mic at 9pm
Thu, April 16	Poetry Jam at 8pm
Fri, April 17	Form and Function 2 with UF Hip Hop Collective at 7pm
Sat, April 18	Viva La Vulva at 7pm
Mon, April 20	Screening of "Neurotypical" at 7pm
Tue, April 21	Community Yoga with Teonia at 5pm
Thu, April 23	Poetry Jam at 8pm
Fri, April 24	Survivors of Violence Art Show at 7pm
Sat, April 25	Wild Iris Free Store 2pm to 6pm
Mon, April 27	Screening of "The Leech and the Earthworm" at 7pm
Tue, April 28	Community Yoga with Teonia at 5pm
Mon, May 4	Screening of "Out in the Nights" at 7pm
Sat, May 9	Wild Iris Free Store 2pm to 6pm
Mon, May 11	Movie TBA at 7pm

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.*



Gainesville Girls Rock Camp 2015



A camp that uses music and performance as a platform to promote self-esteem, community, and creative expression for women and girls in Gainesville.

SESSION 1: July 6-11 (ages 8-12) SESSION 2: August 3-8 (ages 13-17)

Looking for VOLUNTEERS (no musical experience needed), camp counselors, music instructors, workshops, donations ...

AND CAMPERS age 8-17 (no musical experience needed!)

**For applications and registration go to: www.GirlsRockCampGainesville.com
or pick up at 1982Bar&Cafe or Wild Iris Books. Applications accepted April 1-May 1.
rockcampforgirlsgainesville@gmail.com**

Oppose Rep. Perry's Bill, HB 1325

by Gainesville Loves Mountains

In 2002, Gainesville Regional Utilities (of Gainesville, Fla.) proposed construction of a new 220 Megawatt coal power plant. That proposal was defeated by citizen opposition, and since then, Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) has evolved from a primarily coal-dependent utility to one with a diversified fuel supply and a significant investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

GRU has been nationally-recognized for these accomplishments, and Gainesville is one of only a handful of cities that has actually fulfilled its 2005 commitment to meet the Kyoto Protocol mandate for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. We also have among the highest percentage of renewable energy generation and the lowest per capita electricity consumption in Florida.

The implementation of these policies has not been perfect, and various people and organizations in our community have raised issues regarding GRU, from concerns about increases in electric rates, to those who opposed the biomass plant, to climate change deniers and those whose sole concern is the cheapest possible power regardless of the environmental or social impacts. Now a state legislator, Rep. Keith Perry (R), has filed a bill (HB 1325) to strip governance of GRU from our elected City Commission and reverse many of GRU's energy policies of the last ten years.

We recognize that GRU is not a perfect utility. But it is our utility, owned by the City of Gainesville and directed by our elected city commissioners. We vehemently oppose efforts such as Rep. Keith Perry's and other intervention by Tallahassee politicians into the local decisions of our community.

One look at the ineffectual oversight they are providing the state's privately-owned utilities confirms this assertion. Where changes are needed in our utility, we will take responsibility for those changes locally, through citizen engagement and election of City Commissioners who best reflect our values.

We call on our elected officials to oppose Representative Keith Perry's bill (HB 1325), which seeks to remove authority over Gainesville Regional Utilities

(GRU) from the City of Gainesville.

We assert that GRU is owned by the City of Gainesville, Florida. When we do not agree with the policies and programs of our utility, we will seek change through GRU's Board of Directors, our elected City Commission. Where changes are needed, those changes should be decided upon by our community.

We support ongoing local conversations regarding GRU governance. We do not, however, need or want the intrusion of Tallahassee politicians in governing our local utility.

Sign the petition at:

<http://goo.gl/6ESDvm> ☘

Memorial Mile, May 23-25

Gainesville Veterans for Peace will once again set up the Memorial Mile along the Solar Walk on 8th Avenue, east of 34th Street. The display will be set up on May 23 and will stay up through sunset on Memorial Day, May 25. While thoughts of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars are unfortunately forgotten by the American mainstream media, there will still be tombstones added, each one representing the death of an American service member since Memorial Day one year ago.

Volunteers are needed to help set up and take down the more-than 6,700 tombstones. If you'd like to help, contact Scott at 352-375-2563. ☘

Survivors of Violence Art Exhibit

In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month and National Crime Victims' Rights Week, Alachua County Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center presents the 2015 Survivors of Violence Art Exhibit. The exhibit is on Friday, April 24 through Thursday April 30 at the Civic Media Center (433 S. Main St.) and Wild Iris Books (22 SE 5th Ave. Suite D).

