



The Gainesville Iguana

January/February, 2017
Vol. 31, Issue 1/2



Gainesville had a rapid response to the Nov. 8 election result which culminated in a multi-faceted organizing effort called "Gainesville City of Resistance." A large march and rally on Nov. 19 saw over 1,500 people marching from the O'Connell Center at UF to the Bo Diddley Plaza downtown. Photo by Austin Schmitz.

Radical Hope

by Junot Díaz

Below is an excerpt from a collection of 16 essays published by The New Yorker on November 21 titled Aftermath: Sixteen Writers on Trump's America. See more at www.newyorker.com.

... So what now? Well, first and foremost, we need to feel. We need to connect courageously with the rejection, the fear, the vulnerability that Trump's victory has inflicted on us, without turning away or numbing ourselves or lapsing into cynicism. We need to bear witness to what we have lost: our safety, our sense of belonging, our vision of our country. We need to mourn all these injuries fully, so that they do not drag us into despair, so repair will be possible.

And while we're doing the hard, necessary work of mourning, we should avail ourselves of the old formations that have seen us through darkness. We organize. We form solidarities. And, yes: we fight. To be heard. To be safe. To be free.

For those of us who have been in the fight, the prospect of more fighting, after so cruel a setback, will seem impossible. At moments like these, it is easy for even a matatana (one who is the best) to feel that she can't go on. But I believe that, once the shock settles, faith and energy will return. Because let's be real: we always knew this shit wasn't going to be easy.

See *HOPE*, p. 8

Women pledge to strike during Inauguration

Targeting all work, paid and unpaid

Erin Mahoney and Jenny Brown

A huge women's march is planned in Washington, D.C. the day after Donald Trump is inaugurated, but one feminist group is taking their resistance a step further. National Women's Liberation is calling on women all over the country to strike from all work, paid and unpaid, January 20-21.

"The incoming administration is promising to cut, undermine, privatize, or eliminate every social contract from public schools to Medicare to Social Security. They expect the "family" (by which they

mean women) to fill in the gaps and pick up the pieces. **No we won't.** This strike is a warning. Our work can no longer be taken for granted," the group stated.

Since they launched a website (<http://womenstrike.org>) women from all over the country have been writing in, pledging to strike.

"My work is valuable, but not fairly compensated. I strike against an agenda that strives to make my healthcare even more expensive and puts me in physical dan-

See *STRIKE*, p. 18

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GOP looks to phase out Medicare, repeal ACA

House Speaker Paul Ryan, incoming Republican Congress plan to take away benefits

Special to the Iguana
by Mary Savage

House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and the Republican Congress want to phase out Medicare as well as repeal the Affordable Care Act. They want to replace Medicare with vouchers (\$5,000 for seniors) to buy private insurance from for-profit companies.

Ryan claims Medicare is going broke and that "privatization" is the answer. But the respected Kaiser Foundation deemed that by 2022, the so-called Ryan Plan would mean half of a 65-year-old's Social Security check would be gone when compared to traditional Medicare's cost today.

This is bad for seniors.

Adding to this disaster is the incoming regime that nominated Nick Mulvaney as White House budget director.

"Medicare as it exists today is finished" Mulvaney said, and he called Social Security "a Ponzi scheme," according to the organization Social Security Works.

Rep. Tom Price (R-GA), who has been nominated to lead the Health and Human Services administration, stated publicly he wants to privatize Medicare and destroy the Affordable Care Act.

Just before Congress left for the holidays, Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX) introduced the "Social Security Reform Act" that calls for raising the retirement age to 69, cutting the cost-of-living adjustment and eliminating taxation of benefits on high-income earners.

Awful. Mulvaney's statement is not true. Price's and Johnson's plans will hurt us, and we citizens need to speak up.

Social Security is insurance that provides a modest income for senior citizens and the disabled. It is insurance financed through the payroll deduction tax from individuals' paychecks. Employers also contribute to it.

Medicare is a healthcare insurance program for senior citizens and eligible disabled persons overseen by the federal government. Workers pay into Medicare through the payroll tax. These programs are not troublesome and should be kept intact.

Medicare has been available since 1965 when President Lyndon Johnson signed it into law. Medicare helps citizens pay medical bills when they reach retirement age.

Social Security, a highly successful program, was enacted in 1935, when Frank-

lin Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act. It gives senior citizens a modest retirement income to depend on, and the disabled a safety net.

Prior to enactment of Medicare – and also Medicaid, which assists the poor and seniors – hospitals were segregated by race. Medicare's law forced hospitals to desegregate by withholding federal funding from those that discriminated against African Americans, according to the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare.

Medicare, as implemented through the federal government, has kept seniors and their families free from financial devastation since medical costs generally increase as individuals age. Medicare has a low overhead (1-2 percent) when compared to private, for-profit insurance companies (20-30 percent).

So what would happen if Medicare is eliminated and a senior citizen couldn't pay the hospital bill for hip surgery? Most likely, the individual's children would have to pay. Should that burden be placed on them?

What if the bill were \$200,000 with an 80/20 plan from your "private" insurance company? That means \$40,000 would be billed to you and your family. What if you borrowed the money from a bank and couldn't pay it back? Do you think the bank would forgive the loan?

Of course not, but they would gladly send a tow truck to repossess the boat or car that was used as collateral for the loan.

The county sheriff might be at the family's front door with an eviction notice when the payments on the second home mortgage (used to pay the medical bills) goes unpaid.

We need Medicare now more than ever. We need Social Security now more than ever.

NOT SITTING BACK

Are you are thinking: "Republicans are in the White House, republicans are the majority in Congress, what can I do?"

When you do your taxes this year, take note of boxes 4 and 6 on your W-2 form. This is money YOU paid into Social Security and Medicare. People have been paying into these programs all their working lives.

These are our earned benefits: money intended to assist us and our fellow workers with a modest pension and an income

if there's a disability, and to pay medical bills when old-age arrives.

Social Security and Medicare have been and remain pillars in our country's economic stability. Social Security and Medicare help keep seniors out of poverty and contribute to the success of the local economy. Social Security and Medicare help preserve our nation's middle class.

Let's have house parties and invite our elected officials in Congress to visit the communities they represent. Encourage them to meet with us in our living rooms, backyards and community centers. We need to present our demands that Medicare and Social Security be preserved and even expanded. Let's make sure Social Security and Medicare remain the "third rail" of American politics.

One solution to strengthening Social Security's future involves removing the cap on the payroll tax limit that for 2016 was \$118,500. Another proposal is to allow for a Caregiver Credit for years a citizen spends out of the workforce caring for an ailing family member.

We must demand Medicare be preserved and even expanded to include hearing, vision and dental coverage for seniors, and eventually for everyone.

As for raising the retirement age, any waitress or construction worker can tell you the problems that would cause.

TAKE ACTION TODAY

We must call our senators at 202-224-3121 and demand they vote NO on confirming Mulvaney as budget director and Price as head of HHS. We must meet with our senators and representative at their home offices when they are back in our districts.

The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare has a toll-free hotline for the latest news about these issues. To connect with your senators and congressional representative, call 1-800-998-0180. Follow the prompts to leave a message: "No cuts to Social Security and Medicare!" Be sure to state that you are a registered voter and include your zip code.

We need to keep our elected officials accountable to us with our letters, emails and phone calls to demonstrate our support and strength. We must thank them for their courage when they defend Social Security and Medicare.

See MEDICARE, p. 21

From the publisher ...

Don't Mourn, Organize!

So here we are. As I write this we are two weeks from swearing in a man totally lacking the temperament and knowledge to hold the highest office in the land.

Many activities are planned to protest, to build solidarity and resistance, but it is hard not to be in fear anticipating what is to come. It goes much deeper than just Trump. The Cabinet he has put together (see "Editors Picks," pg. 24) is way worse than anyone would have imagined. Couple that with an evangelical wing nut as Vice President (and who very well may be much more involved in governing than most VPs) and the prospect of the judicial appointment which will serve beyond the Trump administration's term and things can look pretty bleak.

Well, I don't do bleak, I don't do hopeless. This was not the outcome I would have preferred in the election, but here it is and we need to deal with it.

Can I find positives despite the bad stuff listed above? Yes, I can.

Oh yes, we will lose ground in a number of areas, there will be folks who suffer, folks who die. We will be set back in trying to deal with climate change. There's lots of uncertainty and danger.

So what the hell could be positives?

First, a whole lot of people have been alerted that they need to be paying more attention, so we don't let such a circumstance like the 2016 election take place again.

All across this country, resistance is building to challenge the impending attacks on our rights and liberties. It is obvious to all that voter suppression and gerrymandering had a big impact on this election's outcome. If we can get past identity politics and single issue thinking, and recognize a common struggle we can have a huge impact on the 2018 and 2020 elections. Movement organizing could have a big role in getting electoral reforms passed and to get gerrymandering reversed in 2020, when the various state Houses are empowered to redraw districts.

Second, part of what needs to happen is a revitalized Democratic Party, and around the country supporters of the nearly victorious Bernie Sanders campaign are moving into local party organizations and running as candidates. This is really important, because there will be a lot of Trump voters who will be quite disappointed and feeling forsaken as their healthcare and social safety net is shredded.

Many of these Trump voters were not racist and sexist "deplorables." They were people who had lost hope in the Democrats, and were giving a big middle finger to the establishment. A more progressive, populist party needs to be ready to work with them.

Third, in the last twenty years, under both parties, in the U.S. there has been a belief in a militarized foreign policy and efforts at regime change that have lead to destabilization and much death and suffering. Most recently, the vilification of Russia and attendant drums of war have been building louder.

A rethinking of this policy is overdue, and under Trump we may get that.

None of the above would be happening if Clinton had won. We would have continued as we were. The day of reckoning would have been postponed. But now we need to and can build up forces of resistance.

Join and support existing organizations that are advocating for issues you believe in. Take civic responsibility more seriously. Work harder to be media-literate and not to fall for propaganda. Be conscious to build common cause with others. Resist deportation of immigrants, fight racism and homophobia, defend women's and workers rights. In the struggle comes connections and purpose.

Don't mourn, organize! ☘



Joe Courter

Subscribe!

The Gainesville Iguana is Gainesville's progressive events calendar & newsletter.

*Individuals: \$15 (or more if you can)
Low/No income: What you can
Groups: \$20*

*Gainesville Iguana
P.O. Box 14712
Gainesville, FL 32604*

Comments, suggestions, contributions (written or financial) are welcome. To list your event or group, contact us at: (352) 378-5655

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Celebrate Bulla Cubana!

