



The Gainesville Iguana

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Give 'em Hell, Bernie

Bernie Sanders is more
serious than you think

This article was originally published by Rolling Stone on April 29. See the original at <http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/give-em-hell-bernie-20150429>.

by Matt Taibbi

Many years ago I pitched a magazine editor on a story about Bernie Sanders, then a congressman from Vermont, who'd agreed to something extraordinary – he agreed to let me, a reporter, stick next to him without restrictions over the course of a month in congress.

"People need to know how this place works. It's absurd," he'd said. (Bernie often uses the word *absurd*, his Brooklyn roots coming through in his pronunciation – *ob-zert*.)

Bernie wasn't quite so famous at the time and the editor scratched his head. "Bernie Sanders," he said. "That's the one who cares, right?"

"Right, that's the guy," I said.

I got the go-ahead and the resulting story was a wild journey through the tortuous bureaucratic maze of our national legislature. I didn't write this at the time, but I was struck every day by what a strange and interesting figure Sanders was.

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8 truths about race that every white person needs to know

This article was originally published by Mic on May 12 with photos, videos, and external links. Check out the original at <http://mic.com/articles/117988/8-things-white-people-need-to-understand-about-race-in-america?f>.

by Darnell L. Moore

This past school year, I taught a course on black women and prisons at a predominantly white university in central New York.

Once, in the middle of a frank class discussion on white privilege and institutional racism, I decided to check

in with my students. A white young man admitted to the class that he felt unsafe. He described how the course provoked him so much he would go home angry about what he felt was an inordinate focus on race, racial inequities and privilege.

We decided to chat through his concerns over lunch. There, I challenged him to consider how his identity affected his visceral response to the course. He obliged, and his final paper turned out to be a vivid self-reflection on whiteness, manhood and racism — including the ways he'd learned

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BERNIE, from p. 1

Many of the battles he brought me along to witness, he lost. And no normal politician would be comfortable with the optics of bringing a *Rolling Stone* reporter to a Rules Committee hearing.

But Sanders genuinely, sincerely, does not care about optics. He is the rarest of Washington animals, a completely honest person. If he’s motivated by anything other than a desire to use his influence to protect people who can’t protect themselves, I’ve never seen it. Bernie Sanders is the kind of person who goes to bed at night thinking about how to increase the heating-oil aid program for the poor.

This is why his entrance into the 2016 presidential race is a great thing and not a mere footnote to the inevitable coronation of Hillary Clinton as the Democratic nominee. If the press is smart enough to grasp it, his entrance into the race makes for a profound storyline that could force all of us to ask some very uncomfortable questions.

Here’s the thing: Sanders is a politician whose power base is derived almost entirely from the people of the state of Vermont, where he is personally known to a surprisingly enormous percentage of voters.

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His chief opponents in the race to the White House, meanwhile, derive their power primarily from corporate and financial interests. That doesn’t make them bad people or even bad candidates necessarily, but it’s a fact that the Beltway-media cognoscenti who decide these things make access to money the primary factor in determining whether or not a presidential aspirant is “viable” or “credible.” Here’s how the Wall Street Journal put it in their story about Sanders (emphasis mine):

It is unclear how much money Mr. Sanders expects to raise, or what he thinks he needs to run a credible race. Mr. Sanders raised about \$7 million for his last re-election in Vermont, a small state. Sums needed to run nationally are far larger.

The Washington/national press has trained all of us to worry about these questions of financing on behalf of candidates even at such an early stage of a race as this.

In this manner we’re conditioned to believe that the candidate who has the early assent of a handful of executives on Wall Street and in Hollywood and Silicon Valley is the “serious” politician, while the one who is merely the favorite of large numbers of human beings is an irritating novelty act whose only possible goal could be to cut into the numbers of the real players.

Sanders offers an implicit challenge to the current system of national electoral politics. With rare exceptions, campaign season is a time when the backroom favorites of financial interests are marketed to the population. Weighed down by highly regressive policy intentions, these candidates need huge laboratories of focus groups and image consultants to guide them as they grope around for a few lines they can use to sell themselves to regular working people.

Sanders on the other hand has no constituency among the monied crowd. “Billionaires do not flock to my campaign,” he quipped. So what his race is about is the reverse of the usual process: he’ll be marketing the interests of regular people to the gatekeeping Washington press, in the hope that they will give his ideas a fair shot.

It’s a little-known fact, but we reporters could successfully sell Sanders or Elizabeth Warren or any other populist candidate as a serious contender for the White House if we wanted to. Hell, we told Americans it was okay to vote for George Bush, a man who moves his lips when he reads.

But the lapdog mentality is deeply ingrained and most Beltway scribes prefer to wait for a signal from above before

they agree to take anyone not sitting atop a mountain of cash seriously.

Thus this whole question of “seriousness” – which will dominate coverage of the Sanders campaign – should really be read as a profound indictment of our political system, which is now so openly an oligarchy that any politician who doesn’t have the blessing of the bosses is marginalized before he or she steps into the ring.

I remember the first time I was sold on Bernie Sanders as a politician. He was in his congressional office and he was ranting about the fact that many of the manufacturing and financial companies who asked him and other members of congress for tax breaks and aid were also in the business of moving American jobs overseas to places like China.

Sanders spent years trying to drum up support for a simple measure that would force any company that came to Washington asking for handouts to promise they wouldn’t turn around and ship jobs to China or India.

That didn’t seem like a lot to ask, but his fellow members treated him like he was asking for a repeal of the free enterprise system. This issue drove Sanders crazy. Again showing his Brooklyn roots, Bernie gets genuinely mad about these things. While some pols are kept up at night worrying about the future profitability of gazillionaire banks, Sanders seethes over the many obvious wrongs that get smoothed over and covered up at his place of work.

That saltiness, I’m almost sure of it, is what drove him into this race. He just can’t sit by and watch the things that go on, go on. That’s not who he is.

When I first met Bernie Sanders, I’d just spent over a decade living in formerly communist Russia. The word “socialist” therefore had highly negative connotations for me, to the point where I didn’t even like to say it out loud.

But Bernie Sanders is not Bukharin or Trotsky. His concept of “Democratic Socialism” as I’ve come to understand it over the years is that an elected government should occasionally step in and offer an objection or two toward our progress to undisguised oligarchy. Or, as in the case of not giving tax breaks to companies who move factories overseas, our government should at least *not finance* the disappearance of the middle class.

Maybe that does qualify as radical and unserious politics in our day and age. If that’s the case, we should at least admit how much trouble we’re in.

Congratulations, Bernie. Good luck and give ‘em hell. 🐘

From the publisher: History, stories and change

According to my dictionary, history is “a branch of knowledge that records and explains past events.” Since obviously there is a whole lot going on all the time everywhere, some selectivity is involved in what make the cut. Similarly, within what gets recorded are different points of view of the same events. As time passes, the culture will adopt certain versions as the accepted history.



Joe Courter

If history is “a branch of knowledge,” knowledge is said to be “a clear perception of truth.” Truth is said to be “the real state of things.” What we see with history is that it is a nice ideal, but it turns out to be in some cases more “stories” than history. The bombshell story dropped this week by famed investigative journalist Seymour Hersh about the false narrative regarding the killing of Osama Bin Laden (see link in Editors’ Picks, page 24) is huge. While I am sure the right wing will go nuts over it, this update should give pause to everyone as to the myths and stories our government and our culture throw at us everyday. There was a great book a while back called “Lies My Teacher Told Me;” there could be a whole series on lies other sources produce. I had a wise friend tell me years ago about watching TV with her child and making a game of recognizing the lies and deception being told in commercials. “What are they trying to get you to believe?”

Speaking of lies, deception and false narratives, the 2016 presidential race is forming up. I can’t even begin to comprehend the array of folks lining up under the “R” banner, other than that it’s a tribute to the silo-ed momentum created by talk radio, right wing preachers and fear-mongering Fox News that anyone even takes them seriously. This paints a picture though: <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/08/opinion/fringe-festival.html?_r=0>.

The “D” side has gotten much more interesting with the declared candidacy of Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders. I have seen an interesting mix of responses to this development, including some from a rather cynical side who believe this is yet another pacifier for the Left to get behind (think Jesse Jackson or Dennis Kucinich), only to have them drop out and request that the mainstream Democrat be supported. Yes, that has been the pattern, but I quibble with this attitude for these reasons. First, Bernie is a firm established independent socialist/social democrat voice with a long track record and a clear platform (see it on page 1). Perfect, no, but you aren’t gonna get perfect. If nothing else, he creates a construct to bring these issues forward in the public debate, and this just might work to stimulate LOCAL participation of progressive candidates who actually CAN do progressive social change.

Watching how the agreed-to six debates play out will be revealing. There are so many disaffected voters out there, Sanders’ campaign could get legs in an exciting populist insurgency. Not saying he can win, I am saying it is a teachable moment, and those lessons may pay off down the line.

Folks, you and I know this system is broken; corporate power and big money have seized control of the two parties more firmly than ever. Their opinion researchers feed us what they know will provoke the response they want, and avoid addressing fundamental larger issues. But through the internet we can go deeper. To see where Bernie stands on the issues, visit <https://berniesanders.com/issues/>

We are not going to turn things around with one candidate, one election or on one issue, but IF it is going to happen, it’ll be in steps. This could be a start. 🐘

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Which banners are illegal?



Soon after the City closed the Bo Diddley Plaza for construction March first, green screening went up around it. Fine. Then recently, the banners shown in the photo above (left) went up: 6 feet high, 10 feet wide, and 75 of them ringing the Plaza. You'd think there would be a city code about such tacky, ugly visual pollution. I guess not if the City does it.

At right is the Coffee Shop banner the Rad Press Cafe had in front of the CMC. Had. City Codes Enforcement came by and said it had to go or they'd be fined. The Rad Press Cafe had just reopened and the sign was helping draw people in. This is beyond absurd. I mean, really!