An artists' reception will be held on Friday, April 24, at 7pm.

This event is free and open to the public. All are welcome.

For more information on the exhibit contact Ashley Flattery: aflattery@alachuacounty.us (352) 264-6763 or Jeanne-Marie Ritter: jritter@alachuacounty.us (352) 393-7691. ☘

Gainesville Loves Mountains Opposes Tallahassee Intrusion into Home Rule

by Nancy Deren, on behalf of Gainesville Loves Mountains

Representative Perry's bill, HB 1325, sounds innocent enough on the surface. It calls for a referendum vote asking yes or no to change our city charter regarding GRU's governance and create an independent governing board.

However, the other 557 lines of this bill spell out numerous details of this board and its powers, and therein lies the danger. No bill of this nature, with this level of state intrusion into a local matter, has ever come out of Tallahassee.

Even if this bill were pared down to a yes or no question, it would still be an issue of Tallahassee imposing a referendum on us, whether we want it or not.

Our city and our county commissions unanimously opposed this bill, as does our legislative delegation chair, Representative Clovis Watson.

Our city attorney has noted that this bill has so many legal infirmities that it would result in a great deal of litigation and would threaten the city's financial stability for multiple reasons. It constitutes a takings of our utility.

It imposes an inflexible governance structure that would claim absolute power over our city owned utility, with no accountability to anyone but itself.

HB 1325 designates an appointed committee of only business and commercial interests. This is not reflective of our community with its broad and diverse range of expertise. Our community should get to decide who the members of any advisory committee should be.

HB 1325 would do away with many policies and practices that have made us a successful city such as our aggressive conservation and efficiency programs and programs that help our most vulnerable citizens reduce their bills.

This bill usurps our authority as citizens and undermines our elected commissioners' ability to govern responsibly and retain the flexibility necessary to deal with the increasingly complex economic and environmental challenges that lie ahead.

Our elected officials and we citizen shareholders of GRU would not be able to decide what qualifies someone to be on the new board, what powers they would be

granted or what policies that board could make. We would have no way to remove someone or make changes if problems arose. Tallahassee will have decided for us what happens with our multi-million dollar city owned asset that provides more than 30% of our city budget.

Over the years, elected commissioners have been responsive to ideas, concerns and criticisms offered by citizens and our Chamber of Commerce about utility-related issues.

Commissioners, with a great deal of community input, have been actively moving forward to address current policies and procedures that need improvement or revision and researching governance structures that include a representative advisory board to review rates, policies and other GRU matters and make recommendations to the City Commission.

Representative Perry's bill is an insult to our community and would jeopardize Gainesville's financial viability. It does not reflect our capability and character as a university city that attracts national recognition on many fronts, including accolades for our utility. We have much to be proud of and obviously have the capability and capacity to determine what changes we want to see, and exercise good governance locally.

Please sign the petition, and tell Tallahassee to respect and protect Home Rule and oppose HB 1325. ☘



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On March 21, students and allies (many from Gainesville's Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice, pictured) joined the Coalition of Immokalee Workers in downtown St. Petersburg for the Parade and Concert for Free Food, and an unplanned dance party on the shores of Tampa Bay. "The streets of St. Petersburg echoed with the call to Publix and Wendy's to step up to the challenge of real social responsibility and join the Fair Food Program," said the CIW's website. A new petition has been launched to encourage Wendy's to sign on to the CIW's pivotal Fair Food Program — <http://goo.gl/jmBkbG>. Photo by M.L. McGaughan. ☺

36th Annual 5th SAVE Arts FESTIVAL
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GainesvilleIguana.org

Songwriters in the Round: Gainesville's Musical Renaissance

The Matheson History Museum's Songwriters in the Round event returns on Thursday, April 16, from 6-8 pm. Unearth the story of Gainesville's musical renaissance with a presentation by Little Jake and the Soul Searchers.

These musicians are more than just a band, they were stepping stones to the integration of Gainesville. A never before seen documentary will tell the story of Sarah McKnight, an African American business woman who, in the 1950s and 1960s, ran the Cotton Club and Sarah's Place. These music venues featured musicians such as Cab Calloway, B.B. King and James Brown. Although Charlie Steadham was white, his quest to learn from the best musicians brought him into Sarah's Place.

Discover how Little Jake Mitchell desegregated one of the largest music venues in Florida. Trace how advancements in technology changed the course of music history with a presentation by Tran Whitley of Tran Tracks. Admission is \$5. Tickets can be purchased at the door. ☺

*"The more you can increase fear of drugs,
 crime, welfare mothers, immigrants and aliens,
 the more you control all of the people."*


-- Noam Chomsky

ARTWALK
gainesville

GET ENGAGED....or just have
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LAST FRIDAY OF THE
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Gainesville's Art District.

