

The Gainesville Iguana

*A progressive newsletter
and events calendar*

**November/December, 2017
Vol. 31, Issue 11/12**

Spencer Takeaway

By Joe Courter

Background: On Oct. 19, self-styled “Alt-right” figurehead Richard Spencer came to Gainesville to speak at the Phillips Center on the UF campus.

His organization (National Policy Institute) was charged about \$11,000 for use of the building, Governor Rick Scott called it a State of Emergency, and taxpayers paid about \$500,000 for security outside the building.

Spencer had two or three dozen supporters sitting up front in their white shirts and khakis. About 250 people who got tickets outside from NPI sat and stood in the rear of the hall with empty rows between them.

A number of people of color and people with disabilities were excluded. A vast majority of the audience were anti racists, who were raucous but peaceful,

Video of the event inside can be seen at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2XvwcNSDmw>

That reactionary white people are always simmering below the surface in our society, and will periodically come into view. It is a phenomena of hard times, insecurity, and some sort of catalyst which can be an event or a sort of celebrity leader (Fr Coughlin in the 30's, McCarthy in the 50's, George Wallace in the 70's, Jerry Falwell in the 80's, the onset of Talk Radio with Limbaugh et al, in the 90's, then Fox News, and now Trump providing the heat to the pot).

That social media of today has put us into a new world that has changed the communication dynamics for everyone. It has given the outrageous pronouncements

See SPENCER, p. 2



This sign, held in front of the Phillips Center while Spencer spoke at UF, captures the spirit of the day. It was one of many creative signs such as those honoring relatives who fought the Fascists in WWII and the Spanish Civil War and others with calls for unity and the power of love. Photo by Joe Courter.

Free speech over censorship

Censorship used against our enemies will soon be used against us

Originally published by Jacobin on April 1; read more at www.jacobinmag.com

By Christian Parenti and James Davis
You have to give the political right credit. In recent months, they have, Judo-style, baited the campus left into bumptious overreactions that have seen student activists at Middlebury, UC Berkeley, and a few other places calling on university administrations to shut down — that is, censor — vile speakers like Milo Yiannopoulos and Charles Murray.

Students and faculty are absolutely

correct to challenge reactionary speakers. But they should never ask for censorship. This might seem like a minor or technical point; it is not.

Censorship used against our enemies will soon be used against us. The Left will never win the battle of ideas by trying to suppress opposing arguments. The only way to win is by a concerted, long-term effort to out-argue, out-educate, and out-organize the Right.

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Voting Rights Restoration Amendment: Homestretch for making the 2018 ballot

by Jack Kulas

BALLOT TITLE: Voting Restoration Amendment

BALLOT SUMMARY: This amendment restores the voting rights of Floridians with felony convictions after they complete all terms of their sentence including parole or probation. The amendment would not apply to those convicted of murder or sexual offenses, who would continue to be permanently barred from voting unless the Governor and Cabinet vote to restore their voting rights on a case-by-case basis.

December 31 is the deadline to submit signed and completed Voting Restoration Amendment petitions to Supervisor of Elections offices around the state to get items on the November 2018 ballot.

The campaign to restore voting rights to nonviolent felons who have done their time and paid back their debt to society has a goal of 1 million petitions. The latest report from that campaign, at the beginning of November, is that it is three-fourths of the way home, with 750,000 signatures collected.

These final two months will be critical. Do you have time to help the campaign right a wrong that is as old as 1868, when felon disenfranchisement was first put into law in the Florida Constitution?

Petitions and clipboards are available at the Alachua County Labor Coalition office, 901 NW 8th St., Suite 1A, on Thursdays, 11am to 1pm and Fridays from 4pm to 6pm.

Email sytscalachua@gmail.com for further information from the local Say Yes to Second Chances campaign.

The following information about the amendment can be useful both when collecting signatures and when deciding whether to support the initiative.

General Information:

- Approximately 1.7 million Florida citizens have lost the right to vote due to a felony conviction.
- Florida is one of only three states, including Kentucky and Iowa, which imposes a lifetime ban on the right to vote, unless a felon who has completed all terms of sentence including parole or probation, seeks restoration through a cumbersome and lengthy process.
- A person who has been convicted of a felony must wait five or seven years – depending on the severity of the felony – after completion of all terms of their sentence, before even applying for clemency to get voting rights restored.
- Florida grants only 8 percent of restoration requests compared to 86 percent for Kentucky and 93 percent in Iowa.
- Current backlog of the clemency process is over 10 years, so someone who today completes all terms of their sentence for a nonviolent felony would be extraordinarily lucky to be able to vote in 2032.
- Restoration of voting rights gives nonviolent felons a second chance to become productive citizens.
- Restoration of voting rights saves taxpayers money because it lowers the recidivism rate.

We are hopeful and optimistic that you’ll see it on the November 2018 ballot listed as the “Voting Restoration Amendment.”

Additional Information

Link to petition and additional information:
<https://secondchancesfl.org/>

Link to additional information:
<https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/restoring-voting-rights> ☛

Morris Dees speaks at SLC’s 40th Anniversary

by Renaud Lajoie

Two days after white nationalists and protesters faced off at UF, one of the country’s most successful civil rights attorneys, Morris Dees, spoke just blocks away at the Hilton University of Florida Conference Center.

He served as the keynote speaker for the Southern Legal Counsel’s 40th anniversary event. The Florida nonprofit law firm, headquartered in Gainesville, has litigated pivotal changes in public policies for the public’s interest against corporations, state and local governments.

Dees, as a co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, who successfully sued hate groups such as the KKK and nearly bankrupting them with innovative law suits, lauded the SLC for their work.

The Alabama alumnus donated his speech to the SLC but facetiously told the large crowd of mainly civil activists that he had agreed to only start speaking once his Crimson Tide football team finished playing on that game day.

The speech culminated a long week of active protesting against hate groups who were expected to arrive in Gainesville in large numbers.

The event honored the work of the SLC for the past 40 years and highlighted current victories such as Chico and Debbie Jimenez who were cited with trespass upon a Daytona Beach park in May 2014 for feeding the homeless on city park property through their ministry, Spreading The Word Without Saying A Word.

SLC and the Jimenez challenged the constitutionality of the city’s ordinance and park rules with a federal lawsuit. The city reached a settlement in March of 2016 where they agreed to lift the 12-year-old ban on feeding the homeless and hungry people in city parks and rescinded its trespass policy. They also lifted the trespass warnings that primarily affected the homeless.

The SLC emanated out of the UF law college as a separate entity to be able to litigate independently of the law school in 1977.

In spite of being a small non-profit law firm that depends on grants, private donations and attorney’s fees from settlements, they operate throughout the state and locally. They have litigated successfully against mass arrests and excessive use of force by local, state and federal law enforcement agencies in Miami who disrupted lawful protest in the Free Trade Area of the Americas in 2003.

Locally, they helped the residents of Kennedy Holmes reach a settlement with the parent corporation Aimco, whose housing apartments burned down in 2003. ☛

Alachua County at turning point: Repair bureaucracy

By Pierce Butler

Way back in early August, uncountable Trump scandals ago, the Alachua County Commission voted 4-1 to fire then-County Manager Lee Niblock. One of the final straws provoking that decision was a budget proposal for \$50,000 for bonuses to help retain the six Assistant County Managers that Dr. Niblock had hired, while rank-&-file staff pay had stagnated for years.

Another precipitating cause had occurred in July, when a Board of Commissioners morning meeting had acknowledged twenty-five years of work on the part of training manager Suzanne Clausier - and that evening considered Niblock’s budget plan terminating her position (and that of a county horticulturalist, with neither named and the firings obscured by bureaucratic jargon).

Equal Opportunity Manager Jacqueline Chung spoke up eloquently against this and other abuses of authority, but few outside the County workforce understood the scope of the problem.

Niblock had also mandated that county employees not speak to any commissioner without an assistant county manager sitting in, a “loss of trust,” in Comm. Chair Ken Cornell’s words - and an indication of how Niblock had centralized power in his office and those of the cronies he had brought in from his past jobs in Marion and Sarasota Counties.

Aside from his autocratic management, Niblock’s almost-three-years tenure turned the county’s environmental protection, growth management, and related functions into a “pro-business” rubber-stamp process.