(By the way, Rad Press Cafe is open 10 to 6, Monday thru Saturday, great teas and coffee. Good food. Lots to read. Internet. But no banner. Check them out.) ☘



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Juneteenth Celebration: Saturday, June 20

The Alachua County Library District invites the community to celebrate 150 years of freedom and commemorate the end of slavery at the 8th Annual Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 20, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Cone Park Branch Library, 2801 E. University Avenue. This year marks the 150th anniversary of Juneteenth, a day of recognition and celebration of the end of African American slavery in the United States. This spirited community event features music, exhibits, food, refreshments and door prizes.

This celebration shares the history of Juneteenth from June 19, 1865, when the news that the Civil War had ended and all slaves were free finally reached Galveston, Texas. That was two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. Annual Juneteenth celebrations began in Texas and slowly spread across the country. In 1980, Texas became the first state to establish Juneteenth as an official state holiday. Currently, 36 states recognize Juneteenth as a holiday or day of special observance.

Performing artists include Africa 2000, gospel group Marion Clark and New Vision, the Lavern Porter Dancers, jazz and blues singer Quintina Crawford, jazz musician Lanard Perry, Company of Praise performing old spirituals A Capella style, The Last of the Gunslingers, rap and hip/hop group Fleetwood the Boss and others.

The Cone Park Branch works with its community partners to host the Juneteenth Celebration to foster a better understanding of history and provide families with a fun, educational event. Organizations and groups such as Gainesville Housing Authority,

Department of Children and Families, PACE Center for Girls, Healthy Families, Community Action Agency, Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, City of Gainesville/Bicycle-Pedestrian Program, GRACE Marketplace, Waste Management Recycling Program and others will have information available about their programs and opportunities for area youth as well as activities for children. The Library District will sign up kids, teens and adults for its Summer Reading Adventures. All ages are welcome.

For additional information, please visit the Library District's eBranch at www.aclib.us or contact Nickie Kortus at (352) 334-3909, nkortus@aclib.us.

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Activist Dezeray Lyn speaks on justice for Palestine, June 3

On Wednesday, June 3, at 7pm, the Civic Media Center and Students for Justice in Palestine will welcome guest speaker Dezeray Lyn. She will give a report back from two months in the occupied Palestinian Territories.

Dezeray Lyn has been a long-time community organizer around issues of animal rights, houselessness, and economic injustice. After watching Israel’s brutal assault on Gaza during last year’s “Operation Protective Edge,” which left thousands of Palestinians dead, many of them children, Dezeray co-founded Block the Boat Tampa, to contribute to the ongoing Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement making Israel pay an economic cost for its human rights violations, atrocities, and occupation of Palestine.

More recently, Dezeray joined the International Women’s Peace Service and spent two months in the occupied West Bank providing international accompaniment to Palestinian civilians, resisting house demolitions, documenting and intervening in human right abuses, telling the forgotten stories of Palestinian mothers and political prisoners, and supporting acts of non-violent resistance to end the illegal Israeli occupation. Dezeray will share her experiences of the profound suffering of life under occupation but also the courageous strength, perseverance, and resilience of everyday Palestinian people who continue daily to resist oppression. Finally, Dezeray will speak on what we, as allies, can do to help end this occupation and support freedom for all Palestinians.

The event is at 7pm, the CMC is at 433 S. Main Street ☘

RACE, from p. 1

to dislike black people. He’d realized the unlearning was the work he needed to do on his own.

People of color should not be expected to educate white people about the ways individual or institutional white favoritism harms all of us, some more than others. But if white people want to be true allies in racial justice work, they should listen to the people of color who choose to engage them. Changing racially biased thoughts and behaviors requires internal and systemic transformation, and it requires this of all of us. Here are some things to remember when engaging in the dialogue:

1. White is a race too.

When the first lady Michelle Obama gave a commencement speech recently at Tuskegee University, media outlets noted her focus on “race” — something many equated exclusively with being black. Obama had simply shared her experiences of racial antagonism as a black woman and first black FLOTUS. By default, this meant speaking about the force of white racial supremacy in her life.

Nevertheless, peevish pundits like Rush Limbaugh stated on his radio show, “Michelle Obama is on a roll. She is playing the race card, she’s doubling down on it.”

When the term “race” is used in public conversation, it is typically interpreted as a reference to everything but white people.

Yet though “American history offers up a large bounty of commentary on what it means to be nonwhite, moving easily between alternations in the meaning of race as color, from ‘colored’ to ‘Negro’ to ‘Afro American’ to ‘black’ to ‘African-American’,” historian Nell Irvin Painter writes in her book *The History of White People*, “little attention has been paid to history’s equally confused and flexible discourses on the white races.”

In other words, “race” is not shorthand for “black” or “brown,” and “white” is not an invisible or nonexistent racial category; it too, has been socially constructed.

2. Racism isn’t about “evil individuals.”

For many of us, racism is exemplified only when something dramatic occurs, like a cross being burned in front of a black person’s home, or a person of color being called a derogatory term. Though these obvious displays of bias reflect the beliefs at the root of structural racism, they are not the cause of widespread systemic inequity.

“It’s not just a matter of private evil individuals. We get this picture of these white racists walking around with horns, you know, who use the ‘N-word’ all the time, and I guess look like Cliven Bundy,” Ta-Nehisi Coates said in a recent speech at Johns Hopkins University. “But Cliven Bundy has never really been the threat; it’s the policy that’s the threat. And many of those people, are people who look like you and me ... They’re mothers and fathers — good people, nice to their neighbors, but these are people who are responsible for policies in our country that leave us where we are.”

3. Silence and complicity are as dangerous than burning crosses and the “N-word.”

Addressing racism is less about finding bigoted

individuals (though those matter as well), than ending policies that disproportionately place nonwhite people at higher risk of overcriminalization, economic inequity, limited health care access, police killings and limited access to housing.

One doesn’t need to actively level slurs at black people to participate in structural racism. All of us must examine the extent to which we support policies, however inadvertently, that negatively impact nonwhite people. Silence at the dinner table when derogatory words or biased ideas are shared and simply being aware of the material effects of racial inequality is not the same as doing active work to ensure equity.

4. Racial “colorblindness” is fiction.

Pretending not to see race doesn’t mean race doesn’t exist; even if it is socially constructed, its effects are real.

Millennials were largely raised with the ethos of colorblindness (itself an ableist term), but despite the general understanding that they are the country’s most racially tolerant cohort, some research suggests their attitudes aren’t all that progressive. Millennials not only see race, but some are blatantly racist. In March, for example, members of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at the University of Oklahoma were caught on video singing a racist song.

We must consider the ways racial groups fare differently in a country that has historically considered white people (especially men) its only fully participatory citizens. Our concept of race shapes the ways we see ourselves in relation to others, and only by acknowledging racial differences can we truly move forward. This is why many believe instead of being colorblind, we should be color-aware. It’s also why chanting “all lives matter” is reductive; they do, but all lives aren’t being affected by systemic, racist violence.

5. Racism is not rational, but angry response to racism is.

Well-meaning white people sometimes urge people of color to talk about race “rationally” or without emotion during discussions on race and racism. But the history of racial supremacy against indigenous and other people of color in the U.S. is brutal. Nonwhite people — those of us who have been impacted by individual and institutional forms of racial oppression — have every right to express anger and disappointment when confronted with individual and institutional racism.

The assumption that people who are emotional when discussing race and racism is a way of insinuating they lack critical awareness, and is an easy way to dismiss another’s lived reality. But the experiences of people of color in this country are not valid only when they are deemed dispassionate enough by white people.

6. The devil didn’t make you do it.

Nancy Gordeuk, the white director of the TNT Academy in Atlanta, was caught on video Friday telling a commencement audience following a mishap in the program, “You people are being so rude to not listen to this speech. It was my fault that we missed it in the program. Look who’s leaving — all the black people.”

In her letter of apology sent out to the parents, Gordeuk claimed, “The devil was in the house and came out from my mouth. I deeply apologize for my racist comment and hope that forgiveness is in your hearts.”

Rather than resort to blaming Satan and acquitting herself, Gordeuk should have taken responsibility for her actions. Most people might sooner blame bad parents, society or media for the harmful biases they maintain of other racial groups, but communal change will be impossible if we don’t commit to self-transformation. Self-transformation requires honest accountability; it means we must own our shit.

7. Truth-telling is not anti-white racism.

Saida Grundy, an incoming assistant professor of sociology and African-American studies at Boston University, recently came under fire by conservative media outlets for a series of comments she made on her personal Twitter account. SoCawlege posted some of Grundy’s personal tweets on its website.

Some media outlets described Grundy’s

comments as “angry tweets about white people” when in fact Grundy was offering her valid perspective as a black woman, who also happens to be a scholar in the U.S. More importantly, she offered a series of much needed counter-narratives of black history.

Sociologists have long used research as justification for arguing the failures of black communities and families were intrinsic to black communities and black people. For example, Daniel Moynihan’s report under the Johnson administration, *The Negro Family: The Case for National Action*, argued that black matriarchy was one of the main factors contributing to the problems within black families.

Terms like “cultural pathology” and “culture of poverty” are often cited as a way to locate the problem in communities of color and never the white racial supremacist structure. Grundy’s comments illuminated this issue. Rather than reading her comments as anti-white people, we should read them as critical responses to the problem of structural racism.

8. Can’t we all just get along?

Quick answer: Yes. But there are some steps we cannot skip before moving to true reconciliation.

For America, restorative justice means reckoning with the atrocious past that has shaped our present conditions of inequity. White racial supremacy is an insidious system, an abusive system, which disproportionately impacts the well-being of people of color through a set of racially biased ideologies, practices, policies and laws.