Gainesville's first-ever Cuban arts and culture festival, Bulla Cubana (boo-YA-coo-BAH-na), aims to share international talent with the community. As the first-ever festival of its kind, Bulla Cubana will feature a dynamic and diverse line-up of more than 20 events starting in January, hosted by more than a dozen iconic Gainesville cultural institutions.

The collection of Cuban fine artists, muralists, dancers, musicians, authors, photographers, academics and filmmakers to be featured from January through March marks the first large-scale, cross-collaboration of Gainesville's arts leaders, coming together in order to promote the exchange of culture between Cuba and North Central Florida.

Bulla Cubana opened January 5, with the exhibit "Lights, Camera, Cuba!," a selection of vintage Cuban movie posters from the Efrain Barradas Collection of the UF Library at the University Galleries.

See *BULLA CUBANA*, p. 17

Help! Tents needed for cold weather

The HOMEVan project is again in need of tents to help those without housing during the cold weather.

We want to thank you again for your generosity the last time we did this fundraiser. Since then, due to storms that have destroyed some of the older tents, and the influx of people that find themselves newly homeless, we are once again in need. Many of our clients are elderly and disabled and it is unbearable to know that they have no roof over their heads at all.

Tents cost approximately \$40, so we are trying to raise money for 25 tents this time.

Arupa Freeman and her helpers at HOMEVan central will personally receive the money and will make sure the tents go to those in need.

Donate at <https://www.gofundme.com/homevantents>.

The Home Van is a project of Citizens for Social Justice, a 501(c)(3) charity, and our mission is direct outreach to homeless people in the Gainesville area. Donations are tax-deductible.

Dreamers under threat

by Phil Kellerman

Donald Trump is threatening the lives of approximately 800,000 "Dreamers" in the United States. These are primarily foreign-born young adults who came over when they were young, brought by a parent(s) or family members.

Trump has pledged to terminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in which a Dreamer, for a fee of \$465, receives a two-year legal work permit, can obtain a drivers license and not fear deportation to a home country that they have not been to for years.

If DACA is terminated, Senators Lindsay Graham and Dick Durbin are going to introduce to the new Congress the "Bridge Act" that would enshrine the essence of President Obama's executive order establishing DACA.

It is not too early to contact your senate and congressional representatives to advocate for the continuation of the current DACA program or for the "Bridge Act" if Trump gives DACA the ax. If he does, these young Americans will lose their legal standing in a cruel stroke and be unable to work and come out of the shadows.

WGOT-LP to come home to the Civic Media Center

By Fred Sowder

The developments happening at your low-power community radio station are quite dizzying, but here's a quick update as we move toward beginning our around-the-clock broadcast schedule on 100.1FM and getting a physical studio space.

We welcome any monetary or people-powered assistance you can muster during this busy time for WGOT.

First, we will be celebrating nine years on the air on Saturday, Jan. 21 at The Atlantic, where we've celebrated our eight previous birthday parties. Bands are still being lined up at press time, but it's sure to be a great time with raffle items and more.

If you want to help WGOT, you can support our crowdfunding campaign (goo.gl/rxzSUW), purchase some Hot Water Music/WGOT fundraising coffee from our fine sponsor, Sweetwater Organic Coffee Company (goo.gl/V9x2nb), or attend our next board/staff meeting at the Civic Media Center on Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 7 pm.

We're working closely with local engineers to get up and running on our new 24/7 frequency at 100.1FM by February 11. This is a constantly-developing process in which we are feverishly progressing.

Perhaps equally as exciting as our move to a permanent place on the dial, WGOT will be coming "home" to the Civic Media Center beginning Wednesday, March 1. Stop by from noon to 2 pm to find out how you can be involved with this exciting advancement for grassroots community radio.

Finally, we have a WGOT night planned for the Boxcar at Depot Park on Friday, April 14 from 6 to 10 pm. Music will be provided by WGOT DJs HR Gertner (Red Pony Radio Hour), Ken Stern (HeartBeatTrue Radio), Cramela (Cramela Mix Show), and Spano (RAD Radio).

The public is invited to attend board meetings which are held every two weeks. Any artists/labs who would like to submit music, email submit@wgot.org. For information, email info@wgot.org.

You can also write us at PO Box 14012, call us at 352-519-4680, or follow WGOT on Facebook and Twitter for updates and as always, Go Low!



The Civic Media Center presents:

ANNE FEENEY in concert

Cosponsored by the Gainesville Iguana and the Alachua County Labor Coalition

Friday March 10, 8pm

Anne Feeney is a legendary and award-winning labor singer, writer of "Have You Been to Jail for Justice" and many other songs advocating labor and human rights.

Freewheel Project is hosting a Valentine's Day fundraiser ride:



The 3rd Biennial Amour Chat Alleycat Sunday, February 12, 1pm

Meet at The Freewheel Project

\$5 per person registration

Compete in pairs for prizes!



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



WGOT-LP 94.7 FM

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

Check out 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



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GAINESVILLE GROUP SCHEDULE

JANUARY

Monday, January 9th

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Cone Park Branch Library

2801 E. University Ave, Gainesville, FL 32641

Thursday, January 12th

(2nd Thursday of every month)

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

The Cancer Center at NFRMC

6420 W. Newberry Rd, Gainesville, FL 32605

Wednesday, January 18th

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

GRACE Marketplace

3055 NW 28th Drive, Gainesville, FL 32609

Sunday, January 22nd

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Lucky's Market

1459 NW 23rd Ave, Gainesville, FL 32605

FEBRUARY

Monday, February 6th

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Alachua County Library Headquarters

401 E. University Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601

Friday, February 17th

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Florida DOH in Alachua County

224 SE 24th Street, Gainesville, FL 32641

MONDAYS

February 20th - March 27th

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm (6-week group)

Community Foundation of NCFL

3919 W. Newberry Rd, Suite 3, Gainesville, FL 32607

MARCH

Sunday, March 5th

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Tower Road Branch Library

3020 SW 75th St, Gainesville, FL 32608

Saturday, March 18th

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Millhopper Branch Library

3145 NW 43rd St, Gainesville, FL 32606

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A major victory for Gainesville city workers

by Jeremiah Tattersall

As of Jan. 1, all City of Gainesville workers are being paid at least \$12.25 an hour.

This is a major victory for working people and a great step toward a living wage for all workers.

This comes on the heels of the Alachua County Commission's Minimum Wage Ordinance in 2015, which ensures that all County workers and contractors are paid at least \$12.50 an hour with employer provided health care (another \$1.98/hr. is added to the pay if healthcare is not provided).

In addition, this past year Alachua County Library District, the school board and a number of private companies took steps toward a living wage for their workers.

Establishing the Gainesville living wage faced many difficulties. In 2015, then-Mayor Braddy directed staff to analyze costs associated with various living wage plans. Last September, the Commission, led by Mayor Poe, approved a budget that added over \$300,000 to bring the City's workforce pay to \$12.25 an hour.

It seemed the November vote was all but a formality. but it turned sour. Questions

swirled about which workers deserved a living wage and which ones didn't.

Do lifeguards, temp workers, and crossing guards deserve to earn enough to live on their earnings? The meeting ended with the commission voting for just full-time, regular workers to receive the raise, leaving out two-thirds of those making less than \$12.25 an hour.

The vote to increase all workers' pay failed 2-5, with the only Mayor Poe and Commissioner Hayes-Santos voting in favor. After receiving angry comments, the commission moved to gather more information and revisit the topic in December.

For the following month, the Alachua County Labor Coalition's living wage supporters lobbied, rallied, wrote letters, made phone calls, and changed the conversation.

The Coalition sent postcards to all the workers whose raises were passed up in November, and many of them reached out to the commission in anger.

At a rally before the December vote, a contingent of crossing guards came in uniform to advocate for their raise. Other workers, being afraid of reprisal, passed letters to

the Coalition to read on their behalf.

Our message was simple: All work is dignified and all workers deserve a living wage.

After hours of testimony, the commission voted 5-2 to increase minimum pay for all workers to \$12.25 an hour with Commissioners Budd and Chase voting against the motion.

This complete reversal from November was made possible by organizers, activists, and workers who refused to leave anyone behind. The work was messy, frustrating, and often discouraging but it's the hard, honest work that that put over \$350,000 into the pockets of 150-low paid City workers.

More importantly, though, through every step the Alachua County Labor Coalition strengthened its foundation and grew the movement. This year the Coalition will be continuing the push for City and County workers but will also be shifting focus to the University of Florida and Santa Fe College. These recalcitrant employers are going to be difficult to budge, but as our 2016 victories have proved, anything is possible with organizing. ☘

Is a home funeral for you?

by Dennis Shuman

In our Gainesville community, we are fortunate to have Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery which provides a natural or "green" burial choice. This type of burial uses biodegradable containers and avoids embalming fluids and vaults. The minimal fees are used to pay for land acquisition, protection, restoration and management of the area.

Just as we have the option of a "home birth" for entering this world, we have the option of having a "home funeral" prior to the "final disposition" of the body.

A home funeral is when a family and/or friends take possession of and care for the body of a loved one from the time of death until burial or cremation. It is legal in the State of Florida and minimally involves filing proper paperwork, transporting and chilling (after 24 hours) the body. Embalming is unnecessary.

Any other activities incorporated into a home funeral reflect the previously expressed wishes of the deceased and the preferences of family and/or friends. This may involve having the body at home for some time, preparing the body, rituals, visitations and vigils, religious services, etc.

Throughout all of human history, and until the mid-1800s here in America, there was no funeral industry and families naturally took care of their own deceased. Death and having home funerals were simply part of the fabric of life.

Many people in today's culture are uneasy with the thought of being with or touching a corpse, even if it is someone they love. We hide from death and shield our children from it. However, once most people have had their first experience with the body of someone they know, that discomfort diminishes, allowing them to be lovingly present during this profound time with the deceased. Home funerals bring people together in a final act of compassionate service for the deceased, promoting healing in the grieving process.

A home funeral is virtually free, saving families thousands of dollars. Its popularity is growing nationally and it is your legal right as guaranteed by the State of Florida statutes and regulations.

Home funerals do require adequate knowledge and planning in order to fulfill legal requirements and other appropriate activities. However, in the Gainesville area, this can easily be accomplished with the support and guidance of Final Friends volunteers.

