



# The Gainesville Iguana

May/June 2016  
Vol. 30, Issue 5/6

## Lauren Poe – Gainesville’s new Mayor

*Lauren Poe and Adrian Hayes-Santos were sworn in as Mayor and City Commissioner respectively on Thursday, May 5 to an appreciative audience in a packed Thelma Bolten Center. What follows is a shortened version of Mayor Poe’s speech.*

I love Gainesville. That, in and of itself, is nothing exceptional. I very much doubt that there are any in this room that do not, too, love Gainesville. We all share that common bond. Therefore, we are all capable of working together to create a more perfect Gainesville by harnessing that inner-connected love we all have for our city....

Gainesville is a great city for many of our residents. You enjoy a great quality of life, live in a safe and harmonious neighborhood; your children attend good schools and have enriching activities when they leave school. You have a good job with good benefits and you can get to where you need to be with little effort or frustration. Life is good.

But to others, this description of our city is an illusion; a false narrative. You live in a city that is dangerous, lacking basic amenities and decent schools. Your children are more worried about their next meal and navigating the challenging life that exists all around them. You work multiple jobs for low pay, and know your next medical bill may mean eviction from your modest home. Your parks are occupied by those wishing to do your child harm, especially after dark, and you have

*See MAYOR, p. 17*



*Students from Marion County high schools protested their School Board’s policy banning transgendered people from using restrooms that align with their gender, instead requiring them to use restrooms corresponding with their birth sex.*

## Trans Lives Matter Students stand up for human rights in Marion County

*by Nich Rardin*

Trans rights are human rights.

It’s not complicated. There’s no secret agenda, or diabolical plan to overthrow the cis-gendered population—just equality, something that is promised here in America, but has to be fought for.

The transgendered community isn’t some new idea thought up by Generation Y to add more confusion to the world. They have been around since the beginning, the same as every other gender and orientation. They are your neighbors, your friends, your co-workers. Not monsters that live under your bed like some people want you to believe. They are human, just like you.

On April 26, the Marion County School Board set forth a policy that banned transgendered individuals from using the

restroom that aligns with their gender and forces them to use the restroom that corresponds with their birth sex instead.

This policy only came into play after \*one\* student, Harrell Phillips, made a complaint about a transgendered student using the male restroom at Vanguard High School—which this student has been

*See TRANS, p. 16*

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# Alachua County Labor Coalition updates

by Jason Fults

It's been an exhilarating month for the Alachua County Labor Coalition (ACLC). On April 12, the Alachua County Commission voted unanimously to pass the strongest Living Wage Ordinance in the state of Florida. This victory was possible because of months of hard work by our members and a few very progressive County Commissioners.

But Alachua County is just one of the top ten employers that our campaign is targeting. The next employers on our radar are the City of Gainesville, the School Board of Alachua County, and other local educational institutions. We are asking all of

these employers to commit to paying 125 percent above the federal poverty level, plus healthcare, within five years.

As one large private employer after another commits to \$15/hour, and "Fight for \$15!" becomes a national rallying cry, we are optimistic that this campaign will continue to yield real benefits for thousands of hard-working families throughout our community.

On May 5, newly-elected Mayor Lauren Poe and City Commissioner Adrian Hayes-Santos were sworn in. Both of these officials campaigned on an explicit Living Wage platform, and ACLC allies offered boisterous support when they

each mentioned the Living Wage in their acceptance speeches.

In the coming weeks, we will be working with the Gainesville City Commission to raise wages for their lowest-paid employees and remove loopholes that encourage the City to outsource to lower-paying private contractors.

On April 26, the ACLC hosted Denise Diaz from Central Florida Jobs with Justice as our guest speaker.

Jobs with Justice works at the national and local levels to win improvements in people's lives and shape the public discourse on workers' rights and the economy. The Central Florida coalition has over 27 member organizations made up of unions, community organizations, student and faith groups committed to building power for worker rights and has been a true inspiration to our own work.

Ms. Diaz has served as their Executive Director for over nine years, and in that time has worked with local leaders on issues such as transit equity, paid sick days, and right to organize fights.

Throughout May, we will continue to support our brothers and sisters at Verizon, and continue to push forward on the Living Wage.

We are organizing an event on May 24 with our friends at the Bernie Sanders campaign where we will make a powerful argument for continuing Bernie's push for a national "Medicare for All" healthcare system.

You can find event details on our website (<http://laborcoalition.org/>) and our Facebook group. If you'd like to get involved in these or other ACLC campaigns, please contact us ([info@laborcoalition.org](mailto:info@laborcoalition.org); 352-375-2832). 🐞

## Move spring city elections to fall

May 25 is the deadline to turn in your signed Gainesville votes petition to improve city voter turnout and save \$250k/year.

See [gainesvillevotes.org](http://gainesvillevotes.org) <<http://gainesvillevotes.org/>> for info and petition." 🐞

## From the publisher: Thank you, Bernie Sanders

This is a Presidential election like no other, the culmination of years of actions by both major parties in conjunction with a revolution in media, both in coverage and choices available. As of press time in mid-May, the two major parties have as their front runners two of the most unpopular candidates ever to be in that position.

On the Repub side Trump is the last man standing for a party that is reaping the harvest of their own making. Commentators were laughing a year ago at the notion of a President Trump. No more.

On the Democrat side, what was assumed to be a coronation of the heir apparent Hillary Clinton has now been challenged by, of all things, a 74-year old Democratic Socialist Senator from Vermont, Bernie Sanders, who has ignited a firestorm of idealism by charting a new course away from the status quo.

Young people, who after all, have the biggest stake in this election, have been drawn to the possibility of a different, more equitable future based on principles already embraced by much of the rest of the world: a valuing of educational availability and healthcare for all. Or as I like to see it, and as the Constitution says: to "Promote the General Welfare."

Someone said to me the other day, "Imagine what this election would have been like if Bernie hadn't run." It really brought me up short, and then gave me a perspective on how important this last year has been. Think about it. This is not a case like 2008, when we were infused with hope at this fresh faced young Senator from Illinois who would sweep in and relieve us from the eight years of George W. Bush; where the Democrats were the logical solution to our problems. What we see now, much to the discomfiture of many mainstream Democratic party members, is a genuine insurgency saying "No, what you are offering is not enough!"

An awareness has grown with the Sanders campaign that is not just providing a political education both in what we want and how to fight to get it. It's also providing social connections among the thousands of volunteers and staff who have found personal growth through purposeful work. How the next months play out remains unknown, how the convention in Philadelphia goes and whether "super-delegates" remain loyal to Clinton or are swayed by Sanders's growing popularity, and what impact and role Bernie will have in the platform and at the podium. He has some serious decisions to make, the gravity of which I am sure will weigh heavy on him and Jane. And then we all have decisions to make, too. Those decisions will be pretty clear come October and that first week of November.

While the Repubs have been at the forefront of fear mongering, be it fear of terrorists, of immigrants, of LGBT rights, of socialism; whatever they choose to see as a threat to their "values," there has appeared in recent weeks some serious fear mongering by Democrats at the specter of President Trump. And I agree this is nothing to be taken lightly, he is a carnival con-man with an unmatched public record of horrible behavior.

But to those who seem to think that the Sanders campaign should just give up and fall in line behind Hillary, I and many others say no, this campaign is not over yet. Many of us feel that the Clinton record on Foreign Policy is dreadful and we don't mean Bengazi; we mean Honduras, Libya, her friendship and cozy relations with Henry Kissinger. And many of us feel that Bernie Sanders would be a stronger candidate against a loose cannon like Trump, that Clinton has so much baggage and inconsistencies that voter turnout would be lowered everywhere, and negate gains that could be made with an energized Sanders campaign in the House and Senate.

So yes, we can enjoy the Repubs squirming at what their style and tactics have given birth to. But it is too early to give up on the biggest and best opportunity we are likely to have in shifting the course of this nation toward more humane practices at home and out in the world. It is a fight we have been way too lax in fighting, decades late. But with luck and solidarity it has started, and it is up to all of us with a conscience to keep it burning, through the convention, through the election, and, if we get a President Sanders, beyond. It's what good citizens are supposed to do in whatever way they can.

Thank you, Bernie Sanders. 🐞



Joe Courter

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# Gainesville Girls Rock Camp returns for 4th year

by Chelsea Carnes, Director of Gainesville Girls Rock Camp

GGRC is a summer camp that uses music and performance as a platform to promote self-esteem, community, and creative self-expression in girls aged 9-17 in Gainesville.

The Girls Rock Camp began on the west coast in 2000 and has spread around the world with hundreds of camps as far away as Brazil and Sweden. The Gainesville Girls Rock Camp got rolling in 2013 by local musicians Chelsea Carnes and Jennifer Vito. The camp is volunteer run by an entirely woman and trans-identified cast of talented musicians, artists, and community activists, many hailing from local bands such as No More, The Ones To Blame, As Is, SODA, Goss, and Wax Wings. Each summer, they create a week of music and feminism meant to rock the world of the girls who attend.

Camp curriculum includes daily group music lessons on electric bass, electric guitar, keys, and drums, as well as workshops ranging from “Girls’ Self-Defense” to “The History of Women in Music.” Campers are placed into bands on their first day of camp. With direction from their band leaders and music instructors, they spend the week writing an original song with their band. At the end of the week, camp moves downtown to High Dive, a local music venue, where the girls’ bands perform their original song publicly in front of a large audience of friends, family, the camp staff, and the Gainesville community.

GGRC volunteers organize fundraisers throughout the year to offer full and partial scholarships to girls from low income backgrounds. All musical equipment needed for camp is provided, as well as daily lunches and snacks.