While a high-profile attempt by Plum Creek/Weyerhaeuser Corporation to overturn the county’s Comprehensive Plan took the spotlight, permits and waivers have flowed freely from the County Administration Building, lacking or overriding the careful reviews which have kept our area so much less commercialized and overdeveloped than the rest of Florida.

After Niblock’s removal, County Attorney Michele Lieberman became Interim County Manager, with an understanding that she would return to her previous position by the end of this year. That has been extended through next year, with plans for a “permanent” manager to take office in 2019.

Another year is too long to leave Niblock’s top-heavy organizational structure in place.

In the past, county government functioned well and responsively with one Deputy Manager and one (or zero) Assistant Managers, and each department having hands-on directors making the daily decisions.

At present, we have no Director of Public Works (neither as a person nor an office): nearly all functions (other than separate charter offices such as Sheriff, Tax Collector, Supervisor of Elections, etc) are run by one or another of the Deputy/Assistant Managers brought in from out of the county by Lee Niblock.

Lieberman also inherited a legacy of “run government like a business!” inefficiency. For example, rather than supporting each other for the public benefit, departments must now pay each other for services rendered: a plumbing problem at Tourist Development means remuneration for Facilities; troubleshooting a computer connection at Animal Services necessitates a check to Information Technology; replacing a Solid Waste worker shifts money to Human Resources.

This process may provide some useful information, but its net effect is to invisibly shrink the unchanged budget allotment for those departments which do actual services for the people and environment of Alachua County.

Rushing the process of picking a new County Manager, arguably, gave us the Niblock fiasco in the first place.

In 2018, voters will select Commissioners for the seats now held by Ken Cornell and Lee Pinkoson, so the final choice will be made by the new Board after the Nov. 6 elections (an explicit factor in maintaining the interim managership for so long).

The search process will probably involve nationwide advertising through “headhunter” firms and a wide array of candidates. But our Commissioners would do well to focus on those most likely to repair the prolonged damage to staff morale and retention since 2014, those who already best understand the needs of this County, its workers, and its citizens: the “internal” leaders who have kept things moving through Hurricane Irma, Plum Creek, the Bush recession, and the other stresses of recent years.

In the meantime, citizens must raise public pressure to (re-)streamline county government by eliminating the new and unnecessary layer of bureaucracy, uphold the high standards which have preserved us from Tampa- and Miami-esque run-away sprawl, and support the underpaid and overworked staff who do so much to keep Alachua County so livable. ☛

Editors’ picks: News that didn’t fit

The New Yorker, <www.newyorker.com>, which is available online, has been producing some really great long articles on today’s issues. These recent three are essential reading:

- ☛ Oct. 16, “**The Breaking Point,**” *on Secretary of State Rex Tillerson*, by Dexter Filkins
- ☛ Oct 23, “**The President Pence Delusion,**” *a chilling profile of Vice-president Mike Pence* by Jane Mayer
- ☛ Oct. 30, “**Empire of Pain,**” *on the family that became hugely rich from Oxy-Contin*, by Patrick Radden Keefe

Other articles we’re recommending this month:

- ☛ “**Tomgram: Engelhardt, Doing Bin Laden’s Bidding,**” by Tom Engelhardt *Why Osama bin Laden “must be swimming happily with the dolphins and sharks” in his afterlife.* http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/176345/tomgram%3A_engelhardt%2C_doing_bin_laden%27s_bidding/
- ☛ “**Jane Doe’s Ordeal Illustrates the Trump Administration’s Threat to All Women’s Reproductive Rights,**” by Brigitte Amiri *How federal officials tried to block Jane Doe, a 17-year-old unaccompanied immigrant minor, from getting an abortion she adamantly wanted* <https://www.aclu.org/blog/reproductive-freedom/abortion/jane-does-ordeal-illustrates-trump-administrations-threat-all> ☛

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Humanist Society presentation:

‘Why I love Kurt Vonnegut’

Dr. Paul Ortiz, associate professor in the UF history department, will present a talk entitled “Why I Love Kurt Vonnegut” at 6:30 pm on Nov. 15 at the Unitarian Fellowship of Gainesville, located at 4225 NW 34th St.

Kurt Vonnegut is remembered as a primary source for reflecting on the rapid changes in our society during the twentieth century, told in a voice deep in irony, sharp critical analysis, and his greatest trademark, biting humor.

Shaped by a mid-western upbringing in Indiana, he was a prisoner of war in Dresden, Germany in World War II. Thanks to being captive in an underground lock-up, he survived the massive Allied firebombing of the city, and then participated in helping dig out the bodies of the dead.

These events were part of his first widely acclaimed 1961 novel “Slaughterhouse 5” (others had preceded it beginning in 1953 with “Player Piano”), and this experience no doubt contributed to his critical view of modern society.

Other novels of his include “Cat’s Cradle,” “Breakfast of Champions,” and “Mother Night. In 2015, Vonnegut was selected, posthumously, for the Science Fiction Hall of Fame.

That Kurt Vonnegut books are there to read for this and future generations is a wonderful thing; they are insightful, wildly entertaining, and remind us that the world we live in was not always like this, and that despite the madness of our modern times, we can find humor a useful ally in understanding and dealing with life.

Paul Ortiz is the Director of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at UF, a well loved and inspiring professor, and an active member of Veterans for Peace, Alachua County Labor Coalition, and United Faculty of Florida.

He has published and taught in several areas of history, as well as Latino studies and documentary studies.

The event is hosted by the Humanist Society of Gainesville as their regular monthly meeting; it is free and open to the public.

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by Ramona King

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Create • Connect • Inspire

Clay, Putnam, Bradford County updates

by Kate Ellison

Putnam Democrats kick-off election 2018

The November meeting of the Putnam Democratic Party marked the start of the 2018 election season with a potluck dinner and planning meeting. Several candidates spoke, and it is evident that the 2018 primary season will be lively on both sides of the isle. Stay tuned for more details and check for future events on the party's web page at www.putnamcountyfloridademocrats.com.

More events in early evening hours are planned so that students and working volunteers can come. Putnam County is ground zero in the coming election.

Chairman Rich Segall said, "there will be many opportunities to give input on the party's activities to get out the vote, to provide candidates with visibility, and assignments that do not require face to face interactions with potential voters. The county's rural nature requires creative ideas on how to reach voters since traditional door to door canvassing is difficult, and many times impossible."

Registered Democrats and those unable to register for legal reasons are welcome at Democratic meetings, and forms will be available for those wishing to register or change parties at all events.

The 2018 elections will determine the direction of Florida for the next decade. The ballot will be filled with offices and issues important to all voters. From governor through state and federal legislators, to county offices, this election could either break up or cement the direction our state is going.

The two political parties are not your father's parties any more. Newly inspired voters have the potential to change the outcomes of this election.

Important Amendments to the Florida Constitution will be on the ballot. The governor and Florida Supreme Court appointed a very conservative commission to write these changes, and voters will decide their fate in the 2018 election. Citizens' petitions could place a few amendments on the ballot, such as restoring the ability to vote for ex-felons.

This time the election could affect our lives in surprising ways, so understand-



Recent anti-phosphate mine protest at Bradford County Courthouse Photo by Kate Ellison.

ing the issues and candidates is crucial. Collectively, these offices and amendments will have significant impact on our county and state-wide.

Putnam County faces significant challenges. Citizens can make their voices heard by getting involved now and throughout 2018. For volunteers coming from outside Putnam County it is a chance to insure conservative rural areas do not adversely affect outcomes.

Keeping it lively in the Lakes area

The Democratic Women's Club of the Lakes Area (DWCLA) advances progressive Democratic ideas and engages progressive folks in our Lakes Region, centered around Melrose. Residents of Alachua, Bradford, Clay and Putnam counties attend our meetings. Often it is difficult to connect with like-minded people in conservative rural areas, and this group sprang up to fill a void.

The Democratic Women's Club of Florida is issue-focused. Every year, a comprehensive list of the bills making progress (or held up) in the Florida legislature is developed. Our positions and policies are available there.

True to our name, the DWCLA (Lakes Area) has adopted a water policy, and follows education bills, voting and equal access bills, gun safety, and of course, healthcare (including women's reproductive health). Democratic candidates present their ideas at our meetings, and speakers are invited to talk about ex-felons voting rights, water issues, letter-

writing campaigns, and women as leaders, to name a few.