So long as we continue to hide race and racism behind the “post” prefix, we won’t deal with this reality. And until we deal with this reality, we cannot move forward. ☘

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On Tuesday, April 21, a street picket called “Self-Determination for Women: Abortion & Miscarriage Should Not be Crimes” organized at University Avenue and 13th Street in opposition to the arrests and imprisonment of women around the country, as well as the Florida Legislature’s plan to require a 24-hour waiting period before an abortion.

The event was organized by National Women’s Liberation and the National Organization for Women.

Photo by Candi Churchill, National Women’s Liberation.

State legislative update from FL NOW

by Florida National Organization for Women

Learn more at www.flnow.org.

BILLS WE OPPOSE:

SB 724/HB 633: Informed Patient Consent — This bill forces a 24-hour waiting period on a woman before having an abortion. This is an unnecessary requirement as women have already received state-mandated counseling and made a deliberate and fully informed decision.

ACTION ALERT: Unfortunately, this bill DID make it through both Houses and has been sent to the Governor. YOUR SUPPORT IS STILL NEEDED. Please call Governor Scott and tell him to veto this bill in the interest of women’s lives and women’s health.

Phone: (850) 717-9337

Email through this link: <http://www.flgov.com/contact-gov-scott/email-the-governor/>
Sign the petition: <https://goo.gl/LtxNq4>

SB 920/HB 147: Abortion — This bill would require abortion providers to obtain admitting privileges at a local hospital. Also known as a Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP) bill this bill is aimed at making it almost impossible for a doctor to provide a legal abortion.

SB N/A & HB 247 Abortion — This bill is filed every year by Representative Van Zant. It is basically an all-out ban on abortion care, with very limited exceptions for life of the mother.

SB 1464 & HB 583 Single-Sex Public Facilities — This proposed bill would make it illegal for a person to enter a public facility designated as single-sex if the person was

not born a biological member of that sex. The measure would apply to bathrooms, dressing rooms, fitting rooms, locker rooms and showers, or wherever there is a “reasonable expectation of privacy.” This bill disproportionately targets Florida’s transgender community, which won legal protection from discrimination with a Human Rights Ordinance in December.

SB 0096 & HB 0077 Patriotic Film Screening — This proposed bill would require the screening of a right-wing propaganda film to all Florida students in middle and high school. The film is named “America: Imagine the World Without Her,” and according to Wikipedia, it is a partisan, conservative-based film aimed to “contrast to perceived liberal critiques of its history.”

SB 1248 & HB 943/PCS 943 Alimony Bill — This bill was submitted in 2012 and passed both the House and the Senate. Governor Scott vetoed it due to its retroactivity. So the authors have removed the retroactivity clauses and tried to make it more palatable. But in the end it takes away much needed support from predominantly women who have chosen to stay home and take care of the family. This bill forces 50/50 child custody and tiered pre-determined levels of alimony. Divorce is not a problem to be dealt with in a cookie cutter manner and discretion should not be taken away from the judges. (PASSED IN HOUSE, IN COMMITTEE IN SENATE)

BILLS WE SUPPORT:

SB 0088 /HB 8001 Equal Rights For Men and Women — Submitted by Sen Joyner and Rep Berman to ratify the ERA in Florida. By ratifying the ERA we would whittle down the number of states needed to pass

the ERA federally.

SB 982/HB 625 The Florida Civil Rights/ Pregnancy Non-Discrimination Act — Protects pregnant women from discrimination and potential firing based on the condition of pregnancy. These rights are protected under Federal law and this bill will bring Florida in line with Federal protections. (PASSED — SENT TO GOVERNOR)

SB 98 /HB 25 Employment Discrimination — Equal employment rights are protected under Federal Law but taking these kinds of suits to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is costly and lengthy. This bill would especially protect women’s pay under Florida law.

SB 156 / HB 33 Prohibited Discrimination — Known as the Florida Competitive Workforce act would include sexual orientation and gender identity and other designations as impermissible grounds for discrimination in the workplace.

SB 1106/ HB 465 Human Trafficking; SB 1108/ HB 467 Public Records/Human Trafficking victims; SB 1110/ HB 469 Public Records/Sexual Exploitation victims — This legislation strengthens laws regarding enhanced criminal penalties for soliciting another to commit prostitution & similar offenses and requires persons convicted of such offenses to perform community service & pay for & attend education instead of incarceration. A bill to protect from public records the expunged criminal records of victims of human trafficking. A bill to protect from public records safe houses, safe foster homes, and other residential facilities serving victims of sexual exploitation.

See FL NOW, p. 20

Judge’s recommendation threatens Silver Springs

by Karen Ahlers

Despite evidence that Florida’s iconic Silver Springs would be further degraded from the over-pumping of groundwater and increased nutrient pollution, an Administrative Law Judge has recommended approval of a permit for the massive cattle operation, Sleepy Creek Lands (formerly known as Adena Springs Ranch). The Judge’s ruling is the result of a legal challenge by Sierra Club, St. Johns Riverkeeper, and two citizens, Jeri Baldwin and Karen Ahlers. Florida Defenders of the Environment also supported this challenge as an Intervener.

Sleepy Creek Lands and its owner, Canadian billionaire Frank Stronach, are seeking a permit to pump 1.46 million gallons a day from the already-stressed Floridan Aquifer for the first phase of a multi-phase beef operation near Silver Springs and the Ocklawaha River Aquatic Preserve. The proposed project has created uproar from concerned citizens throughout the state.

“The declining health of Silver Springs is emblematic of the significant water quality and water use problems we are facing throughout Florida,” said Karen Ahlers. “The Sleepy Creek permit represents everything that is wrong with our regulatory process and the way we allocate the public’s water, and is a classic example of the state’s ongoing failure to protect our most important water resources.”

The administrative hearing revealed that the 9,500 head of cattle planned for Phase I will produce nearly 158 million pounds of manure and 11 million gallons of urine a year. 700,000 pounds of nitrogen from fertilizer will be used to grow grass and crops to feed the cattle.

The petitioners presented evidence that the aquifer is critically over-tapped in the Silver Springs springshed, and that the fertilizer and manure will increase nutrient pollution in the Silver and Ocklawaha Rivers. The flow of Silver Springs has already de-

clined on average by more than 30 percent, and nitrate concentrations have increased 20-fold over healthy background levels. In 2012, the state of Florida introduced a cleanup plan calling for a 79 percent reduction in nutrient pollution from existing users to protect Silver Springs and the upper Silver River.

The legal challenge was in response to the proposal by St. Johns River Water Management District staff to grant the requested permit to Sleepy Creek Lands, despite overwhelming evidence that groundwater in the area is already over-allocated and existing permitted withdrawals are contributing to the significant flow reductions at Silver Springs.

While disappointed, the petitioners say the battle is not over. The parties have an opportunity to file written exceptions to the Recommended Order, explaining where they think the Judge erred in his determinations. The Judge’s recommendation and the exceptions will then be considered by the St Johns River Water Management District Governing Board.

A weak part of the Judge’s conclusions is his finding that the proposed withdrawal is “consistent with the public interest,” said St. Johns Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman. “Allowing our over-pumped aquifer and polluted waterways to be further degraded for the economic benefit of a private landowner is completely contrary to the public interest. The Judge’s recommendation elevates the economic interests of a few about the damage that will likely occur to Silver Springs, Silver River and the Ocklawaha River, and ignores the testimony of nearly 50 citizens who spoke as part of the administrative hearing process.”

Sierra Club’s Linda Bremer echoed Rinaman’s sentiments. “The water management district is tasked with protecting the springs, rivers, and groundwater that belong to the citizens of this state. We should not have to fight so hard to protect our water resources and hold our regulatory agencies accountable.” 🌵

Civic Media Center Events — June 2015

Every Tuesday	Yoga with Teonia Burton - 5pm
Every Thursday	Volunteer Meeting - 5:30pm & Poetry Jam - 8pm
Fri, May 22	A Community of Calling In: Intervention Skills Workshop - 6pm
Sat, May 23	Wild Iris Free Store - 2pm to 6pm
Mon, May 25	“War Made Easy” -7pm
Fri, May 29	Artwalk at CMC: Lexi Braun, live music and Mexican food! - 6pm
Sat, May 30	Yoga Brunch Benefit for Rootersville - 10am - 1pm
Mon, June 1	“Pinkwashing Exposed: Seattle Fights Back!” - 7pm
Wed, June 3	Report Back from Occupied Palestinian Territory w/ Dezeray Lyn - 7pm
Fri, June 5	Culture, Tradition and 9 (mis)Appropriation Workshop - 7pm
Sat, June 6	Wild Iris Free Store - 2pm to 6pm
Sat, June 6	Live Music Ms. Charm Taylor & Baron Amato - 9pm
Mon, June 8	“Plastic Paradise” - 7pm
Wed, June 10	Beginners Irish Dance Lessons - 7:30pm
Wed, June 10	Live folk music with Little Strike, Bora & TBA - 9:30pm
Mon, June 15	“Hot Coffee” - 7pm
Wed, June 17	Beginners Irish Dance Lessons - 7:30pm
Sat, June 20	Wild Iris Free Store - 2pm - 6pm
Mon, June 22	Documentary TBA - 7pm
Wed, June 24	Beginners Irish Dance Lessons - 7:30pm
Fri, June 26	Ayotzinapa and Iguala Mass Kidnapping Presentation - 7pm
Mon, June 29	Documentary TBA - 7pm

433 S. Main Street 373-0010 www.civicmediacenter.org
Park just to the south at SE 5th Ave., (see sign), or after 7pm at the courthouse (just north of 4th Ave.), or GRU (2 blocks east of CMC) Check website for details, additional events.



“Oh Beautiful for smoggy skies,
insecticided grain,
For strip-mined mountain’s majesty
above the asphalt plain.
America, America, man sheds his
waste on thee,
And hides the pines with billboard
signs, from sea to oily sea.”