Many of the girls who come into camp have never touched an instrument before. By the time they leave camp, they have a basic knowledge and have written and performed an original song in front of a live audience. Some of the girls who come to camp are too shy to say their names audibly on the first day. By the end of the week, they are comfortable writing down their thoughts



and screaming them into a microphone in front of a crowd.

In 2016, GGRC plans to accommodate 50 campers. The early consideration deadline for applying is May 12, with all registration forms due by May 30. This year, camp will be held at the United Church of Gainesville. The first session, for 9-13 year olds, will be held June 20-25. The second session, for 13-17 year olds, will be July 11-16.

For more information, email [gainesvillegirlsrockcamp@gmail.com](mailto:gainesvillegirlsrockcamp@gmail.com), check out Facebook at [facebook.com/RockAndRollCampForGirlsGainesville](https://www.facebook.com/RockAndRollCampForGirlsGainesville), and see the GGRC website at [www.Gainesvillegirlsrockcamp.com](http://www.Gainesvillegirlsrockcamp.com). 🐿

## Award-winning author David Swanson speaks on ‘War is a Lie’

Veterans for Peace presents author David Swanson speaking about his highly



acclaimed book, “War is a Lie” which recently went into its second printing. Swanson is on a national book tour to promote War is a Lie with scheduled book readings in Berkeley, St. Paul, Minnesota, and Sarasota, Florida among other locations.

David Swanson is a nationally-recognized journalist, blogger and radio host. He is a 2015 Nobel Peace Prize Nominee. Swanson blogs at: [DavidSwanson.org](http://DavidSwanson.org) and [WarIsACrime.org](http://WarIsACrime.org) which features in-depth discussions on topics such as whistleblowers, military veterans speaking against war, environmental justice and the struggle against mass incarceration.

Daniel Ellsberg has called War is a Lie “A terrific tool for recognizing and resisting war lies before it is too late.” Military

veteran Geoffrey Millard writes, “Not since General Smedley Butler’s War is a Racket has a simpler, more brilliant, or truer book been published,” while political analysis Steve Cobble notes, “Reading War is a Lie is like reading Mark Twain’s “War Prayer,” only in book form!”

The event will be held on Saturday, May 21 at 7 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville, Florida Address: 4225 NW 34th St, Gainesville, FL 32605. David Swanson’s talk will be followed by a book signing. Refreshments will be served.

For more information about Veterans for Peace, Gainesville Chapter 14, visit our Website at <http://www.vfp Gainesville.org/>

The Facebook Page for Swanson’s War is a Lie event is: <https://www.facebook.com/events/107195263009603/> 🐿

# Solitary is ‘no touch’ torture – it must be abolished

by Chelsea Manning

This letter from Manning originally appeared in The Guardian on May 2. Read more at [www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com).

Shortly after arriving at a makeshift military jail, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, in May 2010, I was placed into the black hole of solitary confinement for the first time. Within two weeks, I was contemplating suicide.

After a month on suicide watch, I was transferred back to US, to a tiny 6 x 8 foot (roughly 2 x 2.5 meter) cell in a place that will haunt me for the rest of my life: the US Marine Corps Brig in Quantico, Virginia. I was held there for roughly nine months as a “prevention of injury” prisoner, a designation the Marine Corps and the Navy used to place me in highly restrictive solitary conditions without a psychiatrist’s approval.

For 17 hours a day, I sat directly in front of at least two Marine Corps guards seated behind a one-way mirror. I was not allowed to lay down. I was not allowed to lean my back against the cell wall. I was not allowed to exercise.

Sometimes, to keep from going crazy, I would stand up, walk around, or dance, as “dancing” was not considered exercise by the Marine Corps.

To pass the time, I counted the hundreds of holes between the steel bars in a grid pattern at the front of my empty cell. My eyes traced the gaps between the bricks on the wall. I looked at the rough patterns and stains on the concrete floor – including one that looked like a caricature grey alien, with large black eyes and no mouth, that was popular in the 1990s. I could hear the “drip drop drip” of a leaky pipe somewhere down the hall. I listened to the faint buzz of the fluorescent lights.

For brief periods, every other day or so, I was escorted by a team of at least three guards to an empty basketball court-sized area. There, I was shackled and walked around in circles or figure-eights for 20 minutes. I was not allowed to stand still, otherwise they would take me back to my cell.

I was only allowed a couple of hours of visitation each month to see my friends, family and lawyers, through a thick glass partition in a tiny 4 x 6 ft room. My hands and feet were shackled the entire time. Federal agents installed recording

equipment specifically to monitor my conversations, except with my lawyers.

The United Nations special rapporteur on torture, Juan Mendez, condemned my treatment as “cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment,” describing “the excessive and prolonged isolation” I was placed under for that period of time. However, he didn’t stop there. In a preface to the 2014 Spanish edition of the “Sourcebook on Solitary Confinement,” written by Méndez, he strongly recommends against any use of solitary confinement beyond 15 days.

As Mendez explains:

Prolonged solitary confinement raises special concerns, because the risk of grave and irreparable harm to the detained person increases with the length of isolation and the uncertainty regarding its duration. In my public declarations on this theme, I have defined prolonged solitary confinement as any period in excess of 15 days.

This definition reflects the fact that most of the scientific literature shows that, after 15 days, certain changes in brain functions occur and the harmful psychological effects of isolation can

become irreversible.

Unfortunately, conditions similar to the ones I experienced in 2010-11 are hardly unusual for the estimated 80,000 to 100,000 inmates held in these conditions across the US every day.

In the time since my confinement at Quantico, public awareness of solitary confinement has improved by orders of magnitude. People all across the political spectrum – including some who have never been in solitary or known anyone who has – are now beginning to question whether this practice is a moral and ethical one.

In June 2015, US supreme court justice Anthony Kennedy called the prison system “overlooked” and “misunderstood,” stating that he welcomes a case that would allow the court to review whether or not solitary confinement is cruel and unusual under the US constitution.

The evidence is overwhelming that it should be deemed as such: solitary confinement in the US is arbitrary, abused and unnecessary in many situations. It is cruel, degrading and inhumane, and is effectively a “no touch” torture. We should end the practice quickly and completely. 🐿

## Manning receives prize for ‘sacrifice, bravery’

Chelsea Manning, the former U.S. soldier imprisoned for leaking U.S. diplomatic cables and copious evidence of war crimes, has been awarded a cash prize in recognition of her “sacrifice and bravery.”

“The award recognizes the exceptional importance of the disclosures by Manning in revealing the illegal practice of torture and detention, and in increasing the public understanding of the impact of war on civilians,” said a press release from Blueprint for Free Speech, which presented the award at the offices of the Thomson Reuters Foundation in London. The group also recognized John Kiriakou, a former CIA officer who revealed the illegal use of torture, and Dr. Raj Mattu, a British cardiologist who exposed unsafe conditions threatening patients’ lives at state hospitals. The three winners will receive \$7,200 each.

Manning is the most famous of the three. In 2010, the former Army intelligence officer provided over 200,000 diplomatic cables to WikiLeaks, exposing that the U.S. military was handing detainees over to the Iraqi government despite the knowledge they would be tortured. Manning also leaked video showing U.S. soldiers killing at least 10 unarmed Iraqi civilians and two Reuters journalists, as well as evidence that the U.S. government’s internal count of civilians killed by the war in Iraq was much higher than publicly acknowledged.

“Obviously Chelsea is incarcerated at the moment,” Rosie Beaumont-Thomas, a Blueprint for Free Speech spokesperson, told teleSUR by phone from the award ceremony in London. In 2013, a U.S. military tribunal sentenced Manning to 35 years in prison.

Asked how she would receive her cash prize, Beaumont-Thomas explained that “it will be given to her chosen personal representative that looks after her while she’s currently in prison.” 🐿

# Remembering Father Dan Berrigan, a prophet of peace

by Amy Goodman and Denis Moynihan

*This article was originally published by Democracy Now! on May 6. DN! remembers Father Berrigan through a series of great interviews with the people whose lives he touched, including a very touching interview with Jeremy Scahill, co-founder of The Intercept, on May 3. See more at [www.democracynow.org/topics/daniel\\_berrigan](http://www.democracynow.org/topics/daniel_berrigan).*

A prophet of peace has passed. Daniel Berrigan, a Catholic Jesuit priest, a protester, a poet, a dedicated uncle and brother, died last weekend at the age of 94. His near-century on Earth was marked by compassion and love for humanity, and an unflinching commitment to justice and peace. He spent years in prison for his courageous, peaceful actions against war, living and practising the gospel that he preached. He launched movements, inspired millions, wrote beautifully and, with a wry smile, shared his love of life with family, friends and those with whom he prayed and fought for peace.

Dan's brother Philip Berrigan and several others peacefully raided a draft board in 1967 and poured their own blood on the records to signify the blood being spilt in the war. A year later, on May 17, 1968, just weeks after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., they and seven others famously removed draft records from the Catonsville, Maryland draft board, and set fire to them with homemade napalm, singing a hymn around the pyre until they were arrested.

"Our apologies, good friends, for the fracture of good order,

the burning of paper instead of children, the angering of the orderlies in the front parlour of the charnel house," Dan Berrigan wrote in the statement released by the group before the action, as they knew they would be arrested. "We could not, so help us God, do otherwise."

The actions of the Catonsville Nine, as the group would come to be known, ratcheted up the intensity of anti-war actions everywhere. Some individuals had burned their draft cards before then, but after the Catonsville action, it became an iconic and increasingly common tactic to demonstrate actual and symbolic opposition to the war. "We have chosen to be powerless criminals in a time of criminal power. We have chosen to be branded as peace criminals by war criminals," he said.