To learn more about after death options and home funerals, or to become a Final Friends volunteer, please visit www.finalfriends.org or call 352-374-4478. ☘

Planning the hereafter (a death café)

Feb. 18, 10am - 3pm
at PCCNCF, 3131 NW 13th St, Suite 62

The definitive thing in our life is that it will end. We like to think we are immortal, but the reality is that we are not.

This seminar, "Planning the hereafter (a death café)" will feature guest speakers from funeral homes and crematoria, along with attorneys and other professionals.

You can be in charge of what happens when you die, and this is the opportunity to learn how. Attend this seminar to find out what you can do to make sure that your wishes are upheld after your death.

Registration is required for this free event, so the sponsors can plan for the number of attendees. For more information or to make a reservation, email info@mccgainesville.org or call 352-317-5143. ☘

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Thursday Gainesville Language Exchange 9pm
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Hitchcocks Alachua	Union Street Farmer's Market
Karma Cream	UF - TheFreshFoodCompany
Mother Earth Market West	UF - Pascal's
Mother Earth Market 13th Street	Ward's Supermarket
Pop A Top Corner Store	Wild Birds Unlimited

From HOPE, p. 1

Colonial power, patriarchal power, capitalist power must always and everywhere be battled, because they never, ever quit. We have to keep fighting, because otherwise there will be no future—all will be consumed.

Those of us whose ancestors were owned and bred like animals know that future all too well, because it is, in part, our past. And we know that by fighting, against all odds, we who had nothing, not even our real names, transformed the universe. Our ancestors did this with very little, and we

who have more must do the same. This is the joyous destiny of our people—to bury the arc of the moral universe so deep in justice that it will never be undone.

But all the fighting in the world will not help us if we do not also hope.

What I'm trying to cultivate is not blind optimism but what the philosopher Jonathan Lear calls radical hope.

"What makes this hope radical," Lear writes, "is that it is directed toward a future goodness that transcends the

current ability to understand what it is."

Radical hope is not so much something you have but something you practice; it demands flexibility, openness, and what Lear describes as "imaginative excellence."

Radical hope is our best weapon against despair, even when despair seems justifiable; it makes the survival of the end of your world possible. Only radical hope could have imagined people like us into existence. And I believe that it will help us create a better, more loving future. ✨

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Laura Park Visiting Artist Workshop
 Feb 27 - March 3, 2017
 SAW The Sequential Artists Workshop

<http://sequentialartistsworkshop.org/wordpress/classesandprograms/visiting-artist-workshops/>

Chimera Fest: Bringing the fantastic to life

Chimera Fest, a celebration of creativity, innovation, art, making and culture in the Southeast, takes place from Friday, Feb. 24 through Sunday, Feb. 26.

- **Artwalk: Menagerie in Motion Edition:** Fri., 7-9 pm FREE
Gainesville's Artwork, featuring an exclusive walking exhibit of the Menagerie in Motion Derby entries through Depot Park.
- **MiM 2nd Annual Kinetic Derby:** Sat., 10 am - noon FREE
Watch tens of human powered art-pieces race through an obstacle course centered in Depot Park, providing fun and folly for the whole family.
- **1st Annual Heartwood Music Festival:** Sat., Noon-2 am
Opening its doors for the first time, Heartwood Soundstage celebrates its first annual music festival with over 20 of Gainesville's most talented bands, food trucks, art installations and craft vendors. For every ticket sold, Heartwood will donate \$1 to the Future Music Makers scholarship program. Purchase tickets at www.heartwoodsoundstage.com
- **The 4th Annual Active Streets:** Sun., 11 am-3 pm FREE
A day for people to celebrate in their streets, taking place on South Main St. and the surrounding Depot Park area. The event will include hundreds of activities for participants meandering the streets, three stages of live music curated by Future Music Makers and a food truck rally.



Kinetic sculptures are human-powered works of art, usually custom built for derbys and parades. Photo by William McCombie.

Each year Chimera Fest will grow to include new partners and highlight additional facets of what makes Gainesville and Alachua County the heart of culture in the Southeast. Chimera Fest is proudly brought to you by Future Music Makers, Heartwood Soundstage and the Active Streets Alliance.

For information about Chimera Fest and our partners, please visit www.ChimeraFest.org. ✨

Need Health Insurance?
 Get free help from a certified navigator to learn your options under the Affordable Care Act.
 Open Enrollment ends January 31, 2017.
 Contact 352-299-0380 or navigator@srahec.org to get help in these North Central Florida Counties:
 Alachua, Bradford, Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Lafayette, Levy, Marion, Putnam, Sumter, Suwannee, Union

VOTE

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 ★ **Conserve our natural environment**
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 Phone: 352-514-7224

 Paid by David Arreola for Gainesville City Commission, District 3

Protest Trump, Pence and the Republican Congress

Actions in and around Gainesville for Friday, Jan. 20 and Saturday, Jan. 21

compiled by National Women's Liberation, Gainesville chapter (send additions/corrections to ms.candi.churchill@gmail.com)

Wherever you are! • Women Strike! Organized by National Women's Liberation
see <http://womenstrike.org/> to sign the pledge to strike, go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/937151086387054/> facebook event page

(LOCAL NWLAND NOW GNV ACTION BELOW FOR SATURDAY)

Strike in D.C. / in your home town / at school / for all or part of the time / from all or some of your work

JOIN US IN A TWO-DAY STRIKE TO PROTEST TRUMP, PENCE, AND THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESS' PLANS FOR US

National Women's Liberation calls all women, girls, trans*, and nonbinary folks to strike Jan. 20 - 21

Trump, Pence, and the Republican Congress have made their anti-woman agenda clear and have promised to cut, undermine, eliminate, or privatize every social compact from public schools to Medicare to Social Security. They expect the family (that is, WOMEN) to fill in the gaps and pick up the pieces. **NO WE WON'T.**

WE STRIKE FROM:

Paid jobs * Emotional Labor * Childcare * Diapers * Housework * Cooking * Sweeping * Laundry * Dishes * Errands * Groceries * Fake smiles * Flirting * Makeup * Laundry * Shaving * *What are you striking from?*

WE STRIKE FOR:

- An end to racist and sexual assaults, and all forms of bigotry
- Reproductive freedom, full access, and no coercion
- National Health Care for all
- R-E-S-P-E-C-T
- A \$15 minimum wage for all workers, no exceptions
- Protection and expansion of Social Security
- Childcare, free like the public schools, and paid family leave

Friday, Jan. 20, noon - 10 pm at City Hall Gainesville, Florida (keep up with FB or Slack, plans in process)

• Counter-Inauguration Rally in GNV, organized by Gainesville City of Resistance, 200 E University Ave, Gainesville, Florida 32601
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1839130823032976/> facebook event page

• Tallahassee Walk OUT, by Tallahassee Students for a Democratic Society — <https://www.facebook.com/events/1597318556961013/> facebook event page

• National Call in Day re Medicare For All — <http://www.fight4medicare.com>
Call and email Congress over the next few weeks and especially on Jan. 20. Tell your representatives that our dysfunctional system of financing through private insurers must be replaced by an efficient and equitable single-payer system.

Saturday January 21 — Women's March on Washington and solidarity marches/actions

Many members of GNV community are flying to DC and at least four buses are driving up to DC.

• Women's March on Washington — WEBSITE: <https://www.womensmarch.com>
FACEBOOK PAGE: <https://www.facebook.com/Womens-March-on-Washington-1338822066131069/>
TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/womensmarch> — INSTAGRAM: <http://www.instagram.com/womensmarch>

• GNV Buses/prep for Women's March on Washington: GNV group about the Women's March on Washington
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/830321097110167/>
Sign up form for the bus to DC (if not full)
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfjsOKJyQGwZtRcdFYjC6lx0OIQ0itps9DUUnyadyxpojJSwRA/viewform?c=0&w=1>

• "Let's make signs and cover a few pre-march topics." Hosted by Holly Sprinkle — Saturday, Jan. 14 at 2 - 4 pm — Millhopper Branch Library — 3145 NW 43rd St, Gainesville, Florida 32606 — <https://www.facebook.com/events/1574538069242325/> Facebook event page

• Picket for #womenstrike & Solidarity with Women's March on Washington — Saturday, Jan. 21 at 1-3 pm in Gainesville: NWL and Gainesville Area NOW — details still being worked out! — (www.womenstrike.org) and in solidarity with Women's March on Washington
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1058946427584782/> Facebook event page — nwl@womensliberation.org — sign making and prep for march in DC and GNV #womenstrike picket Saturday, Jan. 14

Other Florida marches: Go to www.womensmarch.com to find sister events

Other upcoming NWL events:

- **NWL General Organizing Meetings**, GNV, The second Tuesday of every month- beginning Jan. 10, Location: 200 NE 1st Street, suite 201 (second floor). Entrance at the back door.
- **National Women of Color Caucus Meeting**, Mon, Jan. 9, 7:30-8:30 pm, RSVP to get more info — nwl@womensliberation.org.
- **Tallahassee NWL Organizing Committee - Next Steps Meeting**, Sunday Jan. 8, 4 pm - 6 pm, at the Plant, 517 W Gaines St, • Tallahassee, Florida 32301, <https://www.facebook.com/events/1754224151563780/>
- **NWL TALLY meetings**, 2nd Sunday of every month, 2-4 pm at the Plant.



Mature cypress forest.



The same cypress forest, but clearcut.

Saving cypress: hit offending merchants where it hurts

by Francis E. "Jack" Putz

Despite overwhelming and long-standing evidence that clearcutting cypress trees to make landscape mulch is unsustainable, the practice is legally sanctioned and continues.

Given the published research results, letter writing campaigns, and other sorts of protests about this issue over the past decades, this situation is deplorable.

Government officials and buyers for the sustainability pledge endorsing "big-box" stores that continue to sell cypress mulch must recognize that the practice is unnecessarily destructive. Given the failure of previous campaigns to stop this plundering of nature, it's time to ramp up efforts lest these iconic ecosystems continue to be destroyed.

Consumer education efforts should continue, but a more direct way is needed to attract attention from the merchants of destruction.

The recommended cypress protection tactic hits offending merchants where it hurts, right in their profit margins. Here it is: Whenever you see cypress mulch for sale, fill a shopping cart with as many bags as you can manage, push the cart to

the opposite end of the store, and abandon it. In response to this simple, legal, and non-confrontational action, some salaried employee will have to re-shelve the bags, which takes time and therefore costs money. If the bags are inadvertently torn in the process, the financial impact is magnified.

This action might seem unfair to store workers, but remember that they are paid regardless of whether they spend their time on revenue generating activities.