-- George Carlin

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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: <http://laborcoalition.org/>, info@laborcoalition.org, 352.375.2832, 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 Vine Bread & Pasta place at 627 N. Main St. 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.

The Community Weatherization Coalition is a grassroots community coalition whose mission is to improve home weatherization and energy efficiency for low-income households through education, volunteer work projects and community-building. The CWC welcomes new volunteers to get involved in a variety of ways, from performing audits, to PR/Graphics and more. Contact: 352.450.4965 or cwc@communityweatherization.net

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 works to protect freshwater resources, conserve public lands, and provide quality environmental education since 1969, 352-475-1119, 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. gainesvillefnnb@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. www.harvestofhope.net, email: kellerhope@cox.net.

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

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

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

Industrial Workers of the World Local union organizing all workers. Meetings are at the Civic Media Center the first Sunday of the month at 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.



Mayo-Junio

The Gainesville Iguana

May-June

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

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 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.

24 Vets for Peace Memorial Mile display continues - see pg 20.

Keep up with the CMC at www.civicmediacenter.org for events created after this calendar was printed, and into the future (also see pg 9).

1941: Robert "Bob Dylan" Zimmerman born.

31 Eat Local Challenge community celebration, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), 1 pm, free - see pg 21.



1538: Conquistadors led by Hernando deSoto begin 3-year pillaging spree in Florida.
1819: Walt Whitman born.
1930: Clint Eastwood born.

7 Gvl Atheist Brunch (potluck), Thomas Ctr lawn, 11 am.

Steve Berry in Authors at the Library series, Millhopper Branch (3145 NW 43rd St), 2 pm.

"What's Next?" - LGBTQ community planning meeting, Pride Ctr (3131 NW 13th St), 2:30 pm.

Women's Movie Night, 1st Sundays, Pride Center, 7 pm.

14 If you appreciate this calendar, please consider supporting the Ig with a donation &/or subscription: PO Box 14712, Gainesville FL 32604.
1789: Rev. Elijah Craig distills 1st corn whiskey.

21 SUMMER SOLSTICE FATHER'S DAY
1964: 3 civil rights workers killed by Klan in Mississippi.

28 Earth Charter 15th Anniversary Celebration time & place tba- see fcnpj-slc.org.

Monday
Lunes

25 Seminoles & US Casualties from 2nd Seminole War memorialized by color guards from Seminole tribe & UF Army ROTC, 607 NE Cholak Blvd, Micanopy, 10 am.

Vets for Peace Memorial Mile display ends (near sundown) - see pg 20.

War Made Easy, Civic Media Center (433 S. Main St), 7 pm.

MEMORIAL DAY
TOWEL DAY

June 1 Pinkwashing Exposed - Seattle Fights Back!, CMC documentary night film, 7 pm.

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

1843: Isabella Baumfree changes name to Sojourner Truth.

HURRICANE SEASON OPENS

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

Plastic Paradise: the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, CMC, 7 pm.

1968: Israeli Defense Force attacks USS Liberty.

15 Hot Coffee, well-regarded documentary on corporate legal defense strategies, at CMC, 7 pm.
Gvl Food Security Group meets 3rd Mondays, Highlands Presbyterian Church (1001 NE 16th Ave), 7 pm.
GCAT meets - see 6/1.

22 CMC Documentary Night - see civicmediacenter.org for details, 7 pm.

1898: US Marines invade Havana.

29 CMC Documentary tba - see civicmediacenter.org, 7 pm.

Tuesday
Martes

19 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.

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

"Florida's Fight for 15" - Kelly Benjamin at Labor Coalition meeting, ACEA Hall (618 NW 13th Ave), 6:30 pm.

Law in the Library: Child Support: Archer Branch, 6 pm.

2 School Board meets, 6 pm.
The Conch - storytelling night every 1st Tues, Lightnin' Salvage, 7 pm.



1863: Harriet Tubman & 300 African-American US troops free 750 slaves in So. Carolina raids.

FULL MOON

9 Alachua County Comm meets - see 5/26.



1978: Mormons open membership to black men.

16 School Board, 6 pm.
PFLAG meets, United Church (1624 NW 5th Ave), 7 pm - see pg 5.

Secret Walls Women's Healing drum circle, Wild Iris, 7 pm

BLOOMSDAY

23 Alachua County Comm meets - see 5/26
Alachua Cty Labor Coalition meets, ACEA Hall, 6:30 pm.

30 1966: Nat'l Organization for Women founded.

Wednesday
Miercoles

20 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.

Inequality for All, CMC, 7 pm.

Humanists meet - UUFG (4225 NW 34th St), 6:30 pm.

1865: Emancipation Proclamation first read in Tallahassee.



1647: Salem, Mass, hangs first accused witch of Christian "New World", Ahsah Young.

1956: Tallahassee bus boycott begins.

3 "From the Occupied West Bank" - UF Students for Justice in Palestine report, CMC, 7 pm - see pg 6.

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

1972: Sally Jan Priesand ordained 1st woman rabbi in US.

10 Citizens' Climate Lobby meets, Vine Bread & Pasta (627 N. Main St), 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.

Irish Set Dancing intro, CMC, 7:30 pm (also 6/17 & 6/24), \$5.

Little Strike, Bora, others play acoustic music at CMC, 9:30 pm.

17 Humanists: author Brandon Haught on evolution in Fla schools - UUFG (4225 NW 34th St), 7 pm.



24 1842: Ambrose Bierce born.

July 1 FULL MOON

Thursday
Jueves

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

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

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

Planetary & 5 Flights Up final nights, Hipp Cinema, 6:30/8:30 pm.

Citizens Co-op membership meeting, CMC, 6:30 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.

28 "Peace4Gainesville" event by River Phoenix Peacebuilding Ctr, CIED (530 E Univ Ave), 3:30 pm.

CMC Volunteers, 5:30 pm.

Open Poetry, CMC, 8 pm.



1888: Jim Thorpe born.

1892: Sierra Club founded.

1902: Corliss Lamont born.

4 CMC Volunteers, 5:30 pm.

"Rising Seas: What Can Floridians Expect?", 1st Magnitude (1220 SE Veitch St), 6 pm.

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

Open Poetry, CMC, 8 pm.

1989: Chinese troops kill uncounted protesters in Tien An Men Square.

11 CMC Volunteers, 5:30 pm.
Open Poetry, CMC, 8 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.

18 Archie Carr Family Cabin preservation benefit, Matheson Museum, 6 pm, \$25; pg 21.

Storytellers event at 1st Magnitude (1220 SE Veitch St), 6-8 pm.

Invasion of Privacy at Santa Fe Fine Arts Hall (3000 NW 83rd St), 7:30 pm, also 6/19 & 6/20; \$9-15.

Open Poetry, CMC, 8 pm.

25 Volunteers & Poets at CMC, usual times.

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

Friday
Viernes

22 "Community of Calling In" workshop, CMC, 6 pm.

Copenhagen opens at Actors Warehouse (608 N. Main St), 8 pm; runs through 6/7.

"I Am Big Bird" at The Woolly (20 N. Main St), 8 pm; through 5/29; \$5.

"Celebrating Our Womanhood" overnight event at River Phoenix Peacebuilding Ctr, \$150-200; see centrforpeacebuilding.org.

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

29 Farm to Family Music full moon weekend concert opens 2 pm - see farmtofamilymusic.com & pg 24.

Gvl Artwalk, 7 pm - includes CMC rent party: see pp 21 & 22.

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

Flagship Romance & Friction Farm at Prairie Creek Lodge (7204 SE Cty Rd 234), 8 pm, \$20.

Honky Tonk Angels opens at Hipp, 8 pm (discount previews 27th & 28th).

5 "Culture, Tradition and [mis] Appropriation" workshop, CMC, 7 pm.

Whiskey & Co, Wax Wings, Hard Luck Society, Rob Coe & Chelsea, The Atlantic, 9 pm.

Whether here or anywhere: please support live music!

12 Invasion of Privacy preview performance party w/ cast & director, Matheson Museum, 6 pm, \$35 - see mathesonmuseum.org & pg 21.

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

1963: Medgar Evers murdered.
1964: Nelson Mandela sentenced to life in prison.

19 IGUANA Deadline for July-Aug issue is June 29th; write gainesvilleiguana@cox.net or call 378-5655 with events, updates, advertisements & info.

JUNETEENTH

26 Gay Movie Night - see 5/29.
Gvl Artwalk, last Fridays, 7 pm.

Ayotzinapa & Iguala Mass Kidnapping presentation, CMC, 7 pm.

3 1982: Mumia Abu-Jamal sentenced to death.

Saturday
Sabado

23 Vets for Peace Memorial Mile display begins - see pg 20.

Culinary History of Fla, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), 1 pm, \$5.

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

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

A Piece of My Heart (play of US women in Vietnam war), Acrosstown Repertory Theatre (619 S. Main St), 8 pm, \$15 (\$13 vets/seniors/students); runs through 6/7.

Annual Fla Folk Festival, White Springs, Sat & Sun - check Scene.

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

Yoga Brunch Benefit for Rootersville, CMC, 10 am, \$10-20 slide.

Waldorf at the Woolly Benefit, 7 pm.

Shambles at Market St Pub, 9 pm.

6 School's Out Local Food/Music Festival, w/ art, games, more: 1st Magnitude (1220 SE Veitch St), 11 am, \$10 (kids \$5)-see foragefarm.org.

"Celebrate the Life of Abby Goldsmith" memorial potluck at G'ville Woman's Club (2809 W Univ Ave), 2 pm - see pp 18 & 19.

"Exploring the Masculine" men's weekend retreat - register by 6/2 at centerforpeacebuilding.org: \$200-300.

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

Ms. Charm Taylor & Baron Amato, CMC, 9 pm.

13 1968: Thurgood Marshall nominated to US Supreme Court.
1971: NY Times publishes first of Pentagon Papers.