*Pick up your map at Artwalk Headquarters in front of
 Lunch Box on the corner of Bo Diddley Plaza.*
 GALLERY TOUR BEGINS AT 7:00

www.artwalkgainesville.com




PFLAG Gainesville serves the community through service, education, and advocacy in an effort to build a better future for youth and adults through a partnership of parents, allies, and LGBTQ+ people.

Visit us at www.pflaggainesville.org or find us on Facebook!

When: 3rd Tuesday each month at 7 p.m.
Where: 1625 NW 5th Ave. Gainesville, FL 32603.
April Meeting: Faces and Facets of Transgender Experience

**THINKING ABOUT THE MILITARY?
 MAKE AN
 INFORMED CHOICE.
 ADVICE FROM VETERANS
 ON MILITARY SERVICE
 AND RECRUITING PRACTICES
 A Resource Guide For Young People
 Considering Enlistment**

<http://www.afn.org/~vetpeace/>

Gainesville  **Chapter 14**

**THE
 REPURPOSE
 PROJECT**

HOURS: Tues-Fri: 1-6pm & Sat: 10am-6pm
1920 NE 23rd Ave, Gainesville

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

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

www.repurposeproject.org

WUBA 88.1 Community Radio Launches

WUBA 88.1 FM, scheduled to begin regular broadcasting from High Springs by the time this issue of the Iguana reaches your hands, is looking for volunteers, sponsors and donors to build a listener-supported radio station for northern Alachua County.

Launched by members of NUBA (Neighbors United for a Better Alachua), WUBA plans a mix including local news and grassroots musical/cultural shows as well as nationally syndicated programs such as Democracy Now!

Having received a high-power radio license from the Federal Communications Commission, WUBA has set up basic broadcasting capability, but is still fund-

raising for equipment to do call-in shows and other features. At present, their signal reaches the city of Alachua and northern/western sections of Gainesville; an Internet channel is planned for outreach beyond the range of the High Springs-based transmitter (Web-savvy volunteers also needed to build the WUBA 88.1.comsite).

A Facebook page (search for WUBA 88.1) has been started, and a 501(c)(3) organization launched so that financial contributions are tax-deductible.

For more information, go to the WUBA 88.1 Facebook page, call 352-658-1252, or email wubaradiostation@gmail.com. 🐾

Feed Your Mind, Support Alternative Radio

by Joe Courter

One information source not to miss is David Barsamian's weekly Alternative Radio — www.alternativeradio.org.

Please listen and support this great grassroots enterprise. It is not only cutting edge, fresh and topical, it has unfortunately been cut by many NPR affiliates as that network lurches mainstream.

WGOT 94.7 FM carries it locally at 4pm Saturdays and 1pm Sundays, but it is a weak signal best picked up by vehicle

radios. Go take a drive, clean your car or garage, or do yard work near your vehicle during that hour.

You cannot directly stream it online for free (it is how David make his living), but you can find an Internet carried station and see when THEY play it and listen then and there. That station schedule is on AR's site.

Or if you can actually PAY FOR IT, order an MP3 (\$5) or a transcript (\$5 mailed, \$3 to download). I am sure David would like that. 🐾



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:

Volunteer to help with staffing fliering. Come to our events, or be a monthly supporter thru direct deposit.

For information:

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

433 S. Main St., Gainesville 32601



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.

Grow Radio will be changing format in 2015, moving from live-streaming, freeform programming to a podcast-only format.

The following schedule is subject to change, and not all programs are broadcast each week. Check 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	No Filler
	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 D 🐾

WGOT Welcomes New Shows

by Markus Alexander

As WGOT prepares to move from 94.7 to 100.1, the station is adding new shows and board members. Since GROW Radio is changing its operation to a podcast-only format, some GROW DJs are making the jump to WGOT.

Joining WGOT is Cramela Mix Show, hosted by Chris Lake, bringing the latest in electronic music ranging from techno to downtempo in a two-hour mix show. Catch a new episode each Monday at 2pm. Also on Mondays is Malum, hosted by Derek Wohlust, broadcasting a new show at 8pm.

The Joe & Craig Music Show checks in on Tuesdays at 8pm with a variety of music from the 1950s through the '80s along with interesting commentary sprinkled in. Joe & Craig bring a large following, with listeners checking in from all over the globe.