Because Florida is governed by extreme conservatives, it makes sense to participate in the strongest efforts to reign in their excesses. The Democratic Women's Club represents these efforts.

The next meetings are on Nov. 16 and Dec. 14 at 6:30pm at the Melrose Historic Home-makers' Club, 25728 Park Street, Melrose. After the holidays, the DWCLA will regularly meet on the fourth Thursday of each month. We are a women's group, but we welcome men who share our ideals. We hope to see you at our next meeting.

You can visit us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DWCLA/>.

Finding progressive people in Bradford County

The power structure of Bradford County is dominated by Republicans, and often their employees hesitate even to reveal their party affiliation. However, other voices continue to speak up through grassroots efforts.

A small band of about a dozen dedicated citizens continue to operate the Democratic Party in Bradford County. They live in most areas of the county and come together in Starke to raise issues important to everyone: better public schools, more jobs, quality affordable healthcare, social justice, and environmental justice. Democrats everywhere are changing, striving to make the Party relevant in our daily lives.

Meetings are open to all Democrats and progressive allies. The last meeting of 2017 will be Nov. 27 at 7pm at the

Capital City Bank meeting room, on Hwy 301 in Starke (just north of the Santa Fe Andrews Center). Regular meetings are held there on the fourth Monday of each month. Find us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/Bradford.Dems/>.

People who are looking for a specific issue to inspire them can dig into the Second Chances petition effort. Citizens across Florida are working to collect nearly one million signatures by the end of December. The Bradford County group, which also covers Union County, meets on the second Thursday of the month at 6pm in the Bradford County Public Library, 456 W. Pratt St, Starke, Florida (or search @SecondChanceBradford on Facebook).

Phosphate Madness

The permit applications to mine phosphate have been submitted by HPS II in both Union and Bradford Counties. Union County considers the application invalid because there is a moratorium in place. HPS II is threatening law suits due to excessive delays, but most people believe these suits have no merit.

The permit application in Bradford County was submitted nearly two years ago, and has languished with nearly no action until last spring when the Bradford Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) published a request for proposals to evaluate the permit application by experts. Only one proposal was received, by Onsite Environmental Consultants

out of Jacksonville, at a cost of about \$53,000.

Eventually, at the October meeting, the BOCC decided to accept this proposal, with the hope that both sides of the mining issue would contribute equally to this expense. HPS II is willing to pay their half, but mining opponents have not officially responded. However, opponents who hear about it say, "Hell no!"

Citizens who oppose bringing a phosphate mine to our area do not need a study to tell them what a bad idea it would be. There will be a formal hearing on the permit application, as yet unscheduled. Experts and lawyers have been hired for this hearing. There is no funding, and no need, to pay

for experts the BOCC thinks they need.

Citizens opposing the mine meet monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at 6pm, at 165 SW 4th Ave. in Lake Butler. Keep up with news on Facebook by searching @nomining4phosphateBU.

Contacts:

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Fran Rossano, State Committeewoman,
Putnam Democratic Party
Democratic Women's Club
of the Lakes Area
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From PARENTI, p.1

To be clear, we are not making a moral argument. We are not saying that racist and reactionary ideas are worth hearing — they are not. Rather, our point is purely strategic.

Asking for censorship makes the Left appear narrow-minded and afraid. And it opens the door for censorship to be used against us. Lest one think that last concern is an abstraction, recall that in January Fordham University denied Students for Justice in Palestine the right to operate on campus because the group’s work “leads to polarization.”

The strategic way to frame left opposition to offensive right-wing speakers is with more speech. Use free speech to drown them out, and more importantly, expose them for what they are. Fight speech with speech. Slogans like “free speech against hate speech” are better than “free Milo from ever speaking again.”

What then is the line on hate speech? It would seem that direct threats against actual people on campus — frat boys being encouraged to physically attack whomever — crosses the legal line into “fighting words” which are defined as personal threats or insults addressed to a specific person that are likely to start immediate violence.

Fighting words are not a legally protected form of speech. Yian-nopoulos’ threats to out undocumented students, or his habit of calling out individual trans or feminist students, often leading to his followers threatening and bullying them, would seem to qualify as fighting words.

Other than that, it is our job to crowd out and out-speak the Right, but never to demand that the university do it for us. Censorship is a slippery slope, and the next offensive speaker censored might just be you.

As regards free speech, the Left needs to know and teach its own proud history. While the annals of extending free speech in America have included a few pioneering journalists and obscene artists, what is more striking is the large number of feminists, anarchists, communists, and socialists who show up in the story.

The Right is part of this history as well, but almost always on the side of censorship. In the nineteenth century, they appear as the southern Slave Power in the House of Representatives passing the gag rule that automatically killed discussion of abolitionist bills; and as the South Carolina Attorney General indicting northern abolitionist, William Lloyd Garrison, for using the US postal system to send abolitionist literature into the South.

Later, the Right also shows up within the state and municipal governments that repressed and censored labor organizers, suffragettes, and pacifists. And in the mid-twentieth century, the Right are the federal authorities who used the Smith Act of 1940, which made it illegal to advocate overthrowing the US government, to imprison the African American politician and communist Ben Davis and deport the radical labor leader Harry Bridges.

Into the early twentieth century, First Amendment rights were often interpreted as applying only to a person’s relationship with the federal government. States and cities, it was held, retained the power to suppress speech, usually left-wing speech.

The struggle for free speech was most often entwined with broader labor struggles. Thus, in 1893, when Emma Goldman encouraged hungry workers onto the streets, she was arrested. Defending herself on the grounds of free speech, Goldman lost

See PARENTI, p. 18



Holiday events: Party for Progress!, CLC spaghetti dinner

In December, Gainesville holiday events include the first Party for Progress! and the North Central Florida CLC Gainesville dinner.

The first Party for Progress! is on Dec. 3 at the Heartwood Soundstage (619 S. Main St.) from 5pm until 11pm. There’ll be a photo booth sponsored by Lauren Poe’s Dank Meme Stash, food, drinks, and raffle contests. A coalition of organizations are hosting including Alachua County Revolution, Alachua County Young Democrats, Alachua County Labor Coalition, Women’s March, Gainesville Area NOW, Central Florida Democratic Socialists of America, Lauren Poe’s Dank Meme Stash, Planned Parenthood, Civic Media Center, the Gainesville Iguana, Mama Trish and Heartwood Soundstage. You’ll have a chance to register/update your voter status and meet candidates running for local office.

On Monday, Dec. 11, from 6:30pm until 8pm, the North Central Florida Central Labor Council (CLC) hosts their annual holiday spaghetti dinner at the Senior Center/ElderCare of Alachua County (5701 NW 34th Street). This year guest speakers will be Gainesville Commissioner Harvey Ward, the President of the Florida Building & Construction Trades Council Theresa King, and Say Yes to Second Chances organizer Jhody Polk.

The dinner is free and open to anyone who believes in the labor movement. Feel free to bring friends, family and colleagues. 🐊

Correction for October issue

In our October issue, we ran the story “Top 10 companies to boycott that sell Trump family products.” Listed in the top 10 was Bed, Bath and Beyond. Our information came from #GrabYourWallet, which displayed, on their web page, a page from BB&B advertising Ivana Trump diaper bags.

One of our astute readers wrote us to point out that Bed, Bath and Beyond does not now sell Trump products. She is correct. Apparently, within the past year, BB&B stopped selling Trump products, but #GrabYourWallet’s web page was not updated.

We apologize for the incorrect information and thank our reader for letting us know. 🐊

Exhibits, events at the Matheson History Museum

The main museum building at 513 East University Avenue hosts all programs and exhibitions. It is open Tuesday-Saturday 11am-4pm.

Exhibits:

Finding the Fountain of Youth: Exploring the Myth of Florida’s Magical Waters

Mary Ann Cofrin Exhibit Hall

This exhibit is based on Rick Kilby’s award-winning book. The former traveling exhibit was created by the Florida Museum of Natural History and was donated to the Matheson by author Rick Kilby. The exhibit examines how the legend of Ponce de Leon’s quest for restorative waters shaped the Sunshine State’s image as a land of fantasy, rejuvenation and magical spring-fed waters.