20 Juneteenth Celebration w/ music, food, prizes, more: Cone Branch Library (2841 E Univ Ave), 10 am-3 pm - see pg 5.

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

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

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

27 "Fla Food in '50s & '60s" talk, Matheson Mus, 1 pm, \$5; pg 21.

Swamp City Sirens vs Jailbreak Betties, see gainesvillerollerrebels.com for location, 6 pm.

4 INDEPENDENCE DAY



History and the people who make it: David Barsamian

Transcript edited by Pierce Butler

This is the 27th in a series of transcript excerpts from the collection of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida.

David Barsamian was interviewed by Paul Ortiz [O] and Matthew Simmons [S] in 2014.

B: I was born in Manhattan in 1945. My parents were from Turkish Armenia. They came to the United States in 1921. They were refugees from one of the major genocides of the twentieth century: the Turkish massacre of the Armenians, which began in 1915.

So growing up in New York, I was bilingual, bicultural, very much part of a different culture while being at the same time a hundred percent American, whatever that means: eating hot dogs, playing stickball in the street, punch ball, basketball, off the point, all these street games, box ball.

At the same time there was this other part of me which was bilingual, bicultural, the Armenian-ness of my background. We spoke Armenian at home. The major informing factor was the genocide and the shadow that it cast over me and everyone in my generation, 'cause it wasn't remote. These weren't my great-forefathers. It was my parents that lived through that.

Three of my four grandparents were killed in the genocide, aunts, uncles, cousins. Worse than the physical annihilation, perhaps—'cause we all die—was the cultural annihilation. The separation from memory and tradition and the land.

We were from a rural farming community. I visited my mother's village in Turkey in 2005. It's completely Kurdish today. I found apricot trees, a creek that she had told me about. It was a very moving experience to go back to this village. Being severed from that connection was very traumatic, much more for the survivors than for me.

The very first interviews I ever did, long before I thought I would do radio as a profession, the very first interviews were with survivors of the genocide 'cause I thought, well, "these people, 70, 75, 80, 85, they're gonna die, they're gonna take all their memories with them."

So, I got a twenty-dollar K-Mart tape recorder, using cassettes in those days, with a really cheap microphone, and I started recording these interviews. Only recently

have I digitized them. One that I did, the very first interview with my mother, was actually taken by the great Indian writer Arundhati Roy in one of her books. She called it Listening to Grasshoppers. It's my mother's story of survival.

It's hard to qualify genocides: it's organized state murder. It's much more impact-



ful than random violence by gangs. They can leverage all the power of the state: the police, the judiciary, the military.

The railroads were harnessed to transport people. This is thirty years before the Holocaust. Hitler knew what had happened to the Armenians in Turkey. He was challenged by some German generals before the outbreak of World War II, that Hitler had already given them orders about massacring Jews.

They said, this is not what we're about. We're a military formation. We want to fight wars, not attack citizens who are not bothering us. Hitler told them, don't worry—who today remembers the extermination of the Armenians? He was right. There was no judicial accounting for the Turkish government, for those perpetrators who carried out this genocide.

Now this story comes full forward to today; 2015 marks the hundredth anniversary of the genocide and the Turkish government to this day denies that it ever happened.

They say, it was World War I, lots of people died. It was tragic, but it wasn't genocide. All the evidence in all the archives—the German government, British government, U.S. government—without doubt documents that it was systematic, it was state-organized, and by every definition, it qualifies as genocide. Turkey is

still in denial, which means what to me and other Armenians? It should matter to everyone because it's a human rights issue. It means there's no closure, there's no acknowledgement. We cannot move forward when our past is being denied. It's a cause of pain to Armenian-Americans and I think citizens of conscience anywhere.

O: What were some of the stories that really stood out to you?

B: I think I would start crying if I had to tell you. They're just heart-breaking and when you hear it from your mother it's like ... I could hardly breathe. It's hard enough interviewing your own mother but hearing about the loss of her three younger brothers, her parents, it's just horrifying that someone had to live through that, someone that you know intimately.

Those were the most difficult interviews I've ever done in my life. Everything I've done since—Chomsky, Zinn, Edward Said, Tariq Ali, Arundhati Roy—those are all snaps in comparison because the emotional kind of cauldron that was churned up talking to your mother was incomparable. In terms of the interviews that people think are very, very difficult with some of the people I just mentioned—Vandana Shiva, Bob McChesney or all these other people that I've talked to—it seems like I was on Mount Everest and since then I've been like gliding down, because that was the most difficult mountain to climb.

I remember someone from my mother's village who told me this story. His parents were killed. The Turks took a lot of young Armenian children and put them in Muslim schools, gave them Muslim identities, Islamic names.

This guy, from my mother's village, his name is Sakishagokyan. I later meet him in East Orange, New Jersey, where he was a tailor. Poor guy, he was living on virtually nothing, but he had a lot of energy and he was big influence on my life. So he was in this Turkish orphanage and every night the headmaster would come around and say, say your name. I am Mustafa Ahmad, and I am a Rakib Haan.

And then when the lights went out, he would jump up from bed and say, I am Sakishagokyan. I am Armenian. I am not Turkish.

So it's an act of defiance by a young kid who managed to keep his identity in that situation of desolation and murder

and dispersion. A lot of kids were just swept up and their identities were lost. A lot of young girls were kidnapped, forced into marriages with much older men, forced to convert to Islam.

Today, in Turkey, there are lotta stories coming out now about, oh yeah, my grandmother, my great-grandmother, she was Armenian. Books have been coming out, so some of those memories are being unearthed, because there's a little more space today in Turkey to talk about the genocide and what happened. Although one has to be very careful.

For example, Orhan Pamuk, the great Turkish novelist, winner of the Nobel Prize, received death threats for talking about the Armenian genocide. He left the country. Elif Shafak, a fine novelist, she left the country. Hrant Dink, a Turkish-Armenian journalist was talking about these issues; he was murdered in broad daylight in Istanbul. So there's still a lot of pressure from the state to hide the history.

O: In the United States, did you grow up with a sense of an Armenian community?

B: Well, in my neighborhood in the Upper East Side of New York, which is a very richy area today, not when I was growing, there were four or five Armenian families and we knew them all. My father had a grocery store, there were a couple of other stores. They did jobs when they came because of their limited English in which they could exploit their own labor and the labor of their children and wives.

My father's store was open seven days a week; he'd open at six in the morning and work 'til ten at night. When I was growing up in the [19]50s, he finally started taking Sundays off and he closed the store at nine o'clock at night. So it'd be Monday to Saturday, six to nine, and he'd make peanuts.

This is before the time of mass industrial agriculture and bananas from Ecuador and mangoes from Mexico. It was white bread, onions, potatoes, eggs, it was beer, and sodas and cigarettes and gum. One of my jobs was to restock the shelves. He wouldn't let me do much 'cause I was a kid, but whenever I could I was very excited to do something useful like that.

There were few Armenian families in our immediate neighborhood. Many men from my father's village escaped before the genocide, so they have a close-knit community that helped one another out. If there was a new immigrant, they would

lend them money so they could start a business. They were all doing businesses. Mostly, grocery stores. I had one uncle, he was married to my father's sister, who had a grocery store in West Harlem about 137th Street. Like that, there was a connection but it was a dispersed community. The church held a lot of the people together.

My mother was very devout in the kind of stereotypical, Mediterranean, cultural way. The women tend to be very religious and the men tend to be indifferent, agnostic, if not atheistic. My father would go to church on Easter and Christmas. The church was a community center, a place where you would meet people.

I had three older siblings. They're all dead now. My oldest brother was twenty-five years older than I and then brother after that was twenty-three, and my sister who died a couple years ago, she was twenty years older. It was odd chronologically-speaking because my siblings were like my parents, age-wise. My brother would take me to Central Park or to the zoo or to a ball game.

My parents chronologically were like my grandparents. I didn't have any grandparents, only my father's mother survived and I knew her a bit. So values, all those platitudes about working hard and being successful in school and getting ahead.

But there was such a gap between me and my parents, they didn't have a clue what I was doing, what school was like or any of that. They had difficulty communicating with me because they were so old world and old and I was so new world, and into Chuck Berry and Elvis Presley and Bill Haley and the Comets, all that music that was breaking then. They couldn't make

anything of that. It was another universe.

The one thing that, of course, is so overwhelming is a constant sense of affection and love. No matter who you are or what you did—and I did some pretty nasty things as a kid, including trying to steal cars and burning down an ice cream parlor that wouldn't serve us kids—they were always there. It was always support and that was unwavering and constant.

There was an appreciation of being alive 'cause when you go through a situation of mass murder where so many of your compatriots, friends, neighbors, and relatives are exterminated, life takes on a kind of extra meaning. I don't want to overstate this, but there's more of an awareness of surviving and how close you came to death that makes life a little more precious, whereas you know, in a typical subdivision in Denton, Texas, you may never experience anything like that.

Search for “David Barsamian” at <http://oral.history.ufl.edu/collection/> for the full transcript of this interview; look for a second segment in the next issue of the Iguana.

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. 🐢

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Looking back: Kent State revisited

What follows is an article from the Iguana in April 1995, Vol 9, #7 we’re publishing as part of an occasional series of “look-backs.” It was published on the 25-year anniversary of the killings at Kent State.

by Joe Courter

May 4th 1995 will mark the 25th anniversary of the 1970 killing of four students at Kent State University by soldiers of the Ohio National Guard. As someone who was a college freshman in the spring of 1970; and active in the anti-war activities that were happening at my campus in southwestern Michigan, these killings had a profound personal impact; they were students of my age doing what I would have been doing had I been there at Kent State. That United States armed and trained soldiers would shoot and kill students made me realize how much the government hated the anti-war movement, and this increased my resolve to oppose the U.S. policy which turned young men into killers, be they soldiers in Vietnam or Ohio. Or Mississippi, where only ten days after the Kent killings, two students were killed at Jackson State in a protest of both the war and the Kent State shootings.