On Wednesdays at 8pm, another two-hour show is brought to you by Robbie Stevens with Jazzville. Jazzville features a range of styles from Swing, Be-Bop, Hard-Bop, and modern jazz, and will be the first jazz show to air on the station. Starting on Monday, April 6 will be Bill Perry's show, Things Be Blowin' Around - the third two-hour show to join WGOT in the past month. In the coming weeks also look for Leela Corman's new show, Ecstasy to Frenzy, to hit the airwaves on Tuesday afternoons.

The station had to make some significant changes to its previous lineup in order to make room for these new shows so you'll want to check out the new schedule on the website at <http://www.wgot.org/schedule> to find out when some of your favorite shows will air. All of the shows airing on the station are also repeated at various times throughout the week - we've tried to pick different time frames for each show so that listeners will have options to hear their favorite shows day or night.

Joe and Craig Ardolino, of Joe & Craig Music Show fame, have also joined the WGOT governing board. We're happy to have them and thrilled with the new music mix in the WGOT lineup. The station still has room for more shows and always welcomes anyone in the community to propose a show. After all, WGOT is a community station and we want the majority of our programming to be "locally grown." So if you or anyone you know

might be interested in having your own show, email the station at info@wgot.org to learn how you can do it. Don't worry if you've never done anything like this before -- it's easy and we can teach you how to use free software to record your show.

The FCC approval for WGOT to move to its own frequency at 100.1 FM means that we will no longer have to share the frequency at 94.7 FM -- we'll be broadcasting over the air 24/7/365. One of the requirements for the move is that we must be in the process of opening a physical location for the station. That's right -- an actual studio! A studio means that we'll be able to do call-in shows, live broadcasts, and have guest performers on various shows.

If you know of any affordable space that WGOT might be interested in, please let us know. It doesn't have to be a huge space -- you might be surprised at how much studio you can fit into a few hundred square feet.

All of these changes coming up are going to increase our expenses -- it will cost money for a new transmitter and to move our antenna. We'll also begin to be solely responsible for what have until now been expenses shared among three stations, namely, internet service, an engineer, electrical service to the transmitter, and rent on a tower, not to mention the monthly costs of operating a studio location.

Please consider supporting the station in whatever way you can. If you have a business, we have very affordable underwriting plans -- contact us for more information on how to be a business supporter. If you'd like to mail a contribution, make your check payable to: WGOT-LP 94.7 and mail it to PO Box 14012, Gainesville, FL 32604.

We would not have made it through seven years of broadcasting without the support of this community -- thank you for supporting community radio! 🐾



WGOT-LP 94.7 FM

Soon to be at 100.1

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

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

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

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

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

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

The loud, clear, honest, grassroots radio voice of Gainesville



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

Editors' Picks: The News That Didn't Fit

- **Thanks, corporate America, for shaming Mike Pence! Now here's a reality check** — *Indiana's also the home of a law that led to a wave of voting restrictions. Here's why business won't touch that.*

http://www.salon.com/2015/04/01/thanks_corporate_america_for_shaming_mike_pence_now_heres_a_reality_check/

- **Crops rot as farmworker strike in Mexico continues** — *As many as 50,000 mostly indigenous farmworkers have gone on strike in the Mexican border state of Baja California in order to demand better pay and working conditions — bringing agricultural production to a standstill.*

<http://wagingnonviolence.org/2015/03/crops-rot-farmworker-strike-mexico-continues/>

- **Rape survivors tell the NRA to stop speaking for them** — *Activists working to address the rates of sexual assault among college students don't want gun enthusiasts to co-opt their issue in order to push for more weapons on campus.*

<http://thinkprogress.org/health/2015/03/16/3633986/college-activists-guns-rape/>

- **The Sting: How the FBI created a terrorist** — *Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the FBI has arrested dozens of young men like Sami Osmakac in controversial counterterrorism stings.*

<https://firstlook.org/theintercept/2015/03/16/howthefbicreatedaterrorist/>

- **Study Confirms Tea Party Was Created by Big Tobacco and Billionaire Koch Brothers** — *This is what progressives are up against; big money creating phony protest groups that the media treat as if legit.*

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/brendan-demelle/study-confirms-tea-party-_b_2663125.html 🐘

The Gainesville Iguana

(established 1986)



The Gainesville Iguana

is Gainesville's progressive events calendar and newsletter

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Individuals: \$15

(or more if you can)

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Iguana, c/o CISPLA

P.O. Box 14712

Gainesville, FL 32604

Comments, suggestions, contributions (written or financial) are welcome.

To list your event or group, contact us at:

(352) 378-5655

GainesvilleIguana@cox.net

www.gainesvilleiguana.org

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

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