Liberating Learning? The Story of Desegregation in Alachua County Schools

Opens November 8 - Main Exhibit Hall

This new and original exhibition will explore the history of desegregation in Alachua County.

Events:

Idylwild Cowgirls with Debra Segal

Thursday, November 16, 6pm – FREE

Local author, Debra Segal, will share about her debut young adult novel, *Idylwild Cowgirls*. Set in southwest Gainesville in the 1970s, it is a wonderful tale of friendship, adventure, and of course, horses. A book signing will follow.

Lincoln High School: Its History and Legacy with Albert E. White

Thursday, November 30, 6pm - FREE (pre-registration via Eventbrite required)

Lincoln High School Alumni Association president Albert E. White will share about the history and legacy of the beloved school. A book signing with co-author Dr. Kevin McCarthy will follow the presentation.

Desegregation in Alachua County with Michael Gengler

Thursday, December 7, 6pm – FREE (pre-registration via Eventbrite required)

Author Michael Gengler, a graduate of Gainesville High School, has done extensive research on the desegregation of public schools in Alachua County. The research will be published sometime next year. In the meantime, we look forward to hearing him speak about his findings.

What the Lions Saw Book Launch

Thursday, December 14, 6pm – FREE

Join author Mae Clark and illustrator Justine Andersen for the launching of *What the Lions Saw*. *What the Lions Saw* relates Alachua County’s history through the eyes of the twin copper lions that used to sit atop the north and south entrances of the 1885 Alachua County Courthouse. Readers will learn about everything from visits from celebrities such as Babe Ruth and Booker T. Washington to famous court cases held in the historic courthouse.

For more information , visit our website at:

www.mathesonmuseum.org or follow us on Facebook. 🐊

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Sunday
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Radio Notes: Find schedules for WUFT and WGOT, our local non-corporate stations, at www.wuft.org and wgot.org respectively. WGOT is now a full-time over-the-air broadcast at 100.1 FM. More info on local independent radio on pg 11.

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.

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For more events, event details, and irregularly updated calendar entries, see www.gainesvilleiguana.org/calendar.

12 Dance for Kindness, UF Flavel Field, 10 am—1 pm.

Women in French Revolutionary Art talk at Harn Museum (3259 Hull Rd), 3 pm, free.

Guerrilla Medics benefit, Hard-back Café, 5 pm.

Author Larry Schnell reads from his *The Year of the Gator* at CMC, 7 pm - see pg 15.

1815: Elizabeth Cady (Stanton) born.



19 Sunday Assembly w/ UF hydrology prof Peter Waylen on climate change: SFC Downtown (530 W. Univ. Ave), 11 am, 3rd Sundays - see sagainesville.weebly.com.

Food Truck Rally, One Love Café (4989 NW 40th Pl), 4 pm.

26 Green Man Fest continues, 10 am—5 pm.



3 Operation Catnip spay clinic, see ocgainesville.org.

GLAM Craft Show, 1st Magnitude Brewing, 10 am—4 pm.

Brew-B-Que benefits Grace Marketplace: Depot Park Boxcar, 2-5 pm, \$35.

Holiday Party for Progress - wide array of local progressive groups offer food, music, candidates: Heartwood Soundstage (619 S. Main St), 5-11 pm; see pg 10. **FULL MOON**

10 HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

17 Sunday Assembly w/ Barbara Oberlander on Michelle Obama; see 11/19.

24 1979: Soviet Union invades Afghanistan.

31 Downtown Countdown New Year's celebration, Bo Diddley Plaza, 9 pm—midnight.

Monday
Lunes

13 "Immigration Law in Trump Era", Fla Free Speech Forum talk at Wyndham Garden Conf Ctr (2900 SW 13th St), 11:30 am.

Biodiversity & Art talk by Naziha Mestaoui, Harn Museum, 5:30 pm.

Challenging Voter Suppression events, UF Pugh Hall Ocora, 6 pm.

Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice meets 2nd Mondays, Emmanuel Mennonite Meeting House (1236 NE 18th Ave), 6 pm.

Wes Skiles Water Stewardship Awards, 6 pm - see pg 20.

Women's March meets, United Church (1624 NW 5th Ave), 6:30 pm.

Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry, Civic Media Center (433 S. Main St), 7 pm.

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

Weekly Candle-holding Witness for the undocumented, BD Downtown Plaza, every Monday, 7:30-8 pm.

20 ACA/Obamacare sign-ups w/ navigator at CMC (433 S. Main St), 2-6 pm Mondays.

Grow Gvl 3rd Mon meeting, Working Food Comm. Ctr (219 NW 10th Ave), 6 pm.

Transgender Day of Remembrance, Bo Diddley Plaza, 6:30 pm.

Democratic Socialists of America meet, downtown library, 6:45 pm.

Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee, CMC, 7 pm; see pg 16.

27 Gainesville For All meets at Eastside HS, 6:30 pm.

AWAKE, A Dream From Standing Rock, CMC, 7 pm; see pg 16.

4 GCAT meets - see 11/13.

Waiting for Superman education doc & discussion, CMC, 7 pm.

11 Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice meets: see 11/13.

CLC Holiday Spaghetti Dinner, Sr Ctr (5701 NW 34th St), 6:30 pm; pg 10.

Girl Rising (stories of 9 girls from around world), CMC, 7 pm.

18 CMC documentary tba; 7 pm.

25 SATURNALIA XMAS

Jan 1, 2018 FULL MOON

Tuesday
Martes

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

Anti-war signholding resumes, 4:30-5:30 pm: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, Archer Rd & SW 34th St; 2nd & 4th Tues, University Ave & W 13th St.

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

AJJ (formerly Andrew Jackson Jihad) at the Wooly, 8 pm.

13 "Immigration Law in Trump Era", Fla Free Speech Forum talk at Wyndham Garden Conf Ctr (2900 SW 13th St), 11:30 am.

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18 CMC documentary tba; 7 pm.

25 SATURNALIA XMAS

Jan 1, 2018 FULL MOON

Wednesday
Miercoles

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

Downtown Farmers' Market every Wed, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E. University Ave), 4-7 pm; **Edible Plant Project**, 2nd Weds.

Dismantling Racism group, Em. Mennonite Mtg House (1236 NW 18th Ave), 2nd & 4th Weds, 7 pm.

"Liberating Learning?" Exhibit opens on Alachua County school desegregation, Matheson Mus (513 E. Univ Ave), 11 am-4 pm; pg 11.

15 "The Water Will Come" - climate change talk, UF Emerson Alumni Hall (1938 W. Univ Ave), 2 pm, free.

"One Year Is Enough!" Trump resistance organizing hosted by Socialist Alternative, CMC, 6 pm.

Volunteer G'ville: students meet community groups seeking volunteers - UF Jennings Hall Rec Room, 6-8 pm.

"Why I Love Kurt Vonnegut" - Paul Ortiz talk at Humanist meeting, UUFG (4225 NW 34th St), 6:30 pm; see pg 7.

22 Dismantling Racism - see 11/8.

1963: John F. Kennedy assassinated.

1963: Aldous Huxley dies.

29 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.

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

1947: Everglades Nat'l Park established.

13 Dismantling Racism - see 11/8.

John Prine in concert, Florida Theatre in Jacksonville.

GEMINID METEOR SHOWERS

20 IGUANA Deadline for Jan-Feb issue is Jan 9th; write gainesvilleiguana@cox.net or call 378-5655 with events, updates, advertisements & info.

27 1890: Alice Sanger becomes 1st woman White House staffer.

Thursday
Jueves

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

Living Wage Campaign meets, 901 NW 8th Ave, 5:30 pm.

Stonewall Democrats, 901 NW 8th Ave, 2nd Thursdays, 5:30 pm.

ArtusicWest music/art fest, Canterbury Equestrian (23100 W. Newberry Rd), 10 am-5 pm, free.

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

Open Poetry every Thursday at CMC, 9 pm.

16 "Native Americans in American Imagination" Philip DeLoria talk at UF Pugh Hall, 5 pm.

Idylwild Cowgirls - local author Debra Segal on her new novel of Paynes Prairie in 1973: Matheson Museum, 6 pm, free; see pg 11.