Daniel Berrigan was convicted and, before turning himself in to serve his prison sentence, went underground. Despite being placed on the FBI's Most Wanted list, Berrigan popped up around the country, giving anti-war speeches. He spoke at a large rally at Cornell University, where he was the campus chaplain. Afterward, as the FBI and police closed in on him, Berrigan hid inside one of the Bread & Puppet political theatre troupe's giant puppets. Thus disguised, he exited Cornell's Barton Hall, eluding arrest. Authorities finally caught up to him on Block Island, off the coast of Rhode Island, and arrested him. A famous photo captured the moment, as a smiling Father Berrigan is shown being led, handcuffed, by two joyless FBI men who were on the island posing as bird-watchers.

"Given the fact that the American machine is not working well, either in its inner gears, or in its meshing with the world, good men must take action," he wrote in his memoir, No Bars to Manhood. "Some of them ... must be willing to go to jail."

In 1980, Berrigan, again with his brother Phil and others, broke into a General Electric missile plant in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. They hammered on missile nose cones, damaging them beyond repair, and poured their blood on the damaged parts. Their action that day launched the Plowshares Movement, which has grown into a global movement. Plowshares actions are inspired by a line from the Old Testament, Isaiah 2:4:

"They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore."

Dan Berrigan's fight for peace challenged the U.S. government, the Pentagon and his own Catholic Church's hierarchy. For that last sin, he was banished by the church from the United States. His exile included trips to Latin America and South Africa, which, far from curing him of his commitment to fight injustice, only strengthened it.

We last saw Berrigan, who we and so many others affectionately called "Father Dan," two years ago in the retirement home for elderly Jesuits, at Fordham University in the Bronx. At 93, he was frail, but his eyes twinkled when we gave him his favorite food: ice cream. His devotion to ice cream and social justice earned him his own flavor of Ben & Jerry's, as well as a lifetime supply of their ice cream for him and for the Catholic Worker movement that he so loved.

Daniel J. Berrigan lived his life true to his calling, literally practicing what he preached. Rest in peace, Dan Berrigan, just as you lived. 🐾

# Gainesville in solidarity with Verizon strikers

by Paul Ortiz

Alachua County Labor Coalition

On May 5, the Alachua County Labor Coalition joined forces with the Gainesville IWW to organize an information picket in solidarity with 39,000 striking Verizon workers. This crucial strike's outcome will affect all of us. Verizon is planning to outsource jobs as well as cut workers' pensions and pay, despite making \$1.8 billion dollars in profit per month.

Verizon workers from Virginia to New York have been picketing around the clock and holding rallies of several thousand workers, families and community supporters. The Alachua County Labor Coalition organized an informational picket in support of the strikers outside of the Verizon store on Archer Road in Gainesville on Friday, April 29.

A May 5 informational picket was co-organized with the Gainesville IWW. We were part of a national Day of Action in support of the Verizon strikers. The IWW made fabulous picket signs. Twelve picketers waved home-made signs and encouraged people to stop and talk with us about the strike. We handed out approximately 100 handbills to motorists and Verizon customers explaining what is at stake in this strike. We asked passersby for their support in signing petitions or contact-

ing the company directly. Many motorists slowed down to yell, "Thank you for doing this!" "We're with you 100 percent!" and other positive messages.

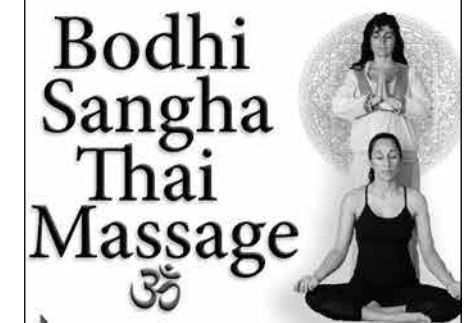
In both actions, we received overwhelming support from the public. Many individuals expressed frustration at the power of corporations like Verizon to dominate the economy and to hold the fate of communities' hostage in the name of profits. A couple from Archer said their jobs had recently been outsourced, and that they were now unable to pay their mortgage. Several people mentioned that they had switched cell phone carriers because of the strike.

Verizon has received almost nonstop free and positive publicity from the corporate media. A good analysis of this anti-labor media coverage is found in Adam Johnson's important piece, "When 'Both Sides' Are Covered in Verizon Strike, Bosses' Side is Heard More." (Fair.org) This makes actions in support of the Verizon workers more important than ever. Please contact the Alachua County Labor Coalition if you want to get involved in building solidarity and a fairer economy!

More information on the strike and the history behind it are available at LaborNotes.org and StandUpToVerizon.com. 🐾



Members of Alachua County Labor Coalition support the Verizon strike at a Verizon store in Gainesville. Photo by Jason Fults.



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## Election preview

by Joe Courter

As some of you have seen from various candidates and their supporters who are out getting signature cards signed, the fall elections are gearing up. Although actually, since the primaries for the Nov. 8 general election are on Aug. 30, it is technically summer still. And there will be some hot races which will be decided right there in August in the Democratic Primary.

Here in Alachua County there will be three County Commissioners up for reelection, but as of now, Chuck Chestnut does not have any opposition and entry into the race doesn't close until June. The two Commissioners who do have opposition are Mike Byerly and Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson, both really great public servants doing great things, especially regarding the environment and the new plan to bring Plum Creek to the table and develop an actually useful plan for Eastside development in the Waldo Rd. corridor. Please support their campaigns.

Sheriff Sadie Darnell will have a challenge in the August primary. Zac Zadalis, a former deputy with the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, is trying to build a grassroots campaign around his back to basics and common sense approach to law enforcement, and would be a breath of fresh air. Controversy erupted after Zac had announced his run with an unfortunate domestic dispute; Sheriff Darnell blew the incident out of proportion and terminated Zac. We will have more next month, but check this out for more background: <http://www.zac4sheriff.com/facts-and-opinions/>.

School Board member and popular and effective Eileen Roy will have a challenger as well in the Aug. 30 balloting. Definitely a person to support and keep in office. The other School Board member up for re-election is Leanetta McNealy, and, as of print time, she does not have an opponent. She is quite good and we hope she stays on.

Again, more to come in the next issue of the Iguana on the races coming up in August. 🐊

### Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

🐊 **The Quiet American**, by Franklin Foer  
 Paul Manafort made a career out of stealthily reinventing the world's nastiest tyrants as noble defenders of freedom. Getting Donald Trump elected will be a cinch.  
[http://www.slate.com/articles/news\\_and\\_politics/politics/2016/04/paul\\_manafort\\_isn\\_t\\_a\\_gop\\_retread\\_he\\_s\\_made\\_a\\_career\\_of\\_reinventing\\_tyrants.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/politics/2016/04/paul_manafort_isn_t_a_gop_retread_he_s_made_a_career_of_reinventing_tyrants.html)

🐊 **He's Brutalized For You**, by Michael Kruse  
 How Joseph McCarthy henchman Roy Cohn became Donald Trump's mentor.  
<http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2016/04/donald-trump-roy-cohn-mentor-joseph-mccarthy-213799?paginate=false>

🐊 **We Will No Longer Contribute to Our Own Oppression**, by Jack Denton  
 Prisoners in Alabama go on strike  
<http://solitarywatch.com/2016/05/05/prison-labor-strike-in-alabama-we-will-no-longer-contribute-to-our-own-oppression/>

🐊 **Brazil Impeachment Brings to Mind Thailand's 2014 Military Coup** by Gwynne Dyer  
 On the impeachment of President Dilma Rousseff of Brazil.  
<http://www.commondreams.org/views/2016/05/14/brazil-impeachment-brings-mind-thailands-2014-military-coup> 🐊

## Remembering human rights attorney Michael Ratner

*On Wednesday, May 11, Michael Ratner of the Center for Constitutional Rights died from complications of cancer he'd been fighting. It was a battle he couldn't win, but he fought many battles and had many wins standing up for oppressed people and against injustice around the world for over 40 years.*

*On May 12, Democracy Now! paid tribute to his work. You can see or listen to the full episode at [democracynow.org](http://democracynow.org). Please take time to watch it and reflect on this dynamo for justice.*

*Following is from local Veterans for Peace President Scott Camil, on his connection to Michael Ratner:*

In 1972 I was a Regional Coordinator with Vietnam Veterans Against the War. Eight of us were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury for Conspiracy to disrupt the 1972 Republican Convention. The case became known as the trial of the Gainesville 8.

None of us knew anything about conspiracy laws or how the federal government had been using grand juries to crush activists for Peace and Justice. Out of nowhere, lawyers came to our aid. The majority came from The Center for Constitutional Rights. We had never heard of them and we had no money.

It turned out that they monitored the abuse of the grand jury system and worked to nullify this abuse. We gladly accepted their help. They came to Gainesville to help and worked out of Larry Turner's office. Larry was my friend and lawyer and was already working to help us. Two lawyers also came from The National Lawyers Guild in Texas.

We went to New York several times and met with the Lawyers at the office of The Center for Constitutional rights. Michael Ratner was one of the lawyers who met with us in New York. He was a fairly new

lawyer with the Center and was working on the Attica case.

Michael was not part of the team that worked in Gainesville but he helped do research from New York. He was young, enthusiastic, and dedicated to protecting people whose rights were being violated. Meeting Michael and the other lawyers gave us hope and confidence.

I am very thankful to those like Michael who stood up for peace and justice, and fought to protect us from the violations poured on us by our government. We need lawyers who put the fight for justice above making money, who sacrifice their time and energy to make this a better world.