On May 4, 1990, Gainesville held a concert honoring the memory of the students killed twenty years before, and Scott Camil, a former leader of Vietnam Veterans Against the War and more recently Veterans for Peace wrote for the program:

“May 4, 1990 is a day we should remember, honor and pay tribute not only to those who were killed and wounded at Kent State and

Jackson State but also to all of those who have lived up to the responsibility that comes with democracy. We honor those who have put themselves on the line, trying to keep our government from committing crimes and human rights abuses all over the world.”

As time goes by, that the war in Vietnam was a mistake is admitted by more U.S. government officials. On Sunday, April 9, 1995, the headline quotes one the war’s main strategists, former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, saying the “U.S. was wrong to pursue the Vietnam War.”

Unlike our current president who was anti-war then but won’t defend that position now, I’m proud and comfortable and feel history has vindicated the anti-war movement: we saw the lies, we knew the history, and we resisted the undeniably illegal and immoral Vietnam War.

The reason that Kent State and many other campuses and communities flared up in rebellion in 1970 was the April 30 announcement by then-president Richard Nixon that the United States forces in Vietnam had invaded Cambodia, thus widening a war which was supposed to be winding down. I still remember my own outrage, and hollering back at the electronic Nixon on my dorm lounge TV screen.

The tragedy of the student murders at Kent State has never been fully explained, as there were many unresolved issues which still remain cloudy even after investigations and inquiries launched by all sides, including suits by guardsmen against the students, and suits against the guard, as well as fact-finding by the University itself.

Two books, The Fourth of May, by William Gordon, and The Truth About Kent State, by Peter Davies, provide an idea on how things got so out of control that day, an idea which hasn’t gotten much attention (and probably won’t if there is coverage of the 25th anniversary).

Across the country, while opinion of the war was mixed, the long-haired student protesters were not popular with the average American, especially in conservative Ohio. May 5th was primary election day, and incumbent Republican governor James Rhodes was trailing in the polls against Robert Taft Jr. Rhetoric against student protest was pretty vehement, with California governor Ronald Reagan quoted on April 7, 1970 on how to handle campus protest, “If it takes a bloodbath, lets get it over with. No more appeasement.” Vice President Spiro Agnew put it another way:

“We must look to the university that receives our children. Is it prepared to deal with the challenge of the non-democratic left? One modest suggestion for my friends in the academic community: the next time a mob of students, waving their non-negotiable demands, starts pitching bricks and rocks at the Student Union—just imagine they are wearing brown shirts or white sheets and act accordingly.”

So here’s Governor Rhodes, in the wind-up of a close election campaign. And here’s an outbreak of student rebellion at Kent State, beginning with a peaceful rally of 500 at noon on May 1st, then some bonfires, broken windows and looting in Kent downtown that evening.

A focus of attention on the Kent State campus was the ROTC building, an older wooden structure dating back to the 1940s which the campus had been considering for demolition. There

were rumors of an attempt to burn the building on Saturday, May 2, and indeed on that evening students did try. Here’s where it gets weird. According to eyewitnesses, police just watched as student protesters attempted—but failed—to set the building on fire. No arrests were made, and when a small fire did break out and firefighters arrived, they were harassed by protesters and pulled out. Again, no arrests. Police secured the area and the students left to go downtown, returning later in the evening only to find the ROTC building engulfed in flames.

Next morning at 9:00 who’s standing there next to the ruins of the ROTC building being photographed but Governor Rhodes, who helicoptered to Kent to meet with high ranking National Guard Officials and other local, state, and federal officials.

Quoting from tapes of the press conference in the KSU files, William Gordon describes the denouncement of violence at Kent State:

“Rhodes claimed that ‘we are up against the strongest, well-trained militant revolutionary group that has ever assembled in America ... They’re worse than the brown shirts and the Communist element and the night riders and the vigilantes ... [They intend] to destroy higher education in Ohio.’ After Rhodes ended his speech, a reporter asked General Del Corso how long the Guard would remain in Kent. Rhodes, butting in, said, ‘Until we get rid of them [the protesting students].’ He added: ‘Ohio is not only a target. The only thing is we have done something different. Instead of prolonging a fifteen-day [demonstration] at Columbia and a twelve-day [demonstration] at Harvard and three years at Berkeley, we are going to do something about it and with them.’”

Now keep in mind this was a campus where life was pretty well going on normally. A lot of students were out of town over the weekend as usual, and Monday, the day following this inflammatory statement, was a normal class day. But the ROTC building’s burned-out hulk was enough for Rhodes to justify having called out the National Guard, who pulled into Kent just hours after the fire Saturday night.

On Monday, there was a standoff between the National Guard and unarmed students, which ended in coordinated firing by a dozen or so Guardsmen who were no doubt frustrated but not under threat. They killed four and injured several others. On May 5th, Governor Rhodes won the primary election. A few days later, two students were killed at Jackson State in what may be thought of as a copycat crime.

No amount of investigation will bring back Allison Krause, Jeff Miller, William Schroeder or Sandy Scheuer, or ease the memories and pain of their loved ones or those wounded—or those who did the firing. But the bigger question of how things got to that stage is important, and I would ask this:

What role did agent provocateurs play in the events at Kent State? The history of COINTELPRO, the FBI’s program to disrupt dissident groups is now well known. Were they leading the rock-throwing? Did they incite the burning of the ROTC building? Did they commit the arson? Were they in the Guard unit? The fact is Governor Rhodes won his election after escalating a situation of student protest into a killing zone.

Did it all occur for the sake of political theater and political gain? If ABC News even talks about it, will they ask this question? Don’t hold your breath. 🐞

A proposal for a livable wage for Alachua County workers

by The Alachua County Labor Coalition

Throughout the nation, a movement has been fomenting around the need for a living wage. Thousands of workers have gone on strike, politicians have stumped, and large companies such as McDonalds and Walmart have given token raises; but little has been done in Florida to make a living wage a reality. In Alachua County, a coalition of religious organizations, businesses, labor unions, and economic justice activists have come together to make a tangible change for Alachua County workers. Our ambitious goal is to have the 10 largest employers in the County pay a Living Wage by 2020. We aim to enforce Article X, Section 24 of the Florida Constitution, which is currently being scorned by many of our elected officials.

All working Floridians are entitled to be paid a minimum wage that is sufficient to provide a decent and healthy life for them and their families, that protects their employers from unfair low-wage competition, and that does not force them to rely on taxpayer-funded public services in order to avoid economic hardship.

Poverty is the inability to pay for all of life’s necessities without the use of public subsidies or private charities. In Alachua County there are an estimated 61,000 people living under the federal poverty threshold. This represents roughly 26% of all residents, including 1 in 4 children. As a society we decided long ago that we will not allow people to starve, go without emergency health care, ignore the early education of any child, or forgo the necessities of life for anyone who cannot afford them due to disability or low wages.

Most of the families who use government assistance are the working poor. Nearly 7 in 10 households in Alachua County who received Food Stamps/SNAP had 1 or more workers in the past 12 months. This is unsurprising when a whopping 75 percent of the labor force who is in poverty is employed. While unemployment is a major contributing factor to poverty, even once a job is found it’s often not enough to make ends meet. Census data estimates that in Alachua County alone it would take over \$74 million for those below the poverty threshold to overcome their income deficit and meet their basic needs without outside help.

The campaign for a living wage seeks to address the concerns of the working poor by ensuring that all workers can live a dignified life by earning a living wage. In doing so, thousands of workers will be lifted out of poverty and taxpayers will save millions in public assistance to subsidize these artificially low wages.

Achieving a living wage for the 10 largest employers in Alachua County will require varying tactics, strategies, and constant reevaluation. As of April 2015, the City of Gainesville has a Living Wage Ordinance which sets the minimum wage at 100% of the Federal Poverty Level, currently at \$11.66 an hour. However, there are numerous loopholes that allow contractors to avoid paying the mandated living wage. We seek to address these loopholes directly and fully in 2016. The current focus of the living wage campaign is for the County Commission to pass a living wage ordinance for their workforce and those they contract with.

The lowest wage paid to County employees is \$9.92/hour.

See WAGE, p. 20

Abby Goldsmith, rest in power

Abby Goldsmith died peacefully on Monday, April 27, 2015 at her home after a brief illness, surrounded by family and friends.

She was born in Meriden, CT, July 21, 1945 to Dr. Henry and Ingeborg Alberty Caplan.

Her activism commenced with protesting the War in Vietnam and she was arrested and handcuffed in front of her young children on trumped up charges that were soon dismissed. Consequently, she became an anarcho-syndicist and, in 1971, moved with her then partner to Florida; they aimed for Jacksonville but by navigational error ended up in Gainesville. Always wearing black, the color of anarchists, she was known as “Black Abby.” Then, wishing to change the world but becoming disheartened by the disorganization of anarchists, she changed political philosophies several times and settled in as, and forever remained, a Marxist.

Abby spent the rest of her life in Gainesville working for the benefit of the community she loved. In the early ‘70s she was among the founding members of the Rape Information and Counseling Services which evolved into Sexual and Physical Resource Center and what we know today as Peaceful Paths. She continued her involvement and leadership with organizations too numerous to list but including ACLU, NCFAN, PCCNCF, NOW, HRCNCF, CMC, GAAP, Stonewall Demo-

crats, the Humanist Society, Gainesville Women’s Health Center and Helping Hands Clinic. She served on many boards, often in a leadership position and was always willing to assume the tedious but necessary role of taking minutes

When Abby saw an important vacuum needing to be filled she went to work to fill it. A strong advocate for women’s rights and women’s reproductive rights, in 1983 Abby and Donna Burnell cofounded Gainesville Area NOW after NOW had been absent in Gainesville for many years. This NOW chapter exists to this day — among the longest running chapters ever. In 1991 Abby saw a need to create an organization to elect progressives to public office; on the advice of a political consultant, she instead set about to do just that by transforming the local Democratic Party, reenergizing and radicalizing it. Beginning in 1992 she chaired the Alachua County DEC and from that time on the party has been a major participant in local elections, finding progressive or, at least, liberal candidates for city and county elections. Abby didn’t just lead the party, she walked precincts for candidates and issues, distributing literature and talking to voters in election campaigns too numerous to mention.