Tracy Grammer, Heartwood Soundstage, 6 pm, \$20.

One Tree, One Planet multimedia biodiversity celebration, Fla Mus of Natural History (3215 Hull Rd), 7 pm, free.

Moscow State Symphony Orchestra, Phillips Ctr, 7:30 pm.

23 THANKSGIVING

30 History of Lincoln High School w/ authors Albert White & Dr. Kevin McCarthy, Matheson Museum, 6 pm: free w/ prior EventBrite registration.

Open Poets, CMC, 8 pm.

7 "Desegregation in Alachua County" talk, Matheson Museum, 6 pm (free, EventBrite.com pre-registration required); pg 11.

CMC Volunteers & Poets.

Sierra Club meets, UUFG (4225 NW 34th St), 7 pm.

Gvl Playwrights Showcase - 12 plays over 2 weekends, Across-town Rep, 8 pm; see pg 14.

Letter Writing - Indivisible Gvl's 1st Thurs postal political pressure project: Gvl Friends House (702 NW 38th St), 7:15 pm.

14 "What the Lions Saw" - Alachua County history book launch, Matheson Mus, 6 pm.

21 CMC Volunteers & Poets. WINTER SOLSTICE

28 Open Poets at CMC.

4 CMC Volunteers, 5:30 pm.

Open Poetry, CMC, 8 pm.

QUADRANTID METEOR SHOWERS

Friday
Viernes

10 Friday Family Dance Party, Depot Park (200 SE Depot Rd), 6-7:30 pm.

"Presente for Puerto Rico" - situation report & fundraiser, CMC, 7 pm.

Jesse Smith homecoming concert at Heartwood Soundstage, 8 pm.

Keep up with the CMC at civicmediacenter.org for events created after this calendar was printed, and into the future.

17 Pay UF OPS workers petition launch, Alachua Cty Labor Coalition (901 NW 8th Ave), 8 am.

"One Tree" Beer launch, biodiversity brew party, 1st Magnitude (1220 SE Veitch St), 5-9 pm.

Trashformations, art from junk: Florida Museum of Natural History, 6 pm.

Tom Wells for Congress meet & greet: 3839 NW 10th Pl, 6-8 pm.

Alicia Olatuja, Phillips Ctr, 7 pm.

Bob McPeck house concert, 3115 NW 16th Ave, 7 pm: 352-665-6665.

The Krickets play Sandhill Stage (7204 SE County Rd 234), 7:30 pm, \$20.

Art & Music Jam, CMC, 8 pm-2 am.

24 Community Potluck celebrating US immigration heritage: Holy Faith Catholic Church (747 NW 43rd St), 5:30 pm.

Gay Movie Night last Fridays, Pride Ctr (3131 NW 13th St), 7:30 pm, \$2.

"A Year with Frog and Toad" opens at Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl), 8 pm, \$45.

Dec 1 "Immigrants of Gainesville" photo exhibit, Third House Books (113 N Main St), 7-10 pm - part of combined Nov-Dec G'ville Downtown Artwalk - see pg 6.

Pierce Pettis Xmas Concert, Heartwood Soundstage, 7 pm, \$15.

Steal Away opens at Actors' Warehouse (619 NE 1st St), 8 pm, \$20 - see pg 7.

Art & Music Jam, CMC, 8 pm-2 am.

Whether here or anywhere: please support live music!

WORLD AIDS DAY

8 Ana Varela Holiday Open House, Dec 9, 10 am-5 pm; see pg 15.

15 Dar Williams, Heartwood, 7 pm, \$34.76 via Eventbrite.com.

Art & Music Jam, CMC, 8 pm-2 am.

22 1808: Beethoven premieres 5th Symphony in Vienna.

29 Jack Williams & Lauren Heintz, Sandhill Stage, 7:30 pm, \$20.

Saturday
Sabado

11 Downtown Art Festival opens (240 artists, 4 stages), Gvl City Hall area, 10 am-5 pm (also Sunday).

13th - powerful documentary on slavery and US prisons, presented by ACLU & 2nd Chances (see pg 4) w/ food & childcare, CMC, 6:30 pm.

Telling Gainesville screening of recorded play w/ 5 Gvl vets: Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl), 6:45 pm, free; see pg 14.

ARMISTICE [VETERANS] DAY

18 Mental Health 1st Aid: crisis counseling training by Meridian Behavioral Health, CMC, 8:30 am-5 pm, \$20 (register at EventBrite.com).

Santa Fe River Preserve grand opening: ceremony, tours, hikes, paddling on new 900-acre reserve (27025 N State Rd 121, Alachua), 10:30 am.

Swallowtail Fall Farm Festival, 17603 NW 276 Lane, Alachua - food, music, art, workshops: noon-10 pm, \$17 (kids ≤ 12 free); see pg 6.

Both Sides Now - Joni Mitchell tribute, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S. Main St), 6:30 pm, \$20.

Fine Print benefit party, CMC, 9 pm.

LEONID METEOR SHOWERS

25 Cane Boil & Fiddlefest, Morningside Nature Ctr (3540 E. Univ Ave), 9 am.

UF Football vs LSU home game.

Green Man Fest - arts, crafts, & tech fair, Depot Park, 10 am-9 pm, free.

2 Longest Table community-building dialog event, Depot Park, 2 pm - free (pre-registration required at 352-393-8658 or EventBrite.com).

Tree Lighting w/ music, Santa at Thomas Ctr (306 NE 6th St), 6 pm.

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

Gvl Tabletop 3rd anniversary party, 6 pm; see pg 15.

9 Interfaith Dialog, Emmanuel Mennonite Church (1236 NW 8th Ave), 2nd & 4th Sats, 10 am.

"Alternate Endings, Radical Beginnings" - short videos on queer & trans people of color: Harn Museum, 3 pm.

Wild Iris Books Final Celebration - music & more: 22 SE 5th Ave, 6-11 pm; see pg 2.

Farm-to-Table Dinner, Swallowtail Farm, 4 pm.

16 Craftwork Bazaar, Boca Backyard, noon.

Vets for Peace 31st Winter Solstice Concert, UUFG - see pg 24.

23 1913: Woodrow Wilson signs Federal Reserve Act.

From PARENTI, p.18
and did eight months in jail.

In 1909, the Industrial Workers of the World began what would become a multi-year, nationwide campaign of nonviolent civil disobedience against local ordinances suppressing free speech.

Starting in Spokane, Washington, Wobbly activists violated local censorship laws at public rallies, filling the jails with hundreds of prisoners at a time until the local press and even mainstream liberal civic groups had to rally to the Wobblies' cause.

All along, the Right and capital fought back, using the state to suppress speech. The Espionage Act of 1917 and Sedition Act of 1918 were created for these purposes. In 1917, Socialist Party presidential candidate Eugene V. Debs was convicted under the Espionage Act for speaking against the First World War and was sentenced to ten years in prison. It was from these struggles that the American Civil Liberties Union emerged in 1920.

Only in 1925 were First Amendment rights affirmed as applying to the states. The case was *Gitlow v. People of New York*, in which Mr. Gitlow was convicted

of "criminal anarchy" for distributing a tract called "the Leftwing Manifesto."

In 1931, the Supreme Court finally extended speech rights to nonverbal symbols like flags in the case *Stromberg v. California*. Again, the hero was a leftist, the nineteen-year-old Ms. Yetta Stromberg of the Young Communist League. Her crime had been to violate California's "red flag law," which prohibited the display of a red flag as "an emblem of opposition to the United States Government."

The extension of free speech to universities was famously championed by the UC Berkeley Free Speech movement, which emerged to defend left-wing students who wanted to distribute radical literature and make radical speeches on campus. Winning that fight came at the price of students being beaten and jailed.

How could we have taken the enemy's bait and called for censorship? No doubt it appeared to some activists as merely a responsible first step. In other struggles, that makes perfect sense. For example, students calling for divestment from fossil fuels first request divestment — that is, open negotiations with the administration — and when rejected they move on to dis-

ruptive protest.

But there is a more troubling side to this as well. Let's face it, on some elite college campuses, the student activists are obsessed with symbolic gestures and the rigorous policing of language. One recalls the Oberlin students who in 2015 denounced their cafeteria for "cultural appropriation" when serving underwhelming versions of Banh Mi and General Tso's chicken.