Presente Michael Ratner. 🐊

*Former Center for Constitutional Rights staff attorney Andrea Costello had this to say about Michael:*

"His tireless commitment and keen political insights among the leadership of the CCR and in the progressive legal community will be very missed. Michael provided an example to learn from of what it mean to dedicate your life in service to people's struggles for justice and human rights. It was an honor for me to have been a part of CCR under his leadership." 🐊

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[TheMidnightGainesville.com](http://TheMidnightGainesville.com) FB/TheMidnightGainesville

**Free Fridays CONCERT SERIES**

MAY	JUNE
<b>6 Tapestry Rewoven A Carole King Tribute</b> Cathy Dewitt, Mike Boulware & Friends & Family	<b>African American Music Appreciation Month</b>
<b>13 The Music of Creedence Clearwater Revival Tribute</b> By the Couch Messiahs & Wild Blue Yonder	<b>3 Little Jake &amp; The Soul Searchers</b> Blues, R&B
<b>20 Hot Club DeVille</b> Gypsy Jazz	<b>10 Wester Joseph's Stereo Vudu</b> Vudu Rawk, Ska
<b>27 The Music of Crosby, Stills, Nash &amp; Young Tribute</b> By Other Voices & Friends	<b>17 Fast Lane</b> R&B, Soul, Funk
	<b>24 De Lions of Jah</b> Reggae

111 E. University Ave. All shows may be subject to change





Mayo-Junio

# The Gainesville Iguana

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

May-June



**Radio Notes:** Find schedules for WUFT, WGOT, and Grow Radio, our local non-corporate stations, at [www.wuft.org](http://www.wuft.org), [wgot.org](http://wgot.org), & [growradio.org](http://growradio.org) respectively. WGOT is a part-time over-the-air broadcast but working to be full-time in the near future. More info on local independent radio on pp 18-19.

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

LISTEN TO AND SUPPORT COMMUNITY RADIO!

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

**22** Yogatree yoga + poetry, CMC, 4th Sundays, 11:30 am; \$6-12 sliding scale.

**Jesse Smith** Blues & BBQ Get Down, 117 NW 16th Ave, 2 pm.

**Author Amy Stewart**, dntn library (401 E Univ Ave), 2:30 pm.

**Green Party** meets, 1112 NW 10th Ave; info: 352-871-1995, [alachuagreens@gmail.com](mailto:alachuagreens@gmail.com).

**Stand By Our Plan Picnic/Rally** north of Hawthorne, 3-6 pm - see pg 4.

**29** Follow the Sun Festival concludes at 2 venues in Cedar Key: great lineup of No Fla & out-of-state performers - see [followthesunfest.com](http://followthesunfest.com) & pg 24.



**5** Yoga for Others, CMC, 11 am.



**Author Theodore Josiha Haig**, downtown library, 2 pm.

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

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

**19** Sunday Assembly, SFC (530 W. Univ Ave), 3 pm - see [sagainesville.weebly.com](http://sagainesville.weebly.com).

**Green Party** meets: see 5/22.

**Kanapaha Botanical Gardens** offers free admission to fathers of all ages: see [kanapaha.org](http://kanapaha.org).

FATHER'S DAY  
JUNETEENTH

## Monday Lunes

**23** *The Sea Between Us*, documentary on Middle East refugees in Lesbos, Greece; Civic Media Center, (433 S. Main St), 7 pm; \$3-5 requested.



**30** *The Mad World of Donald Trump*, CMC documentary, 7 pm.

Keep up with the CMC at [www.civicmediacenter.org](http://www.civicmediacenter.org) for events created after this calendar was printed, and into the future.

MEMORIAL DAY

**6** CMC documentary title tba, CMC, 7 pm.

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

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

**13** CMC documentary title tba, CMC, 7 pm.

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

**1967: Thurgood Marshall** nominated 1st black Supreme Court justice.

**20** CMC documentary title tba, CMC, 7 pm.

**Gvl Food Security Group** meets 3rd Mondays, Quaker Meeting House (708 NW 38th St), 7-9 pm.

**GCAT** meets, 7 pm; see 6/6.

FULL MOON  
SUMMER SOLSTICE

## Tuesday Martes

**17** County Farmers' Market on N 441 by Hwy Patrol Tues/ Thurs/Sat, 8 am-noon

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

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

**Zumba**, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E. Univ Ave), 6-7 pm, free.

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

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

**Medicare for All** presentation by Dr. Chad Hood, sponsored by Alachua County Labor Coalition & inviting Bernie Sanders campaign workers, Mennonite Church (1236 NW 18th Ave), 6 pm, free.

**Firefighters for 9/11 Truth** film & Richard Gage talk, downtown library, 6:30 pm.

**31** County Commission meets - see 5/24.

**1819: Walt Whitman** born.

**7** Springs Academy class on springs chemistry, North Florida Springs Environmental Center (99 NW 1st Ave, High Springs), 1 pm, \$5 - see [floridaspringsinstitute.org](http://floridaspringsinstitute.org).

**School Board** - see 5/17.

**1965: US Supreme Court** legalizes contraception for married couples.

**14** County Commission meets - see 5/24.



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

**21** School Board - see 5/17. PFLAG meets - see 5/24.

**1965: Byrds** release Mr. Tambourine Man.

## Wednesday Miercoles

**18** SOEducation eco-agriculture program at CMC, Wednesdays, 3 pm.

**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, Bo Diddley Plaza, 4-7 pm;

**Edible Plant Project**, 2nd Weds.

**Move to Amend** meets weekly, Pride Ctr (3131 NW 13th St), 6pm.

**Humanists**, UUFG, 6:30 pm.

**International movies**, Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Weds, 7 pm.

**25** Will Work for Living Wage, ACLC (901 W. 8th Ave), 5-6 pm.

**Why Not Home** film at The Woolly \*20 N. Main St), 6:30 pm, \$12.

**June 1** Green Drinks/ Cinema Verde meets, Market St Pub (112 SW 2nd Ave), 1st Wednesdays, 5:30 pm, \$10 suggested donation.

**Sign-making** for Rick Scott repro health protest 6/3, Wild Iris Books (22 SE 5th Ave), 6 pm.

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

**The Toxic Avenger** opens at Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl), 7 pm.

**Gvl Socialists** reading group, CMC, 7 pm.

HURRICANE SEASON OPENS

**8** Citizens' Climate Lobby meets, Vine Bread & Pasta (627 N. Main St), 6:30 pm.

**Just Health Care** meets, ACLC (Suite A, 901 NW 8th Ave), 2nd Tuesdays, 7 pm.

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

**15** 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.

**22** 1950: House UnAmerican Activities Committee accuses Pete Seeger, Lena Horne, Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copland, Artie Shaw, others of Communism.

## Thursday Jueves

**19** Jazz Lunch at Bo Diddley Downtown Plaza (111 E. Univ Ave) each Tues & Thurs through June, 11 am-1 pm, free.

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

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

**"Scribes of the Sunshine State"** - 4 Florida authors, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Av), 6 pm, free.

**Blues Creek Conservation** on Gvl City Comm. agenda, 6 pm.

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

**Open Poetry** weekly, CMC, 8 pm.

Chuck Regan at High Dive.

**26** Nat'l Bike Month Awards, Bo Diddley Plaza, 10:30 am-1:30 pm.

**CMC Volunteers**, 5:30 pm.

**S-Connection Ribbon-Cutting:** acrobatic/dance performance/teaching program 1st anniversary celebration, 250 SE 10th Ave, 5:45 pm, free; see pg 19.

**Walter Parks** (Richie Havens guitarist) at Thomas Ctr (302 NE 6th Ave), 6 pm, \$18 adv, \$20 door.

**Open Poetry**, CMC, 8 pm.

**2** CMC Volunteers, 5:30 pm.

**Open Poetry**, CMC, 8 pm.



**1904: Johnny Weismuller** born.

**9** CMC Volunteers, 5:30 pm. Open Poetry, CMC, 8 pm.

**1891: Cole Porter** born.

**16** Volunteers & Poets at CMC, usual times.

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

**1963: Jr Lt Valentina Tereshkova** becomes 1st woman in space. BLOOMSDAY

**23** "Florida's Endangered Orange" - Dr. F. Wm. Zettler on history & future of Fla citrus: Matheson Museum (513 E. Univ Ave), 6 pm, free.

## Friday Viernes

**20** East Gvl Farmers' Market, Health Dept (224 SE 2nd Ave), 10 am-2 pm through Oct.

**Hot Club Deville** plays gypsy jazz at Free Fridays concert, dntn plaza, 8 pm.

**Girls Rock Camp** benefit/tribute show, Loosey's (120 SW 1st Ave), 9 pm; see pg 6.



**27** Critical Mass bike ride, meets at Freewheel Project, 6 pm.

**G'ville Downtown Artwalk** 7-10 pm; see pg 16.

**Follow the Sun Festival**, night one: St Augustine Amphitheater - see pg 24.

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

**Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young** tribute by Other Voices, BD Plaza, 8 pm, free.

**Pink Wash**, local bands, CMC, 9 pm.

**3** Rally/Speakout against Rick Scott's health policies hosted by Nat'l Women's Liberation, corner of Main St & Univ Ave, 5-6:30 pm - then **Cara Jennings** speaks on reproductive justice; live music; more: The Woolly (20 N. Main St), 7-10 pm, \$5-15 (no one turned away for lack of \$); followed by dance party w/ DJ Dewey Decimal, 10 pm-2 am; see pg 19.

**Little Jake Mitchell & the Soul Searchers** set the downtown plaza dancin' for Free Fridays series, 8 pm.

**Naps Show**, live music at CMC, 9 pm: see [civicmedia.org](http://civicmedia.org) for details.

**10** Wester Joseph's Stereo Vudu puts spell on Free Fridays Downtown Concert series: Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E. Univ Ave), 8 pm.

**Books for Prisoners** benefit show, CMC, 9 pm.

**17** Queer as Faust IX - Queer Theater for the Weird Community, The Clubhouse (Tallahassee), 7 pm (also 6/18, 23, 24, 25 - see pg 2).