Note that big box stores monitor worker productivity to the minute and profits to the penny. If the sale of a \$3 bag of cypress mulch yields a profit of \$0.30, a worker paid \$20.00/hour (salary plus benefits) would have to restock the bags in less than a minute for the store to break even on a product that should not be marketed in the first place.

If even a small number of cypress defenders follow this procedure and we continue to hound the merchants with evidence and arguments, our collective action will grab the attention of their all-powerful accountants. While you're doing something real on behalf of our fragile environment, remember


the final stanzas of "Alice's Restaurant" and feel good about yourself. Although big-box stores may lack any corporate conscience, they do respond to lost profits.

For references and a more detailed account of this environmental campaign, see the article in *The Palmetto* by H. Dutcher and F.E. Putz entitled "Saving Cypress" on the Florida Native Plant Society website (www.fnps.org). ☘

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Sunday Domingo

Monday Lunes

Tuesday Martes

Wednesday Miercoles

Thursday Jueves

Friday Viernes

Saturday Sabado

Enero-Febrero

The Gainesville Iguana

January-February

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



Radio Notes: Find schedules for WUFT, WGOT, and Grow Radio, our local non-corporate stations, at www.s.wuft.org, wgot.org, & 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 pg 5.

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.

15 Sabal Trail Pipeline protester protection: speak up for any/all arrested at 1/14 protest, 8 am on, at Suwannee County Courthouse, Live Oak - see facebook.com/WaterIsLifeCamp. "Untangling Racism" workshop & exercises, CMC, 10 am-4 pm. Women Singer-Songwriters, HS Women's Club (40 NE 1st Ave, High Springs), 2-4 pm. Sunday Assembly: SFC downtown (530 W. Univ Ave), 11 am, 3rd Sundays - see sagainesville.weebly.com.

22 "River of Dreams" St. Johns River/springs exhibit thru June 24, Matheson Mus, free.

29 Hoggetowne Medieval Faire, Alachua County Fairgrounds (2900 NE 39th Ave), 1/28-29 & 2/3-5: see hoggetownfaire.com.

UF Black History Month opening ceremony: Reitz Ballroom, 6 pm - ufblackhistorymonth.wixsite.com/2017 for events schedule.

5 Author Ibram X. Kendi, winner of 2016 Nat'l Book Award for Stamped from the Beginning, downtown library (401 E Univ Ave), 2:30 pm - see pg 18.

12 Lobo Marino at the Shala.. Amour Chat Alleycat Free-wheel Project ride, 1 pm - see pg 5. DARWIN DAY

19 Sunday Assembly: - see 1/15.

26 Chimera Fest - Active Streets: 100s of activities, 3 stages, food truck rally, more: S. Main & Depot Park, 11 am- 3 pm. Southern Culture on the Skids, High Dive, 7-11 pm.

5 1932: FDR on 1st day in office orders bank "holiday".

16 MLK awards, MLK Memorial Garden, 11 am; rally, Bo Diddley Plaza, noon; march to MLK Ctr begins, 1 pm. CMC documentaries every Monday, \$3-5 requested, 7 pm. Gvl Food Security Group meets 3rd Mondays, Quaker Meeting House (708 NW 38th St), 7-9 pm. Gvl Citizens for Active Transportation meets at CIED (530 E. Univ Ave), 1st & 3rd Mons, 7 pm. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

23 Greens meet, Govinda's (604 NW 13th St), 2nd & 4th Mondays, 5:30 pm; Move to Amend meetings follow, 7 pm. School Superintendent Search public meeting: Eastside High cafeteria (1200 SE 43rd St), 6-7:30 pm. CMC documentary tba; Civic Media Center (433 S. Main St), 7 pm.

30 Alachua County Legislative Delegation (Keith Perry, Clovis Watson, Chuck Clemons) public meeting, Santa Fe Fine Arts Aud., 2-5 pm. To speak, call 352-264-4040 by 1/24. UVTV, Boy Harsher at the Atlantic.

6 CMC documentary tba, 7 pm. GCAT meets - see 11/21.

13 Hate Speech/Crimes talk, Fla Free Speech Forum, Wyndham Garden Conf Ctr, noon. CMC documentary tba; 7 pm.

Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice meets 2nd Mons, Mennonite Meeting House, 6 pm.

20 Shaun King speaks at UCF, Orlando. PRESIDENTS' DAY

27 SAW workshop, see pg 8. 1991: US troops "liberate" Kuwait. CMC documentary tba.

6 1928: Gabriel Garcia Marquez born

10 County Farmers' Market on N 441 by Hwy Patrol Tues/ Thurs/Sat, 8 am-noon. Alachua County Commission meets, 2nd & 4th Tues, 9 am & 5 pm, County Admin Bldg; citizens comment, 9:30 am & 5:30 pm. Anti-war signholding - 1st/3rd Tues, Archer Rd & 34th St; 2nd/4th Tues, W. Univ Ave & 13th St; 4:30-6 pm. Nat'l Women's Liberation meeting, 200 NE 1st St, Ste 201, 6:30 pm.

17 "Black History in Our Schools" w/ Faye Williams, SFC NW Library, 1 pm. School Board meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 620 E Univ Ave, 6 pm: see sbac.edu. Wetlands & Birds talk, Tower Rd Library (3020 SW 75th St), 6:30 pm. PFLAG meets, United Church (1624 NW 5th Ave), 7 pm. "Ebony Minds - the Remix", CMC, 7 pm.

24 County Commission meets - see 1/10. League of Women Voters advocacy workshop, Life-South (4039 W Newberry Rd), 6:30 pm. Alachua Co. Labor Coalition meets 4th Tuesdays, Mennonite Meeting House (1236 NW 18th Ave), 6:30 pm.

31 Ibram X. Kendi on US racism, UF Pugh Hall Ocora, 6 pm; see pg 18.

7 Gvl Citizens for Alternatives to Death Penalty meets 1st Tuesdays, Mennonite Meeting House (1236 NW 18th Ave), 6 pm.

School Board meets, 6 pm - see 1/17.

14 County Commission meets - see 1/10. Vagina Monologues, Hipp, 7 pm (see 2/17). VALENTINE'S DAY

21 Matthew Schrier, held captive 7 months in Syria, speaks at UF Pugh Hall, 6 pm. PFLAG meets: see 1/17.

28 Alachua Co. Labor Coalition - see 1/24.

7 GCADP - see 2/7.

11 "Naborhood" Coffee Talk concert series, Artisans Way (5910 Hampton St, Melrose), Wednesdays, 11 am-2 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 (111 E. University Ave), 4-7 pm; Edible Plant Project, 2nd Weds. Move to Amend meets weekly, Pride Ctr (3131 NW 13th St), 6pm. "Dismantling Racism" 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, Mennonite Meeting House, 7 pm. Hand to God opens at the Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl), 7 pm. Town Hall Symposium, MLK Ctr (1028 NE 14th St), 7 pm.

18 "Failure Factories" - school segregation exposé talk, UF Pugh Hall Ocora, 6 pm. Humanist meeting (open to all), UUFU (4225 NW 34th St), 6:30 pm. "The Debut of Destiny" at Hardback Café, 11 pm.

25 "Dismantling Racism" - see 1/11. Verlon Thompson, great singer-songwriter in concert at Thomas Ctr, 7 pm - do not miss it!

Feb 1 Vets for Peace meet, 7 pm: call 352-375-2563 for directions. Animals & Death talk, Millhopper Library (3145 NW 43rd St), 7 pm.

8 Fla Earthskills Gathering, 2/8-11 - floridaearthskills.org. "Dismantling Racism" - see 1/11.

15 IGUANA Deadline for March issue is Feb 27th; write gainesvilleiguana@cox.net or call 378-5655 with events, updates, advertisements & info.

22 "Dismantling Racism" - see 1/11. Humanists, UUFU, 6:30 - see 1/18. Becky's New Car opens, Hipp, 7 pm.

Mar 1 Vets for Peace, 7 pm - see 2/1.

8 INTERNAT'L WOMEN'S DAY

12 Gainesville 4 All meets every Thursday, Eastside Community Ctr (2841 E Univ Ave) 5:30 pm - see facebook.com/GNV4ALL/ CMC Volunteers meet every Thursday, 5:30 pm. Stonewall Democrats, 901 NW 8th Ave, 2nd Thursdays, 6 pm. Acoustic Blues weekly open mike Cymplify (5402 NW 8th Ave), 6 pm. School Superintendent Search public meeting: Santa Fe High cafeteria (16213 NW Hwy 441, Alachua), 6-7:30 pm. Youth Talent Extravaganza, MLK Ctr (1028 NE 13th St), 7 pm. Open Poetry, every Thursday, CMC, 8 pm. 1932: Ophelia Caraway (D-AR) 1st woman elected to US Senate. FULL MOON

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

26 Volunteers & Poets, CMC. Implicit Bias symposium opens, Emerson Hall, 6:30 pm. Keep up with the CMC at civicmediacenter.org for events created after this calendar was printed, and into the future.

2 Volunteers & Poets, CMC. Wm. DuVal talk at Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), 6 pm. SSJ Sierra Club mtg, UUFU (4225 NW 34th St), 7 pm.. The Coathangers at High Dive. 1882: James Joyce born. GROUNDHOG DAY

9 Cinema Verde - festival of >40 environmental films at The Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl) opens, runs thru 2/12: cinemaverde.org & pg 15. Early Childhood Development talk, UF Pugh Hall Ocora, 6 pm. Guerrilla Girls, Harn Mus, 6 pm.

16 CMC Volunteers & Poets. 1986: Duvaliers flee Haiti after 28-yr reign of terror. 23 Volunteers & Poets at CMC. UF Black History Month closing ceremony, Pugh Hall.

2 Volunteers & Poets at CMC. Changeville festival opens - see pg 14.

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

13 Direct Action Training for Sabal Trail Pipeline protest: Water is Life Camp, (846 NW 120th Trail, Branford), 4-6 pm - see pg 16 & facebook.com/WaterIsLifeCamp. Harvey Ward Campaign Kick-Off, Blue Gill Quality Food (1310 SW 13th St), 5:30 pm - see pg 8 & facebook.com/VoteForWard2017/.

20 Counter-Inaugural Rally at Gvl City Hall, noon-10 pm; search for event on Facebook, pg 10. Wells Fargo Divestment - protest bank's support of Sabal Trail Pipeline, Wells Fargo (104 N. Main St), 2 pm. Bulla Cubana: work of 8 Cuban artists at Thomas Ctr (306 NE 6th Ave) thru 3/18; reception 5:30 pm; pg 4. Ethel Waters: His Eye is on the Sparrow opens at Actors' Warehouse (608 N. Main St), 8 pm, \$15 (\$10 students & seniors); runs through Feb 5. Waiting for Godot opens, Acrosstown Rep (619 S. Main St), 8 pm, \$15.