The campus left's hypersensitivity to language has provided the Right with an opening. While many far-right ideas sound patently insane to the average person — for example, that the United Nations has secretly occupied the US and patrols the skies with black helicopters — the Right's jabs at campus culture are not so easily dismissed.

The Right is in the process of running a damn good play: baiting the Left into an embrace of censorship and thereby robbing one of the Left's great cultural prizes, the morally sacrosanct banner of "Free Speech." We cannot allow that. ☘

Author Larry Schnell at CMC, Nov. 12



by Joe Courter

What does a former news reporter do with his experiences covering Gainesville for eight years at the Sun?

Well, in Larry Schnell's case, he writes a satirical book about it, and he will be at the Civic Media Center (433 S. Main St.) with copies of the book (or you can buy it at Wild Iris Books) on Sunday, Nov. 12, at 7pm.

The Year of The Gator is based around a storyline of shaky business investment, quick money scheming, political gamesmanship, some quite interesting characters and situations which are only a tad removed from actual people and true happenings of the time he was reporting for the Sun and the Times-Union, which is already set in the familiar confines of Alachua County.

There is a parallel to Chambergate, an actual happening when the new pro-business Sun publisher colluded with the Chamber of Commerce and the UF Administration to stifle the environmental advocacy work of a couple UF professors, and a transcriber of the meeting tapes was so offended by it, they leaked the transcripts. There's a fight over a cement plant, election shenanigans, corrupt economic development efforts by powerful interests--and it is a damn fun read.

Larry now lives in Cooperstown, NY. Besides reporting he also taught English, journalism and writing for several colleges and the University of Florida. ☘

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Civic Media Center showcases indigenous issues with November Monday Movies

by Kaithleen Hernandez

It is getting to be that time of year again where the commercialization of holidays rears its ugly head.

In November, our culture and the celebration of Thanksgiving has taught us to ignore the genocide of our indigenous peoples without any regard to the truth of our history.

Our Monday Movies at the Civic Media Center for the last two weeks of November will focus on Native American history and current events that, unfortunately, have played out in similar patterns.

As usual, on Mondays we screen documentaries or politically-relevant films at 7pm, followed with a discussion. On November 20, we will be screening *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*, an adaptation of Dee Brown’s book that covers the history of Native People in the late nineteenth century, including an overview of the largest massacre to have ever occurred in United States history. The United States Army performed the killings, and its soldiers were later awarded Medals of Honor.

On Monday November 27, we will screen *AWAKE, A Dream From Standing Rock*. *AWAKE* was directed by Josh Fox, who also directed *Gasland*.

This documentary takes you through a journey of what the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe experience during their resistance to corporate powers. Aided by government workers, they attempt to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline from desecrating their sacred burial lands. The controversy of the Dakota Access Pipeline has inspired resistance camps all over the United States since gaining publicity in 2016.

The stories of our indigenous peoples who have continued to suffer due to capitalism and assimilation, the fruit of colonization, are stories we must refuse to put on the back burner. We cannot continue to ignore our history as if it isn’t being repeated every day. It is important that we never lose sight of the truth of how this nation was built; reflection and honoring truth is the only way we will be able to grow from these massacres and injustices.

These two films will be followed by a discussion that will be facilitated by Chippewa professor Nicole Nesberg who specializes in race and gender studies. We are honored to have her come and provide us with insight into the struggles that Native Americans have been facing since the beginning of Western colonization.

The Civic Media Center is at 433 S. Main St., with parking across the street or on SE 5th Ave. Donations to support the CMC are welcome. 🐊


CMC celebrates 24 years

by Joe Courter

The Civic Media Center’s 24th Anniversary event at the Matheson Museum on Oct. 20 was a great success. Thank you to all who attended or sent in a donation to help us start the 24th year of operations.

It was great to have such a big crowd to mark the occasion: to present a surprise gift to honor one of the CMC’s most loyal volunteers Gaby Gross, to introduce a new CMC co-coordinator Kaithleen Hernandez, and have a keynote address from Carol Thomas, as well as the Penrod Award presentation to Candi Churchill. Numerous raffle items were claimed and all the silent auction items were bid on and purchased. Special thanks go to John Moran and Eric Admunson for their art donations. The Matheson was a great host, and thanks, also, to the CMC volunteers and Board members who shared their time and efforts.

The food was awesome and without the following restaurants we would have been eating pizza: Andaz Indian Restaurant and Bar, Civilization, Elegant Events, Elizabeth Dionisi, Emiliano’s Cafe, Opus Coffee, Paramount Grill, Reggae Shack Cafe, Satchels, and Vine Organic Breads and Pasta. 🐊



www.civicmediacenter.org
coordinators@
civicmediacenter.org
352-373-0010
433 S. Main St., Gainesville
32601

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

Civic Media Center Events

Every Thu	Volunteer Meeting, 5:30pm
Every Thu	Poetry Jam, 8pm
Fri, Nov 10	Puerto Rico Benefit Info Panel: All donations will go towards Puerto Rican grassroots organization PResente, 7pm
Sat, Nov 11	Say Yes to 2nd Chances & ACLU Presents: “13th,” documentary film screening followed with discussion panel, food and childcare provided, 6pm
Sun, Nov 12	Larry Schnell book reading of “The Year of the Gator,” 7pm
Mon, Nov 13	“Ai Wei Wei: Not Sorry,” film about Chinese dissident artist, 7pm
Wed, Nov 15	One Year is Enough: Building a Socialist Resistance to Trump - panel discussion featuring organizers from Socialist Alternative, Democratic Socialists of America, Industrial Workers of the World, 6pm
Fri, Nov 17	Open Art Jam - bass rig & drum kit provided; bring your guitars & other instruments! Visual artists get in touch to feature your work.
Sat, Nov 18	Mental Health First Aid training, 8:30am-5pm
Sat, Nov 18	“Party Like You’re a Plant!” Benefit Music Show for The Fine Print Magazine, 9pm
Mon, Nov 20	“Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee,” documentary about the struggle for the American West from an Indigenous perspective, 7pm
Mon, Nov 27	“Awake, A Dream from Standing Rock,” documentary about the Standing Rock Sioux tribe’s struggle against the Dakota Access Pipeline, 7pm
Fri, Dec 1	Holiday Artwalk featuring live blacksmithing demo by Jordan Borstelmann in the courtyard, many other artists displaying and selling wares inside, 7-10pm
Fri, Dec 1	Open Art Jam - Holiday Artwalk will flow straight into our second-to-last Open Art Jam for 2017, so bring instruments and voices.
Mon, Dec 4	“Waiting for Superman” documentary about the education system discussion facilitated by Education Taskforce, 7pm
Mon, Dec 11	“Girl Rising” documentary tells the stories of 9 girls from different regions of the world, 7pm
Fri, Dec 15	Open Art Jam - featuring Enemies in Division. Bass rig & drum kit provided; bring your guitars and other instruments! Visual artists get in touch to feature your work.

Please support the CMC however you can: volunteering, memberships, donations, ideas, attendance at our events. Grassroots support keeps us going.



At CMC’s Anniversary Celebration ...

ABOVE: As part of the Civic Media Center’s 24th anniversary, a group picture was taken to send along with a card to long-time and beloved friend of many, Jack Price, who is in a care facility out of town and could not come to the event. Photo by Rebecca Paceley.

LEFT: Candi Churchill receives the Penrod Award for her outstanding activist work in the Gainesville community. Photo by Mary Bahr, courtesy of Veterans for Peace, Gainesville Chapter. 🐊

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History and the people who make it: Luresa Lake

Luresa Lake [L], original model for the historic Paradise Park, and her daughter Rose [R], were interviewed by Katie Gresham [G] in March, 2016.

This is the 44th in a series of transcript excerpts from the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program collection at the University of Florida.

Transcript edited by Pierce Butler.

L: I was born in Ocala, Florida on November 9, 1929. I am now eighty-six years young, not old. [Laughter] My father was a farmer. My mother was a seamstress, and she used to play the piano for the Shady Grove Baptist Church, which I was a member of all of my life.

G: Where did you go to school?