**Fast Lane** rocks Free Friday concert, Bo Diddley Plaza, 8 pm; see pg 11.

Whether here or anywhere: please support live music!

**24** I-75 Corridor Task Force meets, Williston Crossing RV Resort Clubhouse (410 NE 5th St, Williston), 9am-4:30pm; see [i75relief.com](http://i75relief.com).

**De Lions of Jah** reggaefy Free Friday concert, Bo Diddley Plaza, 8 pm.

## Saturday Sabado



**21** Gvl Art Mart, South Main Arts (SOMA; 601 S. Main St) 10 am-4 pm.

**The Spare Bones** play Bo Diddley Plaza Live concert, 6-10 pm, free.

**"War Is A Lie"** talk by author David Swanson, sponsored by Vets for Peace; UUFG (4225 NW 34th St), 7 pm, free; see pg 6.

**The Brainwashing of My Dad**, Cyclops Cinema (former Video Rodeo, 10 E. Univ Ave), 5/20-22, 23-26; see [cyclopscinema.com](http://cyclopscinema.com) for days, times.

**As Is CD Release Party** & others, Boca Fiesta Backyard, 10 pm - good place to enjoy the ...



FULL MOON

**28** Interfaith Dialog, Emmanuel Mennonite Church (1236 NW 18th Ave), 10 am.

**In the Company of Strangers** book release party, CMC, 2 pm.

**Follow the Sun Festival** comes to Gvl: free show, Boca Backyard, 3-6 pm; other venues in evening; pg 24.

**4** The Legendary JC's Dance Party - Motown music at Boltin Ctr (516 NE 2nd Ave), 6:30 pm, \$15 (couples \$25; kids 12 & under free).

**Veg For Life** vegan potluck, UUFG, 1st Saturdays, \$2+veg dish, 6:30 pm.

**Jane Medved** art exhibit reception, Pride Ctr (3131 NW 13th St), 7 pm.

**Nancy Luca & Band** play at Chiappini's in Melrose, 7:30 pm.

**11** Interfaith Dialog, Emmanuel Mennonite Church, 10 am.

**Author Lisa Unger**, downtown library (401 E Univ Ave), 2:30pm.

**Save the Santa Fe & New Rivers** fundraiser at Chiappini's in Melrose, 10 am-midnight.

**18** Gvl Vintage Pop-up market & bazaar, Poole Bldg (720 SE 2nd St), 9:30 am-4 pm. (For vendor info, contact Michelle, 925-222-1671.)

**Interfaith Dialog** - see 5/28.

**Plant & Seed Swap**, Highlands Presb. Church (1001 NE 16th Ave), noon.

**Juneteenth Celebration**, Cone Park Library (2841 E Univ Ave), 4 pm.

**1983: Sally Ride** becomes 1st US woman in space.

**25** 1962: US Supreme Court ends mandatory government prayer in public schools.



# Peace Poetry contest chooses student winners

Veterans for Peace held their seventh annual Peace Poetry contest reading/reception on May 14. There were 266 poems submitted from all K–12 schools in Alachua County, and 32 winners were chosen. The students read their poems in front of 150 guests and received a gift certificate to a local bookstore and a book, which included all of the winning poems.

*There are no new developments in the case of the shooting of 16-year-old Robert Dentmond by police in March. Tyandra Mosley, a classmate of Dentmond, read this poem at the poetry contest. She is a senior at Gainesville High.*

## For Robert

Woke up this morning like every other day,

I turned on my phone to find dismay.

Social media on its R.I.P. rants again, who I thought would be causing this in the morning?

It was my fellow classmate.

The video I watched of bullets pouring into a boy who has serious issues. Every bullet went into his tissue.

He was only 16.

Second period first semester is where I met him. He was a troubled boy who had lost his way.

His pretty eyes had far more to say.

There could have been an intervention before fire let loose but it of course it was all in the line of duty.

What a way to start my day to cry.

I feel for his family.

Where were these people before the R.I.P.'s or police brutality in the streets of Gainesville? White on black crime?

Well I hate to tell you he was Mexican.

Rest in Peace the boy I only knew a semester.

Whose eyes festered on me when we had new seats and I sat by him.

He took care of my phone when I left it alone. He was kind but his demons weren't.

Robert needed help.

Help that his girlfriend could not imagine.

I'll remember the blasting of music and the "nahh" sarcasm.

The news will be on my timeline all day. What will happen next Monday?

The could've, should've, would've run through my mind. It was only a matter of time before his past came to his present.

Where did his soul truly go? He lived the life of sin I thought you should know.

The life of the streets is as real as denied depression. This was on my mind but

What was his confession? 🐾

Veterans for Peace members believe that peace-making and hope for a peaceful world begin in our community, our homes and our schools. They invited students to participate in the Peace Poetry contest because a peaceful possibility lies in younger generations who will be leading, transforming and inspiring tomorrow's world.

Veterans for Peace also awarded three \$500 scholarships to local students — Mariana Castro, Guerbrea Fort, and Doug Bernal — entering or attending college who have demonstrated leadership in peace and social justice causes.

Mariana Castro is a neurobiological science major at the University of Florida and a transfer student from Santa Fe College. She is a student leader of CHISPAS and the Gators Dream Forward program, which aims to build a community for undocumented students at UF. Mariana was the lead organizer for this year's "Swipe Left on Wendy's Campaign" which brought over 50 agricultural laborers from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers to Gainesville to march in solidarity with students in support of farm worker rights. She is also fundraising director for a new scholarship program for undocumented and underrepresented students at UF.

Guerbrea Fort is an Honors Program graduate at Santa Fe College. She is working on her Bachelor's of Science degree in Public Relations at UF. She works as a mentor for girls ages 6-8, teaching them the values of peace as well as assertiveness and speaking up for their peers. She served as Student Activities director at Buchholz High, and was the leader of Santa Fe College's 2015 Relay for Life team that raised funds to honor and support cancer survivors. She plans to attend law school and work on behalf of social justice and educational equity.

Doug Bernal is a student at Santa Fe College and a military veteran of the war in Iraq. He plans to enroll in the UF Teach Program with a goal of becoming a public school science teacher. He is the membership chair for the local Sierra Club, and he serves on the organization's executive committee. He is active with the Alachua County Labor Coalition on living wage issues and he has marched on behalf of the Fight for \$15 campaign. Doug is an active member of Veterans for Peace.

The Mourning Glories, a four-piece old-time/Irish-trad/ghostly-gospel/folk-grass string band from Gainesville, performed for the event. 🐾

## Peace A poem by Kalia Bernis

*Grade 8, Queen of Peace Catholic Academy, High Honors*

They can paint a picture of the past and the present,  
and they know what happened and what is happening.  
They cry softly.  
Help me.

They see no hatred, but peace in the opponent's eyes,  
for they hear each other's silent cries.  
They whisper in despair.  
Help me.

The children at home not knowing what is going on,  
and wives praying for peace in their hearts, and to see loved ones returning safely.  
They sit quietly.  
Help me.

When or if they come home, faith is almost gone;  
but when they see those familiar faces,  
love and peace and hope is not in vain.  
They weep loudly.  
Help me.

However, returning home finds them lost in a world,  
a world of confusion and of war. Physically they are with you,  
but mentally they are distant.  
They say nothing.  
Help me.

When they do not return...  
The families cry out loud.  
Come back to me.

Is it worse for one to return when peace is finally won,  
and not to be able to reach out to anyone.  
Or is it better for the flag to be delivered to the family left behind.  
After the pain is gone, which it never is, they move on.  
Time is suppose to be the healer of all pain, but families with flags would beg to differ.  
They think of a world with love and hope.  
And they wish for a world with one thing, one thing we all desire at some point,

PEACE



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*TRANS, from p. 1*  
using throughout the year with permission from our principal, John Kerley.

My name is Nich Rardin and I attend Vanguard High School. While this policy does not affect me directly, it does affect my community, the LGBTQ+ community. The passing of this policy upset not only members of the transgendered community but its allies as well. I felt that something needed to change, rapidly. Aware that there is a defined strength in numbers, I needed a plan of action. So, within 24 hours of the policy being passed with a 4 to 1 vote, I began to organize what would unknowingly grow into a protest.

This protest was the result of a large-scale collaboration between roughly 60 students, many of whom attend Vanguard, along with students of various Marion County high schools. Over the 3 days preceding the actual demonstration, I unintentionally became the spokesperson and representative of the protest.

We faced a lot of challenges while organizing the protest, mainly

from the school itself. The resistance came from a fear that we would have a walk out during 6th period, at 1:50 pm, which was the original plan. We realized this would be seen as an on-campus disturbance, and decided against it. Yet, we still faced unnecessary and completely fabricated concerns.

One student in opposition to our movement began spreading rumors of a school shooting, with the sole purpose of deterring the entire protest. Sparking suspicion and fear, this rumor understandably resulted in a smaller outcome of students who were willing to participate than those who initially committed.

I believed that it was a necessity to have this peaceful protest publicized and seen by as many people as we could reach. I contacted multiple news outlets and newspapers to come out and cover the story.

Clad in homemade “Trans Lives Matter” t-shirts, colored blue and pink to represent the genders, the band of us marched in front of Vanguard waving posters and banners, encouraging observers to show support. After the school carline had died down we walked half a mile to a major highway (441) and protested until 6 pm.

The goal of this was not to reverse the School Board’s decision, as that would be an unrealistic one, but to bring attention to those who had been silenced, and to give them a voice. We wanted to show how many people were opposed to the decision of the school board, and that the majority is \*not, \* in fact, supportive of it.


This policy is not about protection- it’s about control and fear of the unknown.