While volunteering so much time and energy she worked as a nurse for the Alachua County Health Department in the HIV Clinic and Healthy Start program and raised five amazing children. Her

Kenneth “Kenito” Weeks, 1943–2015, peace activist

Kenneth “Kenito” Weeks died April 17 at his home in Gainesville, after a two-year cancer battle. Born in Washington, DC in 1943, he had been a Floridian since 1960 and resident of north Florida since 1978.

Kenito considered himself to be a citizen of the world, and he was involved in the struggles for peace and justice, civil rights, the labor movement, and the environmental and anti-war movements for decades. He was recognized by the Southern Poverty Law Center, the ACLU, and the Nature Conservancy for his dedication, and was a life member of the Sierra Club. He was an active member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the Labor Party of Alachua County Committee of 100, the Industrial Workers of the World, and the United Farm Workers.

Kenito traveled throughout Asia, the Americas, and Europe and worked extensively with the Sierra Club, Casa Nicaraguense, Inter-Religious Fellowship for Community Organization/Pastors for Peace, Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (VOSH), the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice, Proyecto Libertad, Earthwatch Institute, The Saint Augustine-Baracoa (Cuba) Friendship Association, Grandparents for Peace, and Bridges Across Borders.



He observed elections in five countries and served as an official election observer in Nicaragua (1990) and El Salvador (1994). In 1995 he founded the Cuba Information Access, an internet news service that provided the truth about Cuba and the effects of the 55 year U.S. embargo. He opposed the training of Latin American militaries in terrorist tactics, torture, kidnapping and murder by the U.S. government and “crossed the line” many times since 1994 at the annual vigil to close the School of the Americas (SOA/WHINSC) at Fort Benning, GA. Ken was a veteran of six years in the US Marines, a turning point in his life, and became a member of Veterans for Peace in 1990.

In 1997, after a 33 year career, he left Florida Power & Light Company and devoted most of his time to volunteer work, foreign travel and as an advisory board member of Bridges Across Borders, developing projects in Mexico, Colom-

bia and the Darien Gap of Panama. He was dedicated to the struggle for human rights, peace and justice and to bring an end to institutional discrimination as well as political and military repression. He kept the words of Archbishop Oscar Romero always near his lips, “We who have a voice, must speak for the voiceless.”

To cherish his memory is his life partner, best friend and devoted wife Shuying “Ying” Cui, his son Kurtis Weeks, his daughter Karen Weeks Silva, and his sponsor-daughter Veronica Treas Morgan of Mescalero, New Mexico.

He will also be missed by hundreds of fellow activists and people of conscience who knew him for his tireless work on behalf of the poor, disenfranchised and those suffering injustice in this United States of the Americas and the world. And he will be thought of kindly by the many friends he made wherever he left footprints.

Ken requested a natural burial at Prairie Creek Conservation Trust Cemetery. Donations in his memory can be made to Bridges Across Borders for the Meals on Wheels elder food program or to the Civic Media Center or Gainesville Iguana, who give voice to what is too often unheard. 🐢



proudest achievement, apart from her children, was the passage of the Human Rights Ordinance in both the city and county for which she had worked for decades.

Abby was known for her unflagging energy, her outrage at social injustice, her fearlessness in speaking truth to power, her commitment to civic action and her joy in living. She loved hiking, camping, traveling, opera, movies, birds, baseball, family reunions, folk festivals and reading, but her

greatest love was reserved for her family and incredibly large circle of friends. She was a warm and loving person known for always smiling and she was earthy, nurturing, understanding and generous.

Ten days before she died she drove to a walk-in clinic with what she thought was bronchitis and was immediately transported to a hospital and diagnosed with lung cancer. After four days, when it was clear nothing could be done, she bluntly stated, “I want to die at home!” That evening she was home on hospice, and lived six more days. With her husband and cat on the bed with her and with her four surviving children and a close friend holding her hands, she breathed her last. She once had a near-death experience and saw the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel and after that never feared dying. She donated her body to the State Anatomical Board for use by medical students.

The Alachua County Commission declared 28 April 2015 as “Abby Goldsmith Day” with the intention of her watching its

proclamation from home on television, but she did not live to see it.

Abby was preceded in death by her beloved son Lawrence (Larry) Goldsmith and her infant daughter Louise. She is survived by her husband Vincent J. Lipsio, her daughters Deborah Goldsmith, Jennifer Goldsmith, Emma Caplan Heggstad, her son David Goldsmith, her grandchildren Max Goldsmith, Benjamin Zolkiewicz, Samuel Knabel, Joseph and Sarah Goldsmith, her sister Priscilla Caplan and Scruffy J. (Mr.) Cat.

You are invited to a Celebration of Abby Goldsmith’s Life on Saturday, June 6th, 2-5 PM, at the Gainesville Women’s Club, 2809 W. University Ave. Please bring pictures, stories and, if you wish, a dish or beverage to share. Call 213-4428 or 219-4050 with any questions.

Abby requested that instead of flowers contributions be made to the Civic Media Center (CMC) or the Gainesville Area Aids Project (GAAP). 🐢

Stand Up for Truth

A week to support whistleblowing, June 1–7

Democracy needs truth-telling.

Thomas Drake, Daniel Ellsberg, Jesselyn Radack, Coleen Rowley, and Norman Solomon will be speaking on the Stand Up for Truth Tour June 1–7 in London, Oslo, Stockholm, and Berlin to move toward a culture of openness and truth as well as security for those who take the risk of disclosing information that authorities want to keep hidden.

Democracy is based on informed consent of the governed. This is not possible when crucial (and sometimes illegal) government policies remain hidden from the public. Whistleblowing is essential for bringing such policies into the light: exposing key information related to human rights violations, corporate malfeasance, the environment, civil liberties and war.

We must stand up for a free press, individual privacy, governmental and corporate transparency, due process and rule of law as we seek to reveal official information that the public has a right to know. Persecution of whistleblowers and journalists is illegitimate and should be opposed as such.

While undemocratic authority thrives on secrecy, we should bring whistleblowing to the forefront of public consciousness -- in a process that widely encourages the release of documentation of governmental and corporate actions that cannot withstand the light of day.

Updates from the tour will be posted by Expose Facts at exposefacts.org. Please initiate Stand Up For Truth activities where you live. Learn more at StandUpForTruth.org. 🐢

Saturday, June 6th

Celebrate Abby Goldsmith

Join us as we celebrate the life of our friend Abby Goldsmith. Please bring pictures, stories and a dish or beverage to share to if you wish. Call Helen Strain (213-4428) or Linda Bassham (219-4050) with any questions.

Gainesville Women’s Club
2809 West University Avenue
Gainesville
2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

In lieu of flowers, by Abby’s request, please make contributions to the Civic Media Center or Gainesville Area AIDS Project .

“Protest beyond the law is not a departure from democracy; it is absolutely essential to it.”
- Howard Zinn

Tombstone display honors Iraq, Afghanistan fallen soldiers



Veterans for Peace will be displaying more than 6,827 tombstones from dawn on May 23 through dusk on Memorial Day, on 8th Avenue just east of 34th Street, as part of their Memorial Mile event remembering those who have died in the wars in Afghanistan since 2001 and in Iraq since 2003.

The tombstones will line the street along 8th Avenue just east of 34th Street, where the Solar System Walk is located. This is the ninth year VFP has set up the display, and in 2008 the exhibit crossed over to the north side of 8th due to the continuing number of deaths in these wars.

Veterans for Peace feel that these losses cannot be adequately understood with facts and figures alone. The visual impact of the tombstones conveys the reality of these numbers.

It is with great sadness that VFP announces that this year may be the last year of the Memorial Mile event. For the last eight years, Memorial Day Weekend is the event that Veterans for Peace has had the most interaction with the public. Because the City of Gainesville has decided to do away with the grass strips that we use for the tombstones, we will no longer have a place to display them. We have looked at alternative sites around the city and county but have not been able to find a site with parking, bathrooms, and easy access to the display, uninterrupted by driveways, and visible to traffic.

**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**

WORSHIP WITH FRIENDS

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

An unprogrammed meeting of Friends, we follow the tradition of gathering in silence to wait upon the Light.

**11a.m., Sundays
702 NW 38th St., Gainesville
352-372-1070**

Last year the display was made up of more than 6,782 tombstones. This year at least 38 will be added, each one representing an American service member whose life was lost since last Memorial Day. VFP continues to build tombstones as confirmed losses are reported.

Each tombstone includes the soldier's name, date of death, age, branch of service, rank and hometown. They are arranged by date of death and theater of operation.

VFP places American flags on tombstones of local service members and on those visited by the public. VFP maintains a Directory at each end of the display, allowing visitors to find loved ones they have come to visit. Each year, people place flowers and other expressions of love at the tombstones. VFP cleans and cares for the tombstones year round and tries to preserve messages that loved ones have written.

Posters depicting the cost of war will be displayed, as well as the Peace Ribbon from Code Pink, a collection of memorial panels sewn by loved ones honoring the victims of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, including civilians of those countries.

"When we started this project in 2007, we could not imagine that we would still be fighting in Afghanistan in 2015; it is way past time for us to bring our troops home," said Scott Camil, president of Gainesville Veterans for Peace.