L: Evergreen Elementary School, and then to Howard High School. And I, being the only girl in the family, also went to school in New York for a couple of years. I can't remember the school name at this time, but I went there. Me being an only girl in my family, all of my aunts wanted me to stay with them. Many times I stayed with them, and cared for a baby or something like that. All of my family thought that I was something very special.

G: When did you first visit Paradise Park? Had you been to the springs before Paradise Park was open?

L: Well, see, Paradise Park was opened purposely for Black people. There was a segregation problem years ago – the White people were on one side of Silver Spring, and Black people were on another side. The river belongs to everyone. They even wanted to separate the waters as though the water would turn one white, or black, whichever the case may be. That was one of the things that we learned to live with, and accept, and appreciate it because Paradise Parks was fixed up very nice. All of that was available to Black people. People from everywhere in the United State visited.

G: How did you become the model for the Paradise Park brochures?

L: People sort of picked attractive Black women and made them stand out. This was always done by people with money. I was an attractive Black girl. They asked for pictures for Paradise Park, and they asked me to be a model. I thought that was an honor, and I still do, because there were many beautiful Black women, but for some reason I was picked. I think it was because of my size, because you

have to [have] not too much meat on you. People recognize me as being Miss Paradise Park. And I just adore it.

That was after I went to New York and to the schools up there. That gave me that natural accent of New Yorkers. My mother was a seamstress, and I was one of the best dressed girls in Ocala, because my mother could walk down the street, see an outfit on someone, and go home and make it. When I went to school, everyone turned their head [Laughter].

G: What was the role of Paradise Park within the Black community?



L: Oh, it was one of the best things that could happen, because we had two places, more or less, in Ocala that we could go swimming: East Lake, which was a great big pond, and Silver Springs. Well, when they separated us, they gave us a decent place, and decent roads, and even people where we can buy candies, and all of that. They made it perfect, and people from everywhere, over the states, would come. If you were Black you knew you would separate, and you accepted that. If you were White you went to the White side. We never mixed or had problems with that. We accepted what we were given in those days.

G: There was never any violence, or issues with the separation?

L: No, none at all. We actually felt we were blessed. Silver Springs was always such an ideal place, because the waters were so good, nice and comfortable to be in. In East Lake the waters would be cold in cold weather. But Silver Springs was always an ideal place for swimming. It still is. Only now, you can go anywhere you want.

R: How did you all feel about it being closed?

L: We felt like we was cheated, because why close it when nobody's arguing about it in the first place. White or Black could go. So why close it up?

G: What was your fondest memory from Paradise Park?

L: Taking that picture on that tree. The postcards themselves went all over the world. Can you imagine what it made me feel like? And the recognition that I got, because after that postcard people, "Oh, there goes Luresa Lake!" My head got bigger than the football [Laughter].

Some of the guys that took the pictures were workers at Silver Springs. All of the drivers at Silver Spring were Black men. That was unusual. I thought that was quite an honor too. They were the ones that drove those boats up and down the river for people to see. Finally they got so that every color could get on the boat.

R: If they sold enough tickets on the Black side, then they would send a boat to Paradise Park to pick up the Blacks.

G: So they were the same boats, and you got to see all the same things?

L: Oh yes, the whole thing. And the glass-bottom boats, you would look down and see all the fish of all different types. Silver Springs is still an ideal place to visit, right on. It hasn't changed, and that's God given.

It's so amazing that things have changed so intensely as far as White and Black. The White and Black nowadays sit together, live together, marry each other, and that's amazing, because years ago your head might have been blown off. Black man marrying a White woman? You had to be mighty careful. All over the south, there is a little bit of it every now and then yet.

G: Did having Paradise Park make you feel special?

L: Yes. I didn't just feel special about Paradise Park, I was an only sister of my three brothers. Not only that, but I had several aunts. One lived in New York City, one in Jacksonville, others in Ocala, and places like that. Each of those aunts wanted me to come and spend some time in their houses, and I did. I took care of my little cousins.

It seemed to me from around my teen years, racism wasn't really such a major issue in the long run. People accepted you for different reasons, whatever they were.

I was picked as a radio announcer. I played music on Sunday afternoon, and my name got put out, "Luresa Lake, listen to her music on Sunday afternoon."

All of the music of different nationalities and different bands and whatnot, I mixed it and played it. I actually had a great voice. It was the joy of my life. I would talk on TV, "and listen to Luresa Lake, she's coming to you with music." I could go on and on, I practiced it at home.

I made myself pretty noticeable. People all over Ocala and on up the road would hear me. "Tune in to Luresa, she plays Lionel Hampton music." People from all over Ocala, if they had a good record they saw to it that I got that record to play on Sunday afternoon. "This is Luresa Lake for your listening pleasure. Now, I would love for you to stay with me throughout the afternoon and blah blah blah." [Laughter] I got to be very real known.

G: How did you end up on the radio?

L: Through White people.

G: You were playing on a White radio station?

L: Yes, ma'am.

R: During that time, they needed to have something for the Black community, and that's when they set aside a station that would play Black music, because the Black music was so popular in Black, but also White and all kind of cultures.

G: What kind of events went on at Paradise Park while it was open?

R: Church. Baptisms. They had Easter egg hunts out there for churches.

L: Yeah, that's true. It was most interesting. We were given an area to enjoy at Silver Springs, and it didn't bother us, because we were used to being separated, Black from White. We felt like it was an honor to have the area, even though Silver Springs should be for everyone. It's a matter of accepting whatever is inevitable at the time.

Yeah, that was the way of life. Black people do not integrate with White people. It's just beginning to lift in your day. I can remember when different Black men were hung up by trees for courting a White woman. The separation didn't really bother us.

G: You felt like it was for, like your own safety kind of?

L: Yes, it was a part of what life was all about.

G: So there was a like separate Black community in Ocala, right?

L: No, not just in Ocala, baby. The United States of America had areas especially for White people, and areas especially for Black people. If you happened to be caught, a Black man with a White woman, White men would take you and hang you up to a tree. in public places where everybody can see you hanging there. That was the way life has been in my day. It begun to lift, all that kind of thing, things have changed such a tremendous amount, you say, "thank you God."

Right now I'm eighty-six years old, and I have good health and strength and a

pretty good mind. I don't remember a lot of stuff, me being as healthy as I am, that is great. And the fact that I was a mother of, how many children? [Laughter]

R: Nine.

L: One girl – well, two girls but one of them died. This is the only girl that is living, and I have now, how many boys living?

R: You have six boys now.

L: That by itself is pretty good. The thing that is most important is I have no pain. I attend to myself. Get up and do things. She and I take walks each day, and –

R: She has a really healthy life. She participates in church activities. She's still a special lady, and all of her family make sure that they get a chance for her to come and stay with them still. She's the monarch of our family now. All her family's deceased, her immediate family. She's the only one left.

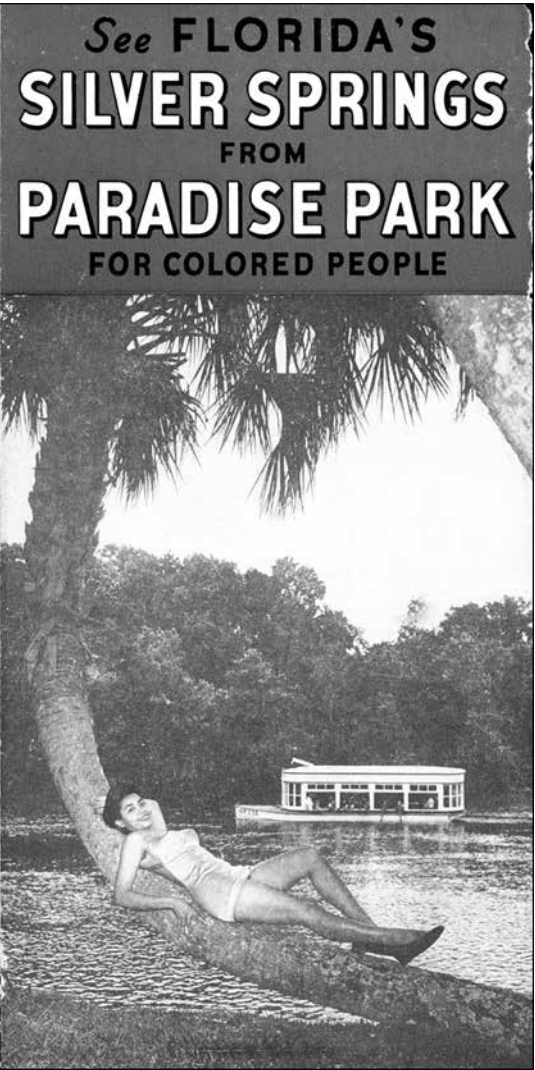
L: And I let them know I'm in charge. [Laughter] I really do enjoy my life, because they visit me quite often.