*EDITORS’ NOTE: At press time, the Marion County School Board dug in its heels and said the transgender bathroom ban will continue, despite the Obama administration’s warning to all school districts that such discriminatory policies could result in a loss of federal funding and/or a lawsuit. Meanwhile, Alachua County schools are already in compliance with Obama’s directive and include gender identity in the district’s nondiscrimination policy.* 🐾



LET ME SPEAK DIRECTLY TO THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY. NO MATTER HOW ISOLATED OR SCARED YOU MAY FEEL TODAY, THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND THE ENTIRE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION WANTS YOU TO KNOW THAT WE SEE YOU; WE STAND WITH YOU; AND WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO PROTECT YOU GOING FORWARD.


ATTORNEY GENERAL  
LORETTA LYNCH



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

Visit us at [www.pflaggainesville.org](http://www.pflaggainesville.org) or find us on Facebook!

**When:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month at 7 p.m.  
**Where:** 1625 NW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Gainesville, FL 32603.



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 7:00 PM**

[www.artwalkgainesville.com](http://www.artwalkgainesville.com)


*MAYOR, from p. 1*  
trouble getting to where you need to be, regardless the time of day. Your Gainesville is the farthest thing from perfect....

Gainesville started as a racially and economically segregated town, a legacy of, at first, a slave community and later, a community living under the yolk of Jim Crow laws that forced inequity upon all of our residents. These racist policies became woven into the institutional fabric of our city. The legal basis for this inequity began to get dismantled with the civil rights rulings and legislation of the 1950s and 1960s, but de facto segregation endured. And while cities, including our own, have been slowly peeling away the institutional imperatives and policies that have not only created, but defended our inequity, the foundation of exclusion, hatched in our original sin, still exists. We are far from more perfect.

This is the reality of the city that I love, that we all love. And when something we love is sick, we have a responsibility to bring it back to health. This is our collective opportunity. We can heal our city and restore, nay create for the first time, equity in Gainesville. We, together, can create a more perfect city....

Make no mistake. This will not be an easy lift, and the path to success will be littered with the landmines of cynicism, doubt, timidity and recreational oppositionalism. But we will not be deterred. We will start by working together on developing the fairgrounds sight with the same enthusiasm and creativity we marshalled towards Innovation Square. We will the use the momentum built from that collaboration to make a reality a 21st century economic model that will include opportunity for all and the exclusion of none....

In order to become the preeminent city in the nation, we will



**HUTCH**  
ROBERT HUTCHINSON  
FOR ALACHUA COUNTY COMMISSION

**Progressive leadership on the environmental, social, and economic issues of our time**

“The election on August 30th will determine if Alachua County values our water supplies and wildlife corridors, whether we are committed to reducing the number of people incarcerated due to mental health and substance use issues, and whether we will continue on the path towards economic justice.”


[www.ReElectHutch.com](http://www.ReElectHutch.com)

Political ad paid for and approved by Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson, Democrat for Alachua County Commission - District 3

need to do more than fill potholes, cut the grass and keep the power on. We will need to become a more perfect police department, evolving our interactions with the community to reflect a new understanding of how to best help our residents and keep them out of trouble. Our jails can no longer be our mental health treatment centers, drug treatment facilities or homeless shelters. We need to rewrite our policies and retrain our officers to be more sensitive towards differences of race, circumstances of mental health and effects of poverty....

And in order to accomplish all of this, we need come together as a community.... So whether it be a vibrant arts and cultural community, a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem, safe and lively neighborhoods, a cutting-edge government and people-centered utility, an unprecedented collaboration between public and private, unified drive for preeminence by university, college, school board and city, or the emergence of the collective exceptionalism coursing through the veins of our residents, Gainesville stands ready to answer the call! My belief in what our city can achieve is of the first magnitude. I have the highest expectations of our city leaders, staff and our residents. And I expect all of you to hold me to the highest standards of excellence. It is only when we collectively agree that we are all willing to do the hard work necessary to create a more perfect city that we can achieve what no other community, not ours, not any, has achieved: Pre-eminence; being better than all of the rest. So I call you to stand with me with a full appreciation of our past and a resolute view of our future, committed to achieving what has never been done, committed to the more perfect Gainesville.

To see the entire swearing in ceremony, as well as Poe’s and Adrian Hayes-Santos’s full speech, go to: [https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=%27lauran+poe%27+gainesville](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=%27lauran+poe%27+gainesville) 🐾



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## GROWRADIO.org programming schedule

Grow Radio is a listener-supported, Gainesville-based Internet radio station that provides community members an opportunity to create and manage engaging, educational, informative, locally-generated programming to promote fine, musical and visual arts and humanities for the enrichment of the Gainesville community.

Grow Radio is changing its format, moving from live-streaming, free-form programming to a podcast-only format.

The following schedule is subject to change, and not all programs are broadcast each week. Check growradio.org for updates.

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

## ALTERNATIVE RADIO

### DEALS on Multi-Packs

**Two CDs - \$24, two mp3s - \$8, two transcripts - \$8, two pdfs - \$8**

Limousine Liberal Two-Pack (<http://www.alternativeradio.org/products/frat004-girh001>)

Thomas Frank – Hey Liberal, Listen Up + Henry Giroux – The Human Cost of Neoliberalism

Climate Activist Two-Pack (<http://www.alternativeradio.org/products/parc002-mckb007>)

Bill McKibben – Breaking Away from Fossil Fuels + Christian Parenti – Climate Crisis

Authoritarian Regime Two-Pack (<http://www.alternativeradio.org/products/khor005-hasn001>)

Rami Khouri – Arab Jails & American Jets + Nader Hashemi – The Broken Politics of the Middle East

Whistleblowing Two-Pack (<http://www.alternativeradio.org/products/kirj001-mcgr002>)

John Kiriakou – The War on Whistleblowers + Ray McGovern – Whistleblowers

Bill McKibben – Breaking Free from Fossil Fuels (<http://www.alternativeradio.org/products/mckb007>)

Rami Khouri – Arab Jails & American Jets (<http://www.alternativeradio.org/products/khor005>)

John Kiriakou – The War on Whistleblowers (<http://www.alternativeradio.org/products/kirj001>)

Nader Hashemi – The Broken Politics of the Middle East (<http://www.alternativeradio.org/products/hasn001>)

.....

*Purchase any one of the following books from David's recommended summer reading list and receive a free copy of Katha Pollitt's best selling book PRO: Reclaiming Abortion Rights (<http://www.alternativeradio.org/products/pol001-1>) while supplies last.*

Elizabeth Kolbert – The Sixth Extinction ([http://www.alternativeradio.org/products/book\\_kole001](http://www.alternativeradio.org/products/book_kole001))

Howard Zinn – A People's History of the United States (deluxe edition) (<http://www.alternativeradio.org/products/book-zinh003ab>)

Noam Chomsky – What Kind of Creatures Are We? (<http://www.alternativeradio.org/products/book-chon014>)

Angela Davis – Freedom is a Constant Struggle ([http://www.alternativeradio.org/products/book\\_dava001](http://www.alternativeradio.org/products/book_dava001))

*Our latest programs rank among our best ever. Call to order or click and buy.*

Vandana Shiva – We Are All Seeds (<http://www.alternativeradio.org/products/shiv021>)

Noam Chomsky – Toward a Better Society (<http://www.alternativeradio.org/products/chon250>)

Thomas Frank – Listen Up Liberal (<http://www.alternativeradio.org/products/frat001>)

[www.alternativeradio.org](http://www.alternativeradio.org)



## WGOT-LP 94.7 FM

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

Check out [wgot.org](http://wgot.org) for upcoming events  
and a detailed schedule.

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

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



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

## Support WGOT, Gainesville's community radio station

Community radio is a vital local media lifeline in many communities. Gainesville is no exception.

WGOT-LP began broadcasting on 94.7FM in January of 2008 as a broadcast media service of the Civic Media Center and continues to provide a cornucopia of local music, news, and public affairs programming to the Gainesville community. This programming is augmented by regional and national programs via the Pacifica Radio Network.

Now, WGOT-LP stands at a crossroads: we can continue to keep our humble operation in its current configuration as a shared station with two local churches, or expand to our own frequency at 100.1FM. To do this, we need YOUR help, both financial and otherwise.

Finances are the key, with funds to cover our performance rights (royalty) licenses as well as our annual dues to continue our

affiliation with the Pacifica Radio Network, which brings you programs like Democracy Now! with Amy Goodman.

No donation for YOUR community radio station is too big or too small. By making our goal, we not only will be able to obtain the equipment that will allow us to broadcast from a dedicated spot on the dial from a physical studio space, but also regain our online streaming signal, which we lost last fall because of financial and legal complications.

WGOT is on the cusp of HUGE potential growth. Follow us on Facebook for even further updates. Help be a part of it. Financial help, of course, is needed, but also volunteer dj's, schedulers and people to help staff events. Just recently we co-sponsored a concert at the Bo Diddley plaza downtown, a new relationship we are very excited about. If you have ideas, go to [wgot.org](http://wgot.org).

## Civic Media Center Grassroots support keeps it going

The Civic Media Center is a community-based non-profit organization that serves as a resource for progressive grassroots activism in Alachua County and North Central Florida. It's an alternative library, reading room and infoshop that carries over 15,000 publications by independent, non-corporate media, and holds regular events for the public. Please support the CMC in whatever way you can: volunteering, memberships, donations, ideas, and attendance at events.