Parking will be available at nearby West Side Park. For more information, visit the Gainesville Veterans for Peace Web site: at <http://www.vfpgainesville.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/events/1623468894550452/>

FL NOW, from p. 8

SB 804 / HB 443 Violation of an Injunction for Protection Against Domestic Violence — This bill would provide enhanced criminal penalties for a third or subsequent violation of an injunction for protection against domestic violence.

For a legislative update on labor issues, check out the AFL-CIO's wrap-up at <http://goo.gl/pqXACK> and learn more at www.flafcio.org.

WAGE, from p. 17

Although this is more than Florida's minimum wage of \$8.05/hour, it is still well below the current Federal Poverty Level. The issue of low wages for county workers is so severe that in 2013 six percent of County employees fell within 10 percent of that level and qualified for government assistance programs.

The Coalition's proposed ordinance, to be phased in gradually over six years, sets a living wage standard of 125 percent above the FPL for a family of four. Today, 125 percent of the poverty level would mean a starting wage of \$14.57 an hour. Once fully implemented in Alachua County, the living wage ordinance would lift 159 workers and their families out of poverty and increase direct local consumer spending by over \$1.2 million.

This proposed living wage ordinance would benefit the entire county by bolstering the economy and tax base and rendering thousands in government subsidies unnecessary, all while funneling millions of dollars in revenues to businesses and service providers throughout the County.

To find out more about the Alachua County Living Wage campaign please visit us at <http://laborcoalition.org/living-wage-campaign/>.

Peace Poetry contest announces winners



Veterans for Peace held their sixth annual Peace Poetry contest reading/reception on May 9. Students from all K-12 schools in Alachua County submitted a total of 225 poems, with 34 winners. The students read their poems in front of 150 guests, and received a bookstore gift certificate and a book of the winning poems. Veterans for Peace awarded \$500 scholarships to three students entering or attending college who have demonstrated leadership in peace and social justice causes: Manuela Osorio and Catalina Cardenas (pictured to the right), and Michelle Nelson Musicians Lauren Ann Robinson and Bill Hutchinson performed at the event. Photos by Deborah Hendrix.



Florida's Global Kitchen

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' kitchen is recreated at the Matheson History Museum with items on loan from the MKR Historic State Park.

June 12: "Invasion of Privacy" Preview Party & Fundraiser benefiting Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, \$35/person

June 18: Friends of the Carr Family Cabin Fundraiser with a talk led by Archie Carr III and a Bill Belleville documentary, \$25/person

June 27: Florida Food in the Women's Pages with UCF professor Kim Voss, \$5/person

July 16: Cross Creek Cookery & World War II w/MKR Park Manager Valerie Rivers \$5/person

July 30: Marmalade Cooking Demonstration by MKR Park Ranger Carrie Todd, \$5/person
www.mathesonmuseum.org (352) 378-2280

ARTWALK

gainesville

GET ENGAGED....or just have an affair with art on the **LAST FRIDAY** OF THE MONTH in downtown **Gainesville's Art District.**

GALLERY TOUR BEGINS AT 7:00PM

www.artwalkgainesville.com

Federal budget for FY 2016 cuts pretty much everything

The U.S. House and Senate passed a draconian budget that slashes everything from Medicare to Medicaid to food stamps.

The budget calls for \$4.2 trillion in cuts to programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and food stamps over 10 years. Domestic programs at the Congress's annual discretion would be cut by \$496 billion below the already stringent limits imposed by the Budget Control Act of 2011. (Source: NYT)

Following are excerpts from the National

Labor Notes

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



www.labornotes.org
for in-depth and up-to-date reporting from around the labor movement
Subscribe \$30/year

Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare's response to the Senate concerning S. Con. Res. 11, the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Resolution:

"The conference agreement would be devastating to today's seniors and future retirees, people with disabilities and children due to the proposed changes it makes to Medicare, Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. While it proposes huge cuts to our social insurance safety net, the conference report would give massive tax cuts to the very wealthy."

"Beginning in 2024, when people become eligible for Medicare they would not enroll in the current traditional Medicare program which provides guaranteed benefits. Rather they would receive a voucher, also referred to as a premium support payment, to be used to purchase private health insurance or traditional Medicare through a Medicare Exchange. The amount of the voucher would be determined each year when private health insurance plans and traditional Medicare participate in a competitive bidding process."

"The National Committee urges you to oppose the Conference Report on the FY 2016 Budget Resolution, which would be harmful to seniors, people with disabilities and children." For more information and to find out how you can get involved in making a better budget, visit www.ncpssm.org.

Film campaigns for Medicaid funds

The Gap is a short documentary describing the difficulties of people unable to obtain health care. Made in Gainesville by Jordanna Goldman and Christopher Cogle, M.D., it is used by Florida Chain in its statewide campaign to have Florida accept funds for Medicaid expansion. It will be shown on May 28 at 6:30 p.m. at the County Library, 14913 NW 140th St, Alachua, followed by a discussion of actions.

Probably for no better reason than their resistance to Obamacare, Governor Rick Scott and the Republican-controlled House have refused to allow Florida to accept funds from the Feds, which would cover almost one million people without health insurance. They are mostly people who work, but don't earn enough to qualify for Obamacare subsidies or who are unemployed and looking for jobs.

This refusal is a cruel denial of health care coverage for the neediest of our residents. Five people a day die in Florida because they are unable to access medical care. This denial is not only cruel, it is irrational. Income tax revenue from Florida residents goes to other states. Furthermore, funds from Medicaid would lead to an estimated increase of 70,000 jobs in the state.

The Republican-controlled Senate, has incorporated the Medicaid funds into its proposed budget, although it is looking at a plan where the funds are used to purchase private health insurance. The House terminated its session early, because of the failure of the two branches to agree. Because of the constitutional requirement that a budget is passed by July 1, the legislature is sitting again for a special session starting June 1

The Governor is frantically trying to get funds for hospitals' uncompensated care. This would mostly cover emergency room care. It would be no help in meeting the serious, but non-emergency medical needs of low-income workers.

It is crucial for us to contact our representatives now to urge them to cover the health insurance gap by accepting the federal funds.



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
	10 pm	Female Trouble
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
	7 pm	Homebrew Talk
	9 pm	The Otherness
Thu	12 pm	Things Be Blowin'
	2 pm	The Breakup Song
	4 pm	Hope & Anchor
	6 pm	The Kitchen Sink
	8 pm	florida rules
	10 pm	Eagle Death
Fri	3 pm	Ectasy To Frenzy
	5 pm	Artichokeification
	7 pm	Jazzville
	9 pm	Bag of Tricks
Sat	3 pm	Brazillian Commando
	7 pm	Planet of Sound
	9 pm	Reality Bites

94.7FM WGOT-LP moves ahead with studio plans

by Fred Sowder, WGOT board member

Nearly a year and a half after the Federal Communications Commission granted a request for WGOT-LP, the Civic Media Center's radio project, to move up the dial to its own frequency, plans have been coming together for a physical broadcast studio space. WGOT is partnering with Sweetwater Organic Coffee for this studio space.

"We are excited to have a physical studio and expand to a 24-hour LP-FM signal," board member Dave Drobach said. Although the FCC has granted the station its own frequency, the location of the tower (near I-75 and NW 39th Avenue) and power (100 watts) will not change because of current definitions of low power FM radio.

The 18-month deadline to have the new

frequency and studio up and running will be up in early July, so an extension request for another 18 months will be requested. WGOT's engineer Kyle Magrill foresees no problems with obtaining this extension. "The FCC will approve all requests for extensions regardless of why you need it," he said.

In addition, WGOT-LP has acquired a wide variety of studio furniture from WUFT-FM, the University of Florida's NPR affiliate, due to upgrades of their studio facilities.

WGOT sincerely thanks Sweetwater Organic Coffee and WUFT-FM for their generous donations in making such progress possible. Stay tuned for more info as organizers decide on the fundraising that is needed to complete the studio.

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.

Grassroots support keeps it going



Please support the CMC pre-summer RENT PARTY
ArtWalk Night Friday, May 29th, 7-10pm
Art, Music, Food, Friends

Between FEDERAL TAXES and COMPUTER NEEDS, the CMC is in a bit of a pinch. Please come and make a donation and with it you'll get a library card. Summer Reading Solved!

Or renew your membership. Update your address. Or just give a bit as you stop by for a good time and support the CMC.

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

433 S. Main St., Gainesville 32601

Editors' Picks: the news that didn't fit

✂ The Killing of Osama bin Laden

In a powerful expose, Seymour Hersh presents the real story of the raid that killed Osama Bin Laden.

<http://www.lrb.co.uk/v37/n10/seymour-m-hersh/the-killing-of-osama-bin-laden>

✂ "Farkhunda is Our Sister": A "Martyr," a Murder, and the Making of a New Afghanistan?

This long but gripping article on Afghanistan deserves reading for it's delineation on the impact of US policy on this country's women, and a glimmer of hope in the outrage over one woman's murder at the hands of a mob.

http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/175997/tomgram%3A_ann_jones%2C_citizen%27s_revolt_in_afghanistan/

✂ We're citizens, not subjects. We have the right to criticize government without fear

by Chelsea E Manning

The American public needs more access to what the government is doing in its name. That requires increasing freedom of information and transparency.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/may/06/were-citizens-not-subjects-we-have-the-right-to-criticize-government-without-fear>

✂ Letter to Loretto

CIA whistleblower John Kiriakou as depicted in portrait artist Robert Shetterly's "Americans Who Tell the Truth" series.

<http://fpif.org/letter-to-loretto/>

✂ This isn't 1968. Baltimore isn't Watts. And Hillary Clinton isn't Michael Dukakis.

A great analysis of the modern-day criminal injustice system.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-watch/wp/2015/05/06/this-isnt-1968-baltimore-isnt-watts-and-hillary-clinton-isnt-michael-dukakis/> ✂



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

To list your event or group, contact us at:

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