27 Charles Blow speaks, Emerson Hall, 9:30 am. G'ville Downtown Artwalk 7-10 pm; see pg 17 & artwalkgainesville.com. Gay Movie Night last Fridays, Pride Ctr (3131 NW 13th St), 7:30 pm, \$2. Black History/Artwalk, CMC, 7 pm.

3 Famous Trials talk by Glenn Altschuler, UF Pugh Hall, 6 pm. "Battle in the Boondocks!" bands vs Sabal Trail Pipeline, Live Oak, 3 pm.

10 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. FULL MOON

17 Vagina Monologues, Hipp, 7 pm (also on 18th [2 pm]). 24 Art Walk Downtown every last Friday, starting 7 pm - includes Menagerie in Motion, Depot Park - see pages 9 & 17. Bulla Cubana: Gvl Symphony Orchestra plays Cuban & Latin music at Santa Fe Fine Arts Hall, 7:30 pm; pg 4. The Who's Tommy opens at Acrosstown Rep Theatre, 24th-12th.

3 Changeville festival ends, pg 14.

10 Anne Feeney in concert at Civic Media Center, 8 pm; see pg 5.

14 Muslim-Christian Dialog, Em. Mennonite Church (1236 NW 18th Ave), 2nd & 4th Sats; 10 am. Protest March to Sabal Trail Pipeline drilling site - carpool to Suwannee River State Park (3631 201st Path, Live Oak), 11 am; march starts 1 pm sharp - see pg 16 & facebook.com/WaterIsLifeCamp. Bulla Cubana: Osmievy Ortega Pacheco's print display reception, Gallery Protocol (2029 NW 6th St), 7-10 pm: facebook.com/bullacubana. Alachua County Revolution meets, Library Partnership (1130 NE 16th Ave), noon.

21 Women's March on Washington starts 10 am in DC - also all over the country. See pages 1 & 10, & www.womensmarch.com. #WomenStrike Picket, Hobby Lobby (6111 W Newberry Rd), 1-3 pm. Cross Creek talk, Matheson, 6:30 pm. Bulla Cubana: piano concert by Jesus "Chuchito" Valdes, SFC Fine Arts Hall, 7:30 pm: bullacubana.org; pg 4. WGOT Anniversary Party, Atlantic.

28 Interfaith Dialog, see 1/14. There Is a Field reading of play on police killing of 17-y-o boy: Mennonite Mtg House, 2-5 pm. Author Victor McGlothlin, dntown library (401 E Univ Ave), 2:30 pm. Roe v Wade Celebration benefit for Nat'l Women's Liberation: The Wooly (20 N. Main St), 7 pm, \$5-15; pg 14.

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

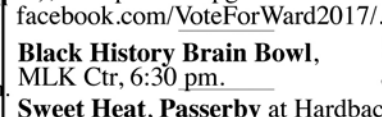
11 Interfaith Dialog, see 1/14. Alachua County Revolution meets, location tba, noon. Paradise Park talk, Matheson, 2 pm.

18 "Planning the Hereafter (A Death Café)" seminar, Pride Ctr (3131 NW 13th St), 10 am-3 pm: free, but pre-registration needed - see pg 7. Umoja Orchestra reunion at Wooly.

25 Interfaith Dialog, see 1/14. Chimera Fest - Kinetic Derby, Depot Park, 10 am; Heartwood Music Festival, >20 bands, 619 S. Main St, noon-2 am: pages 9 & 14. Ibram Kendi speaks, Matheson, 2 pm.

4 Veg For Life vegan potluck, UUFU, see 2/4.

11 Interfaith Dialog, see 1/14.



Social change festival takes place March 2-3

Changeville, a two-day social change festival in downtown Gainesville will take place Thursday, March 2 through Friday, March 3, and will feature music, comedy, films, virtual reality installations and discussion panels. An after-party event is planned for Saturday, March 4.

A concert and street fair in the downtown



TWO DAYS OF MUSIC, COMEDY, VR, PANELS & MORE!
MARCH 2-3 2017

TALIB KWELI WITH BAND
BIG FREEDIA
DAVID BAZAN
AMY RAY OF THE INDIGO GIRLS
MOON HOCH
BIG SAM'S FUNKY NATION

GAINESVILLE'S SOCIAL CHANGE FESTIVAL
BUY TICKETS AT WWW.CHANGEVILLE.US

plaza will feature Hip Hop artist and activist Talib Kweli, and New Orleans funk/jazz/rock artist Big Sam's Funky Nation. Other events will take place at downtown venues including the Civic Media Center, Hippodrome, High Dive and Loosey's.

Music headliners include Moon Hooch, David Bazan, Amy Ray (of the Indigo Girls), and local artists relevant to positive social change. Panel discussions and meet-ups will combine artists, activists, and speakers from UF's frank conference.

All-inclusive festival passes are on sale for \$29 (early-bird) and \$15 for VIP front row tickets to the Plaza show. Tickets for individual events are also available.

Changeville has previously brought to Gainesville such acts as Charles Bradley and The Preservation Jazz Hall Band. The festival is expected to bring over 6,000 people to the events and downtown venues, restaurants and hotels.

Changeville is partnered with UF's frank conference and WUFT, and profits from the festival are donated to local charities. It is a "green" festival which will include carbon off-setting, thanks to one of our sponsors - We Are Neutral.

CMC will host Changeville's virtual reality event

Changeville is hosting its premiere virtual reality event for social change at the Civic Media Center Thursday, March 2 from 4-8 pm.

The event will be free with a Changeville pass, or attendees can make donations from \$3 to \$10 at the door. Food and refreshments will be available.

The event, to benefit The Civic Media Center, will feature social change-inspired installations using one of the newest mediums of virtual reality and augmented reality.

Interactive multi-media installations will cover topics such as gender inequality and violence, gentrification, and refugee camps. Exhibits include *Clouds over Sidra* (360° film developed for The United Nations), international street artist Gaia, The AR air Cube experience, and Priya's Mirror/Priya's Shakti.

Cinema Verde to feature 43 films from around the world, Feb. 9-12

Each year at Cinema Verde, we try to bring information from the outside world to our Gainesville community in the form of films that would not otherwise find their way to our big screens. When directors are able to join us, and share their knowledge about the environmental issues their films are about, it truly enriches our experience and our knowledge.

In 2012, Peter Brown joined us with his film *Confessions of an EcoTerrorist*, as well as Christine Heinrichs, an author of books on poultry who was featured in *Mad City Chickens*. Local legend Wes Skiles presented in our first year, thank goodness. It's these chances to meet and talk with experts that make Cinema Verde a special opportunity. We have several directors interested in joining us from around the world this year, and we need your help to bring them in and to welcome them to Gainesville.

Cinema Verde will be held February 9-12 at the historic Hippodrome in downtown Gainesville, Florida. The eighth annual festival will feature 43 films from all over the world including Australia, Indonesia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, China, Japan, Pakistan, Iran and one from Florida. There will be full length feature films, documentaries, shorts and music videos. Please join us at this iconic Gainesville location for an amazing film and environmental education marathon.

"The films submitted are so inspiring," said Trish Riley, Cinema Verde Director, an environmental journalist and author who curates the film festival. "It's always a challenge to select the best."

One of Riley's goals is to create a film list that spans the full range of issues related to sustainability. "We are working to create a sustainable world where we all want to live, and that begins with creating the vision of health, peace, happiness and prosperity that we all deserve."

This year we have many directors interested in joining us, but they are in need of assistance with their travel expenses. Many local businesses and organizations are working with us to help make Cinema Verde especially outstanding in 2017. Are you or your organization interested in water issues? Sponsor a film.



FEB. 9-12, 2017
@ THE HIPPODROME

8th Annual
CINEMA VERDE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM & ARTS FESTIVAL
www.cinemaverde.org

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BEANS FOR PEACE
GAINESVILLE
we are neutral

What about energy, waste, animal welfare, peace or sustainable government? We have films on all of these topics - please help us bring these films and their directors to Cinema Verde!

Help us thank the directors for their work by building an audience and coming to the festival. Visit our website for film descriptions and trailers: CinemaVerde.org

Sponsorships are welcome. Expert discussion leaders are welcome. Please contact Trish Riley at 352-327-3560 or Trish@CinemaVerde.org.

Don't miss this sweet show:
VERLON THOMPSON in concert
at The Thomas Center 302 NE 6th Ave.
Wed., Jan 25, at 7pm
www.verlonthompson.com



JOIN THE FIGHT TO KEEP ABORTION & BIRTH CONTROL IN WOMEN'S HANDS

celebrating the 40th anniversary
ROE v. WADDE
anniversary benefit concert

the woolly rising Jan. 28
20 N Main St 2017 7pm

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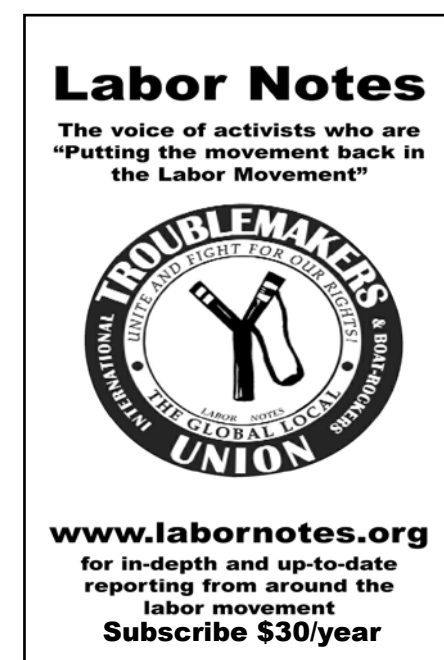
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WE'VE MOVED!

The Sabal Trail Pipeline: An environmental disaster

Celebrate this MLK Day weekend by stopping it

**ONE PLANET. ONE CHANCE.
NO MORE PIPELINES!**

by Sabal Trail Resistance (STR)

By now, you've likely heard that there is a fracked-gas pipeline under construction through the southeastern U.S.

In the wake of effective opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and their allies at the Missouri River crossing in North Dakota, resistance to this southern pipeline, known as Sabal Trail, has been growing.

While many are only now learning of this pipeline, it has been raising environmental justice, health, and regulatory questions among the public along the route since the scoping period for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) began three years ago.