Every Thu Weekly Volunteer Meeting, 5:30 pm  
Every Thu Weekly Poetry Jam, 8 pm

Mon 5/16	Gainesville Respite Center Film, 7 pm
Wed 5/18	Kid Dead/Undiscover Hip Hop Show, 9 pm
Sun 5/22	Yogatree, 12 pm
Mon 5/23	Movie Monday: The Sea Between Us, 7 pm
Fri 5/27	Live Music: Pink Wash and local bands, 9 pm
Sat 5/28	Kimberly Mullins Book Release Party, 7 pm
Mon 5/30	The Mad World of Donald Trump, 7 pm
Fri 6/3	Live Music: Naps Show, 9 pm
Sun 6/5	Yoga For Others, 11 am
Fri 6/10	Books For Prisoners Benefit Show, 9 pm

Check [civicmediacenter.org](http://civicmediacenter.org) for details, additional events



**433 S. Main Street • 373-0010**

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

## S-Connection to hold ribbon cutting

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at S-Connection Aerial Arts on May 26 at 5:45 pm to celebrate their one-year anniversary. S-Connection specializes in circus arts, Brazilian dance and music styles, extreme outdoor sports, and cultural tours in Brazil, and offers classes in a variety of circus and dance skills including silks, trapeze lyra, partner balancing, hula hooping, pole, aerial conditioning, aerial yoga, ballet, hip hop, West African dance, and Samba

The free event will include light refreshments as well as a short acrobatic presentation. S-Connection is at 250 SE 10th Ave. in Gainesville. ☘

## Raise your voice! Because Rick Scott is still an asshole

**Rally and Speak Out  
against Rick Scott's Policies**  
Hosted by National Women's Liberation  
at Main & University  
**Saturday, June 3**

**5-6:30 pm  
Rally for abortion rights**

Event at the Woolly to benefit Reproductive Justice. \$5-\$15 sliding scale - no one turned away for lack of \$.

**7-10pm  
Speaker Cara Jennings**

- Live Music by The Ones to Blame, QTheSound and more TBA
- Food Venders (Humble Pie)
- Silent Auction, Raffle (including a chance to win a coffee with Cara!)

**10pm-2am  
Dance Party**

with DJ Dewey Decimal - spinning hip hop, salsa, merengue, reggaeton and top 40 dance hits.

Funds raised will benefit Southern Birth Justice Network <http://www.southernbirthjustice.org/circle-of-mamas.html> and Bread and Roses Women's Health Center <http://www.breadroses.com/>



# History and the people who make it: Genevieve Payne Benson

*Transcript edited by Pierce Butler.*

*This is the 35th in a series of transcript excerpts from the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program collection at the University of Florida.*

*Genevieve Payne Benson [B] and Alvester Duckworth [D] were interviewed by Ryan Morini [M] in 2012.*

## M: What was your date of birth?

**B:** December 22, 1927 [in] Nacimiento Coahuila, Mexico. I was born at home. My mother had twelve children and never had a doctor. Tia Panchita was the midwife, the señora partera. My daddy’s aunt. She delivered the whole Nacimiento.

My grandfather was named Isaac Gardner and he and two brothers escaped from slavery from Georgia. They came to Florida. Then they escaped to Texas and in Lockhart, Texas, they put ‘em in jail.

One day, they told ‘em, “Boys, y’all better enjoy your last meal because we got in touch with your master. They’ll be here in the mornin’ to pick y’all up.” [Laughter]

They didn’t have no appetite. They started working, digging with their bare hand, tryin’ to dig their way out. They run up on a little piece of iron. They take turns, worked all night. Finally almost daylight time, it was big enough for they could escape, one at a time [Laughter].

They sneak through that hole and they began to run. They were chasing them with hounds and they run ‘til they got to a river, don’t know ‘bout the name of the river. They jumped, one of them almost drowned. But they pulled him out and escaped, and they cross over into Mexico.

They were hungry and barefooted. They didn’t hurt no one. They would go to the house, ask them for something to eat. Meat peddlers, they would rob them, but they didn’t kill no one, all they wanted freedom.

Finally they got to Mexico. Some of the Mexicans were scared of them, they never seen Black folks before [Laughter].

Nacimiento the little village where the Black people was, that’s where they went. They didn’t know no one, but they was free. They were free [Laughter].

## D: Nacimiento de los ...?

**B:** Con aguila de los Negros, because Black people lived there. They started working out in the field. He met my

grandmother over there. She was from Little Rock, Arkansas. Her folks had escaped to Mexico, freedom. My grandmother’s name was Susie, but they called her by her slavery name “Sookie.” They had a bunch of children. They got along good with the Mexicans and the Indians, the Kickapoo Indians. They went back and forth.

Then [my mother] grew up to be a teenage and she met my father, John Payne.

My father, his father had gotten into some trouble, and he had to go live with his uncle Bob. His uncle Bob was mean to

this is a free country, I ain’t goin’ back.” [Laughter] He told ‘em, “You see this land, I’m building this little house.” It was nothing but a little shack! Dirt floor and all that. He got to workin’ out in the field, and that’s the way he grewed up. Then he met my mother.

My mother name was Maurice Payne. They were real strict, they didn’t want them to have no boyfriend in them days. They would slip out and see each other and talk and all that. Finally they decided, they would get married. Mama was scared, she didn’t wanna tell her daddy! [Laughter] Oh lord, that old man got mad! Finally they did, they got married. Oh they had the children [Laughter].

When Revolution broke out, Pancho Villa was such a big crook my daddy was afraid of him. He would rob people, kill them, take their land, he and all his soldiers. He wanted my daddy to be on his side. My daddy said, no, no. Carranza broke this, he was against Pancho Villa. Finally my daddy left with Pancho, with Carranza and some more men.

My daddy said he wasn’t used to all that killing and robbing. What Pancho Villa did he send them pick up they family, all the men that didn’t wanna join him. Came and got my mother and her four children, some more black families, and Mexican, and my grandmother, she went along with my mama.

They was gonna put ‘em on an island, La Siglas a Maria. My mother barely know how to read and she wrote the— what they call it? The Council of United States.

## M: Congress?

**B:** Yes, the Congress. The council we say it in Spanish, we never said it in English! She wrote a letter and this white man went in there, and she gave him that letter. That man put that letter in his shoes and mailed it and that’s the way they got off. Then they came again to United States, Galveston, Texas.

The little girls were sick, Della and Lorene. When she got in Brackettville, Lorene died. ‘bout two weeks after that, the other girl died, Della. My daddy—didn’t know where was my daddy. [laughs] He was running from Pancho Villa. She had only Bob and Tommy left, the two older sons. They stay with my grandmother—I don’t know how my daddy did find out that they was back in United States, he

came on over. They lived there a while in Brackettville. My daddy said no we going back to Mexico [Laughter]. He said no this ain’t no free country, I’m going back to my free country.

They had another baby, my daddy decided he would name her Lorene. Then she had John, we call him Juanitas. That’s the only one living now of my brothers, and Fred.

## D: He’s ninety-five years old, he’s still livin’.

**B:** She had six boys and six girls, I’m number ten. We grew up in Nacimiento.

We had ‘bout a thousand head of Spanish goat, a few cows, horses and all that. Oh we worked hard. None of us didn’t finish school. Then we came to United States, to Texas, way back in ’37, ‘38 and I liked it. I decided that I would stay with Lorene, my daddy’s mama, Rena July.

I started going to a three little room schoolhouse. They would make fun of me call me “Genevidog.” I wanted to learn English, and I’m glad I did. I went through a whole lot, but at least I learn how to write my name and read a little. I went far as to the third grade, fourth grade. I went on back to Mexico and then I came back again and went a while to school in Del Rio, Texas. I would always try to learn and they would always pick on me. Children are so cruel.

That’s why I tell my children—I have eight—don’t be mean, don’t make fun of no one. But I made it, oh I made it! Then I met Bo Benson, my husband. [Laughter]

We went together ‘bout two weeks. I was just 19 years old and he was 28 or 29. I didn’t know what married was, married? He said go to the courthouse. I went and sat there and wait for him, then I see him walking [gasps] that cowboy with that black hat. Oh my goodness! [Laughter] Look what I got!

We got married. Then I went on back. I was livin’ with my sister. He came to get me, “C’m on we going back to the ranch.” She said, “Where you goin’ with him?” Bo said, “I married this girl.” He took out the married license and showed. [Laughter]

My mama got to yellin’ at me and I sat there just shakin’. [Laughter]

I brought it all on myself, but oh I really loved my cowboy. [Laughter] We went out to a little ranch and my first son was born on Leap Year, my Leap Year boy. Then I had a girl—that’s his mother. I had another boy, A.B., the one with the Buffalo Soldiers now. I had Anna Marie in 1953, that’s the year my father died. From ’55 on I had four boys.

My father died, he was seventy-four. The horse fell on him. He broke his neck, his collarbone, and his back. He was yelling for “help, help...help! Ay, auxilio, auxilio! No puedo moverme!” Finally, some folks passing by picked him up. They bring ‘em to Muzquiz and that’s where he died.

## D: The thing with the Seminoles and Mexico, they have such a huge Mexican influence so it’s different from the Seminoles in Florida ...

**B:** I never dreamed that I would end up in Florida, Oklahoma, Kansas, Kentucky, Tennessee ...

## D: You went all over.

**B:** All my neighbors, they all Mexicans. They treat me right, just like I am one of them. I ain’t no black, I’m a Mexicana! [Laughter]

## D: Grandma pretty much covered it all I think. I’m very proud of her. We used to call great-grandpa ...

**B:** El pajarito, yes. They were lookin’ for him. Pancho Villa mens was comin’. We were living in a little shack in Nacimiento, and my daddy was going to milk the cows. Someone holler, “uncle Johnny! Some man comin’ down the street! There’s some more comin’ on the other side!” My daddy said, “Oh no, I ain’t goin’ - those are Pancho Villa men after me.” He just jumped on the horse. My mama got a broom and bop that horse. That horse jumped the fence. They never did find him. He was gone! [Laughter]

If I go back to Mexico and I seen some old people, I say I’m Pajaro daughter, “Yo soy hija El Pajarito.” He was a man, they don’t make them like my daddy anymore, oh no.