R: Anything else you want to say about Paradise Park, now that it's changed? Anything you wish that they could incorporate in the new Silver Springs, now that the government owns it?

L: The big thing that I would really like to emphasize is that segregation is no longer a part of the life of American people. And that's enough right there, just that.

Search for "Luresa Lake" at <http://oral.history.ufl.edu> for the full transcript of this interview.

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



Paradise Park was a tourist attraction "for colored people" from the late 1940s-1960s. Luresa Lake was asked to pose for the cover of one of Paradise Park's brochures, which she called "an opportunity of a lifetime." Photo by Bruce Mozart.

Wes Skiles Water Stewardship Awards on Nov. 13

Florida has the largest convergence of freshwater springs on the planet and one of our most impressive natural wonders are the underwater caves.

Alachua County’s own, Wes C. Skiles, began diving at age 8 and quickly became internationally recognized for his accomplishments in underwater filming and springs conservation awareness.

Skiles’ work included more than 100 films for television that he filmed, produced, and edited. “Water’s Journey: The Hidden Rivers of Florida” still airs on PBS and reveals the journey of water above and within the earth; revealing how our lives are


intertwined with the water we drink. Tragically, Skiles died while on a dive off Boynton Beach in 2010. He was posthumously awarded “Explorer of the Year” in 2011 by National Geographic.

Wes Skiles’ family continues to live in High Springs, Florida and Skiles’ brother Jim is an active member of the Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville. Rotary International is a service organization and each chapter has its own local focuses. Since 2012, the club has included water stewardship as one of its six areas of philanthropy. In 2013, the club began a fundraiser to honor three educators, businesses and organizations for their exceptional efforts in improving water quality and conservation in North Florida.

This year, the event, now retitled the Wes Skiles Water Stewardship Awards is being held on Monday November 13. The event is open to the public and funds will support water stewardship in Wes Skiles’ memory. GRU, Ginnie Springs, Gainesville Fine Arts Alliance, Lanza Gallery and Art Supplies, First Magnitude Brewing, Carr, Riggs, and Ingram, and James Moore and Company sponsor the event.

The event will feature keynote speaker Jennifer Adler, an underwater photographer and biologist. With the support of National Geographic, she created an environmental education program called Walking on Water. Tickets are available at <https://wesskiles.eventbrite.com>


Event: Wes Skiles Water Stewardship Awards
Hosted by: The Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville
Location: Gainesville Fine Arts Association, 1314 S. Main St.
Time: 6pm – 8:30pm
For more information, contact Sarah Barnes at (843)812-3334. 🐾




WINE TO WATER
Rotary
Downtown Gainesville, FL
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Wes Skiles Water Stewardship Awards

presented by
The Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville



**Keynote Speaker
Jennifer Adler**
National Geographic Explorer
specializing in conservation photography
with a focus on freshwater
underwater photography and cave diving




Monday, November 13, 2017
6:00 - 8:30 PM


Gainesville Fine Arts Association Gallery
1314 South Main, Gainesville, FL
(Please Park in Northeast corner of the Winn Dixie Parking Lot)

Wine & Beer Tasting - hors d'oeuvres
Tickets: \$30 per person
Contact: <https://wesskiles.eventbrite.com>


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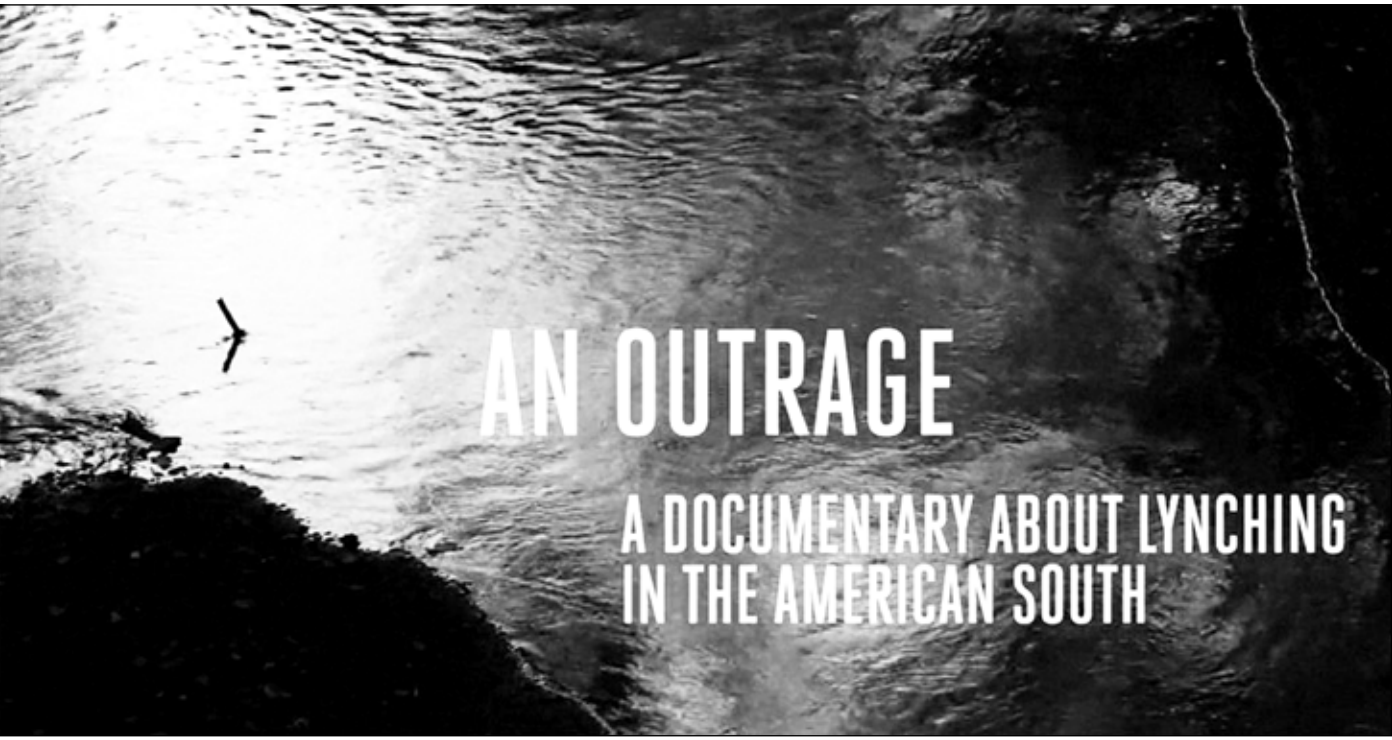
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The Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless and Hungry, Inc., a 501(c)(3), is starting a Motor Donor program to support the GRACE Marketplace

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Film explores the murder of black citizens, shot at lynching sites in six states

by Joe Courter

On Oct. 24 the Matheson Museum presented a powerful new film “An Outrage,” a relatively short 34-minute documentary that explores the reality of lynching in the United States.

In interviews with family members and friends, and visits to actual locations, the film travels to Virginia, Texas, South Carolina, Georgia and Mississippi, and spans from 1898 to 1946, demonstrating that the murder of black citizens was a form of social control and intimidation, and often was accompanied by protracted torture and abuse. These killings were widely

reported in the black press, but largely ignored in the more “mainstream” media.

In the discussion period after the film, Patricia Hilliard-Nunn spoke about the legacy of lynching in Florida (which had the highest per capita rate of lynching in the nation), zeroing in on the lynching of six people that took place in Newberry, Florida, just west of Gainesville in the early 1920s.

It was announced that there are efforts underway being led by Commissioner Robert Hutchinson to recognize and commemorate lynching victims in Alachua County. While that is good, the fact that the Dudley

Farm, an Alachua County attraction, was the home of some of the perpetrators of the Newberry 6 lynching needs to be acknowledged. This will be a