Now that people are actually seeing the active construction sites all across the southern states, there is a major escalation underway to stop the project from going online. Over the Martin Luther King Day weekend of January 14 and 15, activists from across the country are planning to descend on the site where the pipeline is currently drilling under the Suwannee River, into the Floridan Aquifer. This aquifer is the drinking water supply for millions of people across the South.

The water protectors will meet at 11 a.m. at the Suwannee River State Park near Live Oak in North Florida.

While this part of the country is not known for a history of environmental civil disobedience, the Black-led civil rights movement of the South left a legacy of direct action that provided a foundation for many social movements that followed after it.

As the opposition to DAPL was grounded in the spiritual traditions of Native communities in the Plains region of this country, the South is also a place with deep spiritual traditions, including those that African Americans have carried on for generations.

Faye Williams is a well-known activist from Gainesville's Porters neighborhood, a historic Black community in Alachua County. She is planning on participating in the upcoming demonstrations and says that her belief in the Holy Spirit of the Yoruba River Goddess, Yemaya, is an inspiration for doing so.

"Yemaya is a mother goddess, the goddess of home, fertility, love and family. Like water, she represents both change and constancy — bringing forth life, protecting it, and changing it as necessary," Williams explained. "It is my prayer and hope that we will have a bunch of women who will come to the Suwannee River to protest and risk arrest to save our water — the rivers, the creeks, the oceans, the land."

She says she is also inspired by the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to join the action this month. When asked why she is choosing the path of civil disobedience, she simply referred to a quote of MLK "Every man [and woman] of humane convictions must decide on the protest that best suits his [her] convictions, but we must protest."

Williams has another connection to MLK: January 15 is also her birthday.

Sabal Trail and Environmental Racism
Environmental Justice (EJ) is defined as "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies," according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Local landowners, environmental organizations, and even political representatives, have spoken up to oppose the project on the grounds of environmental justice. In one example, four Georgia Congressmen [Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.; John Lewis; Hank Johnson, Jr.; and David Scott] — all members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) — sent a letter last year to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that raised concerns about Sabal Trail and accompanying compressor station.

The letter stated that the pipeline and compressor station would "further burden an already overburdened and disadvantaged African-American community" in Dougherty County, Georgia.

The congressmen asked FERC to abandon its proposed pipeline route and compressor station location and to propose alternatives that will not adversely impact environmental justice communities in southwest Georgia. The agency ignored them.

As a result, several environmental organizations filed a lawsuit against the 516-mile-

long, \$3 billion pipeline regarding the environmental justice concerns in those areas not being fully taken in to consideration by FERC. This amounts to a clear violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Executive Order 12898, which both require federal agencies to take a hard look at impacts such as environmental racism or discrimination based on income levels.

In the case of Sabal Trail's EIS, FERC admitted that 83 percent of the populations along its route fall into the EJ category, yet they did little-to-nothing to assess actual impacts to these communities in the event of leaks or explosions.

For example, the Sabal Trail's proposed route will go through Dougherty County and will run through low-income African-American neighborhoods there.

The letter from the CBC congressmen explained, "The proposed industrial compressor station facility would sit right in the middle of an African-American residential neighborhood comprised of two large subdivisions, a mobile home park, schools, recreational facilities, and the 5,000-plus member Mount Zion Baptist Church, a predominantly African-American congregation."

One hundred and sixty miles of the pipeline are slated to cross through nine counties in southwest Georgia, including Dougherty County, where approximately 72 percent of the population is Black and the median household income is \$28,871 for a family of four, with about 32 percent of the population living below the poverty line.

Communities in Dougherty County are also massively overburdened by pollution. There are already 259 hazardous waste facilities, 78 facilities producing and releasing air pollutants, 20 facilities releasing toxic pollutants, and 16 facilities releasing pollutants into the waterways.

Cancer-related deaths are higher in southwest Georgia than in the rest of the state.

"This residential area therefore is the last place where such a facility should be placed, and it most certainly should not be located near a disadvantaged African-American neighborhood that has already borne more than its fair share of pollution," the congressmen wrote in their letter.

"Common sense would suggest that a pipeline carrying a highly flammable substance and a massive polluting industrial



Former Dougherty County commissioner Gloria Gaines, left, and current commissioner John Hayes discuss the proposed natural gas compressor site that would be near Gaines' home in Albany, Georgia. (2014) Credit: AP Photo/Todd Stone

facility should not be placed in any residential community, much less an environmental justice community."

Natural gas pipelines don't have the same spill risk as oil pipelines do, but they do carry the danger of exploding, and their compressor stations are loud and disruptive for residents. Additionally, undetected gas leaks can also pose threats to human health, wildlife and ecosystems.

Sandra Jones, 71, owns a house and farm near Moultrie, Georgia, impacted by the

pipeline. "It's really horrible because this is my home, my father's home, my granddaddy's home and my great-granddaddy's home, and (the pipeline) would destroy our farm. I feel like I'm letting them down."

A pipeline owned by Sabal Trail's parent company exploded last year in Pennsylvania, sending one man to the hospital and charring acres of forest.

"A similar explosion would take us out. We would be ash," said Jones, whose home lies within 100 feet of the pipe's proposed route.

From BULLA CUBANA, p.4

Over the course of three months, through the concluding events on March 31, the Bulla Cubana calendar offers joyous and energetic Cuban events steeped in culture, through exhibits, films, performances, readings, concerts and presentations that will span the city.

"Bulla Cubana represents the passion, excitement and excellence that defines Cuba's arts and culture scene," said Randy Batista, a long-time Gainesville-based photographer who created Bulla Cubana.

"Meaning noise in Spanish, bulla represents the joyous celebration that this festival will bring to the amazing arts community here in Gainesville. The events are to be commemorated, experienced, and enjoyed by everyone through North Central Florida, as we celebrate these individuals for their artistic talents."

Bulla Cubana is a volunteer-driven community project operating under the Community Foundation of North Central Florida and their non-profit status. For a full schedule of information and more information about Bulla Cubana, please visit www.bullacubana.org, follow us on social media, email us at bullacubana@gmail.com or call 352.375.1911.

In addition to direct threats from the pipeline, the drilling and extraction process of this gas also results in the leakage of methane, [a more potent global warming gas than carbon dioxide](#).

The EPA initially raised concerns that the pipeline could have had significant impacts on federally protected land, groundwater, and surface water. According to the EPA's statement, FERC didn't fully identify avoidance and mitigation measures. Energy companies behind Sabal Trail moved forward anyway. But the fight is far from over. If pending lawsuits and public pressure succeed, this project could be forced back to the drawing board on its Environmental Impact Statement.

Your presence at the action on January 14th will be a turning point in the movement to stop this pipeline.

For more information: SabalTrailResistance.org

Sabal Trail Resistance (STR) is an ad hoc organizing effort that come out of local opposition to this pipeline and the national Earth First! movement. STR also wants you to know that this pipeline passes several miles from Coleman, the federal prison where Leonard Peltier, American Indian Movement prisoner of the 1973 Wounded Knee stand-off, is currently held. ✿

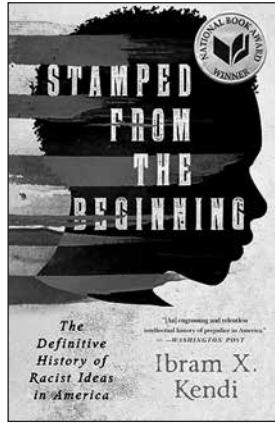
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Ibram Kendi speaks at Matheson, Feb. 25



The Matheson Museum is honored to welcome Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, UF Assistant Professor of African American History and winner of the 2016 Book Award for Nonfiction for his new book, *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*, on Saturday, February 25, at 2 p.m. A book signing will follow his presentation.

His latest book delves deep into the history of anti-Black racist ideas and how they were created. Through the lives of five intellectuals from American history, Kendi illustrates how some have challenged these racist ideas while others have helped entrench them in American culture.

Kendi received his undergraduate degree from Florida A&M University and his doctoral degree from Temple University. He is the author of the award-winning book,

The Black Campus Movement: Black Students and the Racial Reconstitution of Higher Education, 1965-1972 and the 2016 National Book Award for Nonfiction winner – *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*.

Admission is free. Parking is available on the east side of the museum, at the Law Offices of Attorneys Folds & Walker, and the Kirby Smith Administration Building across University Avenue. ☘

From STRIKE, p. 1
ger. I'll be striking from work and household," wrote J.D. from Colorado.

"As a woman and a worker, I am overburdened by the demands on me by my job and making up for the inadequacies under this broken system that leaves my family without basic supports... I demand RESPECT for women's labor that makes the world go round and will take a two day strike to join with my sisters in demanding MUCH better from this society!" wrote Candi Churchill from Gainesville, Florida.

"I'm striking because my boss is a Trump supporter who feels the need to talk to me like trash," wrote A.P. from North Carolina.

Erin Mahoney, a member of National Women's Liberation and a union organizer in New York City, recently interviewed NWL organizer (and former Iguana editor) Jenny Brown about the strike.

EM: There are already demonstrations planned in D.C. Why call a women's strike?

JB: The strike idea comes from our recognition that it's women's work, both paid and unpaid, that makes everything possible—and yet we were portrayed by the incoming president as appropriate targets for harassment and assault, and called liars when we reported the abuse. In Trump's ideal world women are allowed limited roles as servants and ornaments and sexual playthings. But when we when we take on roles as journalists or politicians we are attacked for even being there.

But these male supremacists need our cooperation—without women's work, everything stops. As one pledge signer wrote in, "Let us women know how you can do this without our contributions to family and society."

The strike is also for women who can't make it to D.C.—they can demonstrate in their towns, or make their objections known in other ways. Even if they can't get off work—a woman in Massachusetts wrote in, "Hopefully I can get off from work; if I can't I'll refuse to put up with any of my male customers' bullshit. I won't be putting on makeup and I won't keep my thoughts to myself."

EM: Along with a stop to racist and sexist assaults, the strike focuses on national health care, reproductive freedom, childcare, a \$15 minimum hourly wage, paid family leave and protecting Social Security. Why these particular demands?

JB: The whole program that we expect the new administration to ram through—from attacking abortion and birth control to destroying Medicare and Social Security and the public schools—it's all predicated on women doing more work for free. Rather than putting in programs like universal childcare that would make having kids easier, they'll just make sure we have no choice but to have kids by narrowing our reproductive rights, and we'll just have to pay for it however we can, which means more crazy schedules, less sleep, more exhaustion.

As everything around medical care and eldercare has been cut and made more expensive, we end up doing a lot of the care at home. Just one example, when our family members or friends are discharged from the hospital "quicker and sicker" to save the insurance company money. The unpaid care work falls on women. You can bet we'll see a lot more of that if the incoming Congress gets its way.

Public schools are the largest area in U.S. life where there's a recognition that raising children is a vital job that makes society possible and should be compensated. But cuts upon cuts have decimated our schools and required more and more from both teachers and parents. Parents already supplement the schools by volunteering in the classroom and raising money—but the school privatizers would like us taking it all on, preferably by homeschooling and "virtual schools." How many men quit their jobs to homeschool? This is a program to get more free work out of women.

EM: What about equal pay?

JB: Women need equal pay, and many strike pledgers have mentioned unfair pay in their comments. What has happened is that women's pay has gotten closer to men's in the last 40 years, but a good part of that is because men's pay has been going down! This is in a period when U.S. workers have doubled their productivity, but the gains have been going to the 1 percent. If the minimum wage of 1968 had kept up with productivity it would be between \$16 and \$22 an hour now.

We need more of the productivity of our work to show up in our pay, and the first thing to do is raise the floor to \$15 an hour across the board. That will directly raise the pay of around 40 percent of workers in the U.S., the majority of them women. This is an area where the feminist movement and the labor movement should be marching together. The only place in America where equal pay for men and

women is enforced is under a union contract. That's how women have gotten equal pay, where we have gotten it. Sure, some public employers may have made it a policy—but only when the unions went first and made it a reality.

EM: You've talked about going from the "family wage" to the "social wage"? What is that?

JB: When the labor movement demanded a "family wage" at the turn of the last century, they were demanding that employers pay them enough to raise a family, which meant enough to support a husband, wife, and children on one paycheck. It was sexist, but at least a family wage meant that employers were paying for raising the next generation of workers.

Now we commonly have both spouses working for wages, and the family care and maintenance job is being squeezed into the small time available after work. In this way, employers have gotten out of paying towards the maintenance and reproduction of their workforce, and they've piled the work and expense onto us.

In other countries, with stronger labor movements, the solution has been to force employers to pay for someone to do the family job in other ways. First by providing paid family leave—fifty countries provide six months or more paid maternity or parental leave, while the U.S. law provides for no paid leave at all. Then they have free or heavily subsidized childcare, and national health care systems providing care that in the U.S. is up to workers to purchase.

On top of that, they have long paid vacations, shorter workweeks, unemployment insurance that doesn't run out, and free college. All of these things take a strong labor movement and usually a labor party, because employers don't want to pay for these things, they have to be forced. Employers would rather not pay people to stay home from work and take care of their kids. But they've been forced to by a combination of the feminist and labor movements.

So that's the social wage, things that you get just from living in a country, that aren't related to your employment status, age, income or marital status. These programs boost women's equality because they are independent of family relationships and marriage. And they're independent of jobs—the more women are dependent on our jobs for economic survival, the more it amplifies the effect of job discrimination. (For more on the Social

Wage, see the Redstockings organizing packet *Women's Liberation and National Health Care: Confronting the Myth of America*, available [here](#).)

Here, we don't even know what we're missing because we are constantly told the U.S. is the richest country in the world, as if having rich people in our country makes everyone better off. It's the opposite, of course, because they got rich by paying us low wages and avoiding taxes. The Walton family that owns Walmart has more wealth than the bottom 40 percent of Americans combined, and it's because they pay their workforce so poorly, they avoid paying for fringe benefits, and they aren't required to pay much in the way of taxes.


EM: How does all this relate to the daily sexism women face? National Women's Liberation has attacked sexist advertisers with "This Oppresses Women" stickers, for example.

JB: There's a lot of focus on individual sexism from men, but not as much focus on what makes it possible. We believe it's structured into the economic power relations of our society, so we need to change the structures that allow it to flourish. Unequal pay and job discrimination are obvious areas—if a man makes more money than a woman, he almost automatically thinks he is worth more and his time is worth more. He also controls more of the family income. If she doesn't make enough to live alone, she is placed into a state of dependency on a male partner or relatives. Employers benefit from women being paid less because they make billions—a current estimate is \$500 billion a year just from pay discrimination.

And then advertisers feed that male sense superiority by using women's bodies to sell everything, creating unreal beauty standards and suggesting that women should be constantly smiling, dressed in undergarments, and available for sex. We really hit a nerve when we suggested striking against "fake smiles." Hundreds of women have specifically mentioned that one. It's very profound—one woman wrote in that in addition to other things she would be striking against "fake smiles and fake contentment." Women aren't even supposed to show discontent.

One bright spot for the U.S. feminist movement is that we've done better getting individual men to share housework and childcare than they have in other countries that have better social wages.

See STRIKE, p. 20



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SATURDAY	11AM-6PM
SUNDAY	12PM-5PM

From STRIKE, p. 19

But the problem is that for a working couple with children, there's not a whole lot of time available to fight over—both are overworked and starved for time. One woman with a four-year old said at a recent meeting “life just often feels like drudgery and impossible.” She called it “bone crushing.” This is common, judging from the testimonies other women have given when pledging to strike.

To make some leaps on getting rid of everyday sexism, we need to make some advances against our employers in these areas of wages and time and financial independence. And we need an independent feminist movement that pushes for advances in both areas—where capitalism is taking everything out of us, and men's individual behavior.

EM: What's next after the strike?

JB: Feminists and economic and social justice groups are seeing big upsurge in interest in how to resist. For us, it has been a lot of women who haven't been active in a political group before. So we all need get good at incorporating new people and making sure everyone has a role. We've gotten a lot of new dues-paying members just since November. We don't take foundation money, and that allows us to be independent, instead of doing what corporate foundations think movement groups should be doing. As Bernie Sanders explained during the primary, you can't be funded by the very same forces you're fighting against.

We want to continue to focus on women's work, and how the Trump and Pence administration wants to squeeze more out of us, both in money and time. This dovetails with their attacks on abortion and contraception, because when women aren't willing

to take on all the work and worry involved in raising children in this system, this is their way to make us do it anyway. We already have a high unintended birth rate in the U.S. as a result of restrictions on contraception and abortion.

So we have committees on fighting for abortion and birth control and also fighting what feminists call the “double day” of paid and unpaid work. And we have a Women of Color Caucus that makes the connections between racism and sexism, which is critical right now. Trump used the standard Republican fake appeal to whiteness as a tool to get people to vote against their own interests—53 percent of the white women who voted chose a sexist billionaire. This means that feminists have not done a good job of teaching how male supremacy and racism and capitalism work together. But we are going to get a crash course in this as the Republican Congress tries to push through their agenda, and we intend to be ready with a program that answers the real problems women face.

To pledge to strike, go to womenstrike.org. For more on National Women's Liberation, go to womensliberation.org. For more on the Social Wage and Redstockings, go to redstockings.org.

Interviews from
The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program
will return in March

Civic Media Center Events

Every Wed Farmers Market Table, 4-7pm
Every Thu Weekly Volunteer Meeting, 5:30 pm
Every Thu Weekly Poetry Jam, 8 pm

Sun, Jan 15 Untangling Racism: A Workshop for White People, 10am-4pm

Tue, Jan 17 Ebony Minds - The Remix, 7-9pm

Fri, Jan 27 Back to Black: Black History 365/24/7, 6-7pm

Fri, Jan 27 Art Walk with Jane Wilson: Yarn, Paint & Power Tools, 7-9pm

Many other events were being set up but not finalized at press time. Please keep up on the website.



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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).

see civicmediacenter.org for updated information, events

**Transgender Identification Documents
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January 28th, 2017

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Presentation on how to change name
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to begin at 10:00am

Legal Clinic, including pro bono attorney
assistance, to begin at 12:00pm

Advance registration required:
[gainesvillepride.org/
transgenderclinicregistration](http://gainesvillepride.org/transgenderclinicregistration)

From MEDICARE, p. 2

We are not alone. There is a vast pool of citizens here and we're fighting for our lives. There also are powerful politicians with clout in Congress who have vowed to fight for Medicare.

Many of our elected officials realize that old age knows no political party. Democrats have made it clear they will fight to preserve Social Security and Medicare as it is now. And a few Republicans are also concerned.

Republican Senator Susan Collins of Maine said she had reservations about privatizing Medicare because of the low quality of care this would mean to many seniors, according to the December Portland Press Herald.

Powerful Democrats delivered one million petition signatures to Congress demanding “Hands Off Medicare” at a press conference in Washington, D.C. on Dec. 7. Democratic Party leaders spoke of the importance of saving Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

“We know that Medicare is a foundation

of a secure retirement for hardworking Americans. That's because it provides real and comprehensive coverage. And we're not going to let Republicans turn it into a voucher. We're not going to let them pull off this bait-and-switch on the American people. We will make it crystal clear: keep your hands off our Medicare ... Americans don't want to leave seniors hanging out to dry when they get sick,” said Representative Ted Deutch (D-FL).

Senator Bernie Sanders (D-VT) was a champion speaker, as usual. “We're going to tell the Republican leadership in the House and we're going to tell the Republican leadership in the Senate: forget about all your plans to voucherize Medicare, to raise the retirement age for Social Security, to slash Medicaid. It ain't gonna' happen.”

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) spoke on behalf of House Democrats who clearly see the Republican move to turn “Medicare into a nightmare for the American people.” She added “destroying Medicare and

making people pay more is not what people voted for in the November election. Democrats will protect Medicare with all of our strength, just as we did in 2005 and 2006 when President Bush wanted to privatize Social Security.”

The hour-long press conference can be viewed on You Tube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyIWTdxIorA/>

The fight is on to win the war on Social Security and Medicare. Please join us on the front lines beginning with a phone call or letter, or join an organization working on these important issues. The time to do this is now.

Resources:

Social Security Works:

www.socialsecurityworks.org/

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare: www.ncpsm.org/

Nelson Files Pro-Medicare Legislation

<http://1025wfla.iheart.com/articles/florida-news-499647/nelson-files-promedicare-legislation-15443104/>

Pivot toward war: US Missile Defense, the weaponization of space



by Bruce K. Gagnon

Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space

Join us for the Global Network's 25th anniversary Space Organizing Conference and Protest on April 7-9 in Huntsville, Alabama. Huntsville is the home of Redstone Arsenal and the Space & Missile Defense Command, also known as the “Pentagon of the South.”

The effort by the Trump administration to develop and deploy the next generation of Star Wars weapons will increase global instability and cost hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars. The US Space Command has long maintained its mission is to create the technologies to “control and dominate” space and the Earth below – ultimately on behalf of corporate interests.

This conference will allow citizens to learn more about these important issues and become involved in the growing international movement to keep space for peace.

Huntsville is the headquarters of the Space Command's directorate for ‘missile defense.’ The US is currently encircling Russia and China with MD systems based on Navy Aegis warships (SM-3 interceptor missiles) and with ground-based launchers (PAC-3 and THAAD). These systems are the ‘shield’ that would be used to pick off Russian or Chinese retaliatory strikes after a Pentagon first-strike attack.

MD systems were previously banned by the US-Russian Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty because they are destabilizing and give one side an advantage. George W. Bush pulled the US

out of the ABM Treaty in 2001 and since that time the US MD program has been on steroids.

The keynote speaker at the event will be Ann Wright – retired Army Colonel and diplomat who now is a leader in Veterans for Peace. She resigned from government service after George W. Bush's ‘shock and awe’ attack on Iraq in 2003.

While I was recently in Huntsville doing advance work for the April conference, Donald Trump came to Alabama for one of his victory lap appearances. He has already nominated ultra-conservative Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL) to be the next Attorney General of the nation. Sessions is also serving as a major adviser to Trump on space issues – so Alabama will be central to the new administration in Washington.

When I arrived at the Huntsville airport, I was taken aback by the loads of corporate space technology advertisements plastered along the walls as I made my way to baggage claim. There can be no doubt that Boeing (the largest Star Wars contractor of all) and a host of other aerospace corporations are making big money off the plans to move the arms race into the heavens.

The signs in the airport reveal this reality of Huntsville's addiction to military spending. Like my own community of Bath, Maine (dependent on federal dollars to build Navy warships outfitted with ‘missile defense’ interceptors) more and more of America has become reliant on endless war in order to create jobs so workers can feed their families.

What does it say about the soul of our nation that we must remain in a state of endless war in order to drive our economy? These are questions we will discuss next April 7-9 when we hold the Global Network's 25th annual conference in the ‘rocket city.’ We invite you to join us for this important event. See our web site for all conference details at www.space4peace.org.

Iguana Directory

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

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.

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

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

Alachua County Labor Coalition meets monthly and organizes to support local labor and advance the national campaigns for Medicare for All and a living wage. Memberships are \$20/year. Contact: <http://laborcoalition.org/>, info@laborcoalition.org, 352-375-2832, PO Box 12051, 901 NW 8th Ave., Suite A1, Gainesville, 32604

Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs (ACORN) Clinic is a not-for-profit (501C3) organization that provides low-cost, high-quality medical and dental care, and social services for people with and without health insurance. The clinic primarily serves residents of Alachua, Bradford and Union Counties. The Clinic fulfills its mission with the help of a broad-based core of volunteer physicians, nurses, dentists, hygienists, pharmacists and counselors. Located at 23320 N. State Rd 235 Brookler, Florida 32622 352-485-1133

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

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

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

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

Civic Media Center Alternative reading room and library of the non-corporate press, and a resource and space for organizing. 352-373-0010, www.civicmediacenter.org, 433 S Main St., Gainesville, 32601

The Coalition for Racial Justice gnv4all@gmail.com

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

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

The Community Weatherization Coalition is a grassroots community coalition whose mission is to improve home weatherization and energy efficiency for low-income households through education, volunteer work projects and community-building. The CWC welcomes new volunteers to get involved in a variety of ways, from performing audits, to PR/Graphics and more. Contact: 352-450-4965 or cwc@communityweatherization.net

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

Democratic Party of Alachua County Meetings held the second Wednesday each month at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the Gainesville Police Headquarters on NW 6th St. & 8th Ave. Office is at 901 NW 8th Ave., 352-373-1730, alachuadems.org

Dream Defenders The Gainesville chapter seeks to create real, positive change in our community by organizing a new generation of creatively skilled young leaders who strategically confront institutions of oppression through building collective power, raising the consciousness of all people, and operating with the genuine desire for "justice and equality for all." We are bulding the world we wish to see. www.facebook.com/UFdreamDefenders/

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@fam.org. 352-682-2542

Final Friends helps families learn how to accomplish legal home funeral care as an alternative to employing a commercial funeral home. We are an independent group of volunteers who provide free education, guidance and support to any individual or family who prefers to care for their own deceased loved ones prior to burial or cremation. www.finalfriends.org, final.friends.org@gmail.com, 352-374-4478

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

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

Florida Defenders of the Environment works to protect freshwater resources, conserve public lands, and provide quality environmental education since 1969. 352-475-1119, Fladefenders.org

Gainesville Area AIDS Project provides toiletries,

household cleaners, hot meals, frozen food at no cost to people living with HIV/AIDS. www.gaaonline.org, info@gaaonline.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.

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

Gainesville Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice (IAIJ) 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, 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. gainesvillelovesmountains@gmail.com, 352-610-1090, <http://gainesvillelovesmountains.wordpress.com/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Humanist Society of Gainesville meets at 7 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of most months at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4225 NW 34th St to discuss and promote sec-

ular, humanist, atheist & agnostic social influences-www.gainesvillehumanists.org or [facebook.com/humanistsocietyofgainesville](https://www.facebook.com/humanistsocietyofgainesville); gainesvillehumanists@gmail.com.

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

Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) Gainesville General Membership Branch Union for all workers, regardless of industry, trade, job, or employment status. Meets 1st Sunday of the month at 6 pm at CMC. Contact: gainesvilleiww@gmail.com

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

League of Women Voters of Alachua County Nonpartisan grassroots political group of women and men which has fought since 1920 to improve our systems of government and impact public policies (fairness in districting, voting and elections, e.g.) through citizen education and advocacy. <http://www.lwvalachua.org/> info@lwv-alachua.org <<mailto:info@lwv-alachua.org>>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 public. ncfawis@gmail.com or www.ncfawis.org

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 world. www.occupygainesville.org and <https://www.facebook.com/occupygainesville>

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

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

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

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

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

Quaker Meetinghouse Quakers have a 350-year tradition of working peacefully for social justice. Silent, unprogrammed worship Sundays at 11, followed by potluck. Visitors welcome. 702 NW 38th St. [Facebook/GainesvilleQuakers](https://www.facebook.com/GainesvilleQuakers) for events or request Meetinghouse space at www.GainesvilleQuakers.org.

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

Samuel Proctor Oral History Program focuses on story-telling, social justice research, social movement studies, oral history workshops. <http://oral.history.ufl.edu>

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

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

Stand By Our Plan is committed to informing

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

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

Sunday Assembly, a secular congregation which celebrates life, meets the third Sunday of each month at 11 am 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 College Democrats (UFCD) meets Tuesdays at 6:30 in Little Hall 121. 407-580-4543, [Facebook.com/UFcollegedems](https://www.facebook.com/UFcollegedems)

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

UF Radical Student Alliance A progressive grassroots organization that strives to combat social justice issues on campus; core values are transparency, democratic process, value of each member's input, and ability of any member to assume a leadership role. Meetings at 6:30 pm Tuesdays on campus, ufradstudentalliance@gmail.com.

United Faculty of Florida, UF chapter Run by and for faculty, the University of Florida Chapter of United Faculty of Florida (UFF-UF) represents over 1600 faculty and professionals at UF. UFF's origins lie in efforts by faculty to protect academic freedom, defend civil liberties, and end racial discrimination at UF. www.UFF-UF.org, 352-519-4130.

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/~ana-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://vfgainesville.org/>

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

World Socialist Party of the United States (WSP-US) can be contacted by anyone wanting to know 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 at boston@wspus.org. Upon request the Party will provide membership applications. <http://wspus.org> 🐉



The Freedom from Fear March on November 19 was a peaceful protest against Donald Trump's hateful rhetoric and policies and in support of Gainesville's diverse community. Photo courtesy of Jennifer Lutz.

City election takes place on March 14

The city election is two months away, but with the *Iguana's* publishing schedule, we won't be out again until just before voting starts, so please take note. There will be three races on the ballot for the Gainesville City Commission.

The At-Large seat in the race is currently held by Helen Warren, who is running for re-election. No opposition to her has come forward yet, but the last day for candidates to register to run is Feb. 13, so someone may decide to, or be recruited to jump in. (I've heard disgraced former mayor Ed Braddy is working on this.) Warren is a really decent, solid, and thoughtful person, and we hope she gets another term.

District 2 currently has three candidates in the race: Perry Clawson, Sheryl Eddie, and Harvey Ward. This is the seat Todd Chase is leaving (a fact which should shorten commission meetings considerably) and located in NW Gainesville.

Clawson is an Iraq War combat veteran, and by far the most conservative of the three. Both Eddie and Ward are active Democrats, and it's too bad they are running against each other as their base is similar, but we like Ward better. This may go to a run-off if nobody gets 50 percent plus one.

The other race is District 3 (SW Gainesville) and features incumbent Craig Carter facing newcomer David Arreola. Arreola was quite active in the Bernie campaign and would be great to get onto the commission. Unseating Carter will not be easy, but well worth the try.

This is a heavily student area, so remember: if you are a student, and think you are here in Gainesville temporarily, you are representing for the future students. VOTE! 🐢



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Editors' picks: news that didn't fit



🐢 **The First 100 Days Resistance Agenda** by Robert Reich, *Common Dreams*

We're responding to Trump's First 100 Day agenda with our own 100 days of resistance. Robert gives us 12 suggestions.

<http://www.commondreams.org/views/2017/01/06/first-100-days-resistance-agenda>

🐢 **Resistance Is Patriotic - and Christian** by Jim Wallis, *Sojourners*

Six points for a resistance strategy that go beyond symbolic actions.

<https://sojo.net/articles/resistance-patriotic-and-christian>

🐢 **Top prosecutor in Leonard Peltier case urges clemency in 'extraordinary' move** by Sam Levin, *The Guardian*

A senior US attorney wrote to President Obama requesting clemency for Leonard Peltier

https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/jan/04/free-leonard-peltier-obama-open-letter-james-reynolds?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

🐢 **What Does Trump's Proposed Cabinet Tell Us About The Next Four Years?** by Dan Carter, *Common Dreams*

Trump's staffing choices indicate a troublesome picture; most are for tax cuts for the wealthy and "crumbs for the poor."

<http://www.commondreams.org/views/2017/01/02/what-does-trumps-proposed-cabinet-tell-us-about-next-four-years> 🐢