So many good memories over there. That was freedom over there. Oh yes.

**D:** That’s something I wanna point out, too that not only did they contribute to the culture of the United States—African or African American—but also in Latin America. Even the music and the Cumbia comes from West Africa and people don’t realize that so I wanna put that on record. [Laughter] A lot of Blaxicano influence, definitely. [Laughter]

**B:** We used to go them dances and all that good music and we be laughin’ and goin’ on. We had them good days in Mexico. All them days are gone.

*Search for “Genevieve Payne Benson” at <http://oral.history.ufl.edu/collection/> for the full transcript of this interview.*

*The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program believes that listening carefully to first-person narratives can change the way we understand history, from scholarly questions to public policy. SPOHP needs the public’s help to sustain and build upon its research, teaching, and service missions: even small donations can make a big difference in SPOHP’s ability to gather, preserve, and promote history for future generations. ☛*

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**HELP END HOMELESSNESS!**  
The Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless and Hungry, Inc., a 501(c)(3), is starting a Motor Donor program to support the GRACE Marketplace  
**PLEASE DONATE**  
Cars, trucks, boats, RVs, motorcycles and scooters (running or not!)  
**352 575-8307**



# Iguana Directory

Call 352-378-5655 or email [gainesvilleiguana@cox.net](mailto:gainesvilleiguana@cox.net) with updates and additions

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

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

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

**Alachua County Green Party** Part of a worldwide movement built out of four interrelated social pillars that support its politics: the peace, civil rights, environmental and labor movements. [alachuagreens.weebly.com](http://alachuagreens.weebly.com), [alachuagreens@gmail.com](mailto:alachuagreens@gmail.com), 352-222-3449.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:bstandly@aclufl.org)

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

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

**Citizens Climate Lobby** (Gainesville Chapter) provides education/activist opportunities to bring about a stable climate. Meetings are on the Wednesday after the first Saturday of each month at 12:30, at Vine Bread & Pasta place at 627 N. Main St. 352-672-4327, [www.citizensclimatelobby.org](http://www.citizensclimatelobby.org), [cclgainesville@gmail.com](mailto:cclgainesville@gmail.com)

**Civic Media Center** Alternative reading room and library of the non-corporate press, and a resource and space for organizing. 352-373-0010, [www.civicmediacenter.org](http://www.civicmediacenter.org).

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

[www.chispasuf.org](http://www.chispasuf.org)

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

**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](mailto: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](http://ConserveFlorida.org)

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

**Edible Plant Project** Local 100% volunteer-run collective to create a revolution through edible and food-producing plants. <http://edibleplantproject.org/contact-us>.

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

**The Fine Print** Independent, critically thinking outlet for political, social and arts coverage through local, in-depth reporting for Gainesville's students. [www.thefineprintuf.org](http://www.thefineprintuf.org).

**Florida School of Traditional Midwifery** A clearinghouse for information, activities and educational programs. 352-338-0766 [www.midwiferyschool.org](http://www.midwiferyschool.org)

**Florida Defenders of the Environment** works to protect freshwater resources, conserve public lands, and provide quality environmental education since 1969, 352-475-1119, [Fladefenders.org](http://Fladefenders.org)

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

**Gainesville Citizens for Alternatives to Death Penalty** works to abolish the death penalty. Join vigils when Florida has an execution. Meets first Tuesday every month at St. Augustine Church & Catholic Student Center , 1738 W. University Ave, 352-378-1690, [www.fadp.org](http://www.fadp.org).

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

**Gainesville Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice (IAIJ)** organizes faith communities to work together for immigrant justice. Meets 2nd Mondays at 6 pm at the Mennonite Meeting House, 1236 NW 18th Ave. [Gainesvilleiaij@gmail.com](mailto:Gainesvilleiaij@gmail.com), [www.gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com](http://www.gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com), 352-377-6577.

**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. [gainesvilleloves-mountains@gmail.com](mailto:gainesvilleloves-mountains@gmail.com), 352-610-1090, <http://gainesvillelovesmountains.wordpress.com/>.

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

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

**National Women's Liberation** is a feminist group for women who want to fight back against male supremacy and win more freedom for women. The inequalities between women and men are political problems requiring a collective solution. Founded 1968. Join us: [www.womensliberation.org](http://www.womensliberation.org), P.O. Box 14017, Gainesville, 32604, 347-560-4695, [nwl@womensliberation.org](mailto:nwl@womensliberation.org).

**Gainesville Zen Center & Hostel** A Zen Buddhist community offering rooms to rent on a daily basis. 404 SE 2nd St., 352-336-3613, [wonderwhy@cox.net](http://wonderwhy@cox.net).

**Graduate Assistants United** Union represents UF grad assistants by fighting for improved working conditions, community involvement and academic freedom. 352-575-0366, [officers@ufgau.org](mailto:officers@ufgau.org), [www.ufgau.org](http://www.ufgau.org)

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

**Harvest of Hope Foundation** Non-profit provides emergency and educational financial aid to migrant farm workers around the country. [www.harvestofhope.net](http://www.harvestofhope.net), email: [kellerhope@cox.net](mailto: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](mailto:barupa@atlantic.net) or 352-372-4825.

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

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

**Industrial Workers of the World** Local union organizing all workers. Meetings are at the Civic Media Center the first Sunday of the month at 4:30 pm. [Gainesvilleiww@gmail.com](mailto:Gainesvilleiww@gmail.com). [www.gainesvilleiww.org](http://www.gainesvilleiww.org)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare** Local advocates work to promote/ preserve these threatened programs for senior citizens. We have literature, speakers, T-shirts. Email: [sun115flower@yahoo.com](mailto:sun115flower@yahoo.com). See national Web site to join: <http://www.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](mailto:nlggainesville@gmail.com) or [www.nlg.org](http://www.nlg.org)

**NCF AWIS** is an advocacy organization

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Sierra Club** meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville-4225 NW 34th St. 352-528-3751, [www.sjsierra.org](http://www.sjsierra.org)

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

**Stand By Our Plan** is committed to informing

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

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

**Sunday Assembly**, a secular congregation which celebrates life, meets the third Sunday of each month at 3 pm at 530 W. University Ave. (Santa Fe College campus building in downtown Gainesville). There is a talk, music, sing-alongs, discussion, refreshments and fellowship. See <http://SAGainesville.weebly.com/>.

**UF Pride Student Union** Group of gay, lesbian, bi and straight students & non-students, faculty and staff. [www.grove.ufl.edu/~pride](http://www.grove.ufl.edu/~pride).

**UF Radical Student Alliance** is a progressive grassroots organization that strives to combat social justice issues on campus, with our core values being transparency, democratic process, the value of each member's input, and the ability of any member to assume a leadership role. Meetings are at 6:30pm Wednesdays on campus, [ufradstudentalliance@gmail.com](mailto:ufradstudentalliance@gmail.com).

**United Faculty of Florida Union** represents faculty at University of Florida. 352-392-0274, [president@uff-uf.org](mailto:president@uff-uf.org), [www.UFF-UF.org](http://www.UFF-UF.org).

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

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

**Veterans for Peace** Anti-war organization that raises awareness of the detriments of militarism and war as well as seeking peaceful and effective alternatives. Meets first Wednesday of every month at 7 pm. 352-375-2563, <http://vfp Gainesville.org/>

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

**World Socialist Party of the United States (WSP-US)** can be contacted by anyone wanting to know and understand more about Marxian socialism and the WSPUS's efforts to transform the dog-eat-dog – Devil take the hindmost world created by capitalism into a democratically arranged world society of equality by emailing the Party at [boston@wspus.org](mailto:boston@wspus.org). All email received will be responded to. Upon request the Party will provide membership applications..✉



# City eliminates Memorial Mile location



The photo on the left shows the current state of Gainesville's NW 8th Avenue strip. The photo on the right is the Memorial Day tombstone display that Veterans for Peace created at that location in 2014. (Current photo by Joe Courter, 3/24/16.)

After nine years of a (sadly) ever-growing display of tombstones honoring the US soldiers who died in the post-9/11 wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Gainesville Veterans for Peace chapter and community volunteers will not be putting up the "Memorial Mile" display on NW 8th Avenue in 2016.

The reason is the City of Gainesville's decision to eliminate the grass strip along the south side of 8th Avenue to widen the sidewalk. This came after the decision to not have NW 8th Ave be single traffic lanes with a center median and bike lanes, and revert to a higher speed two

lanes each way, a curb-to-curb cars and trucks speedway.

To many people involved in Gainesville's annual Memorial Mile Project, that grass strip had become a sort of sacred ground. They feel it was painful to see it torn up. 🐢

## Music fest coming to St. Augustine, Gainesville, Cedar Key

Follow the Sun is a three-day music festival traveling from coast to coast in Florida, and featuring 22 of the region's most talented musicians and national bands.

This year's dates are Friday, May 27 in St. Augustine, Saturday, May 28 in Gainesville, and Sunday, May 29 in Cedar Key. In each of the three towns, bands will play in two locations.

This is the third year of this migratory festival. Much like a mini version of the annual Halloween weekend FEST put on by No Idea records, Follow the Sun is a chance to get a big dose of a lot of top bands playing back-to-back – in one city, two, or, if you are a real glutton – all three.

Three-day tickets cost \$40 each; one-day tickets in St. Augustine and Gainesville are \$15 each, and one-day tickets in Cedar Key are \$10 each. For a band listings, a schedule and to purchase tickets, go to: [followthesunfest.com](http://followthesunfest.com). 🐢



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Established 1986

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Comments, suggestions, contributions (written or financial) are welcome. To list your event or group, contact us at:

(352) 378-5655

[GainesvilleIguana@cox.net](mailto:GainesvilleIguana@cox.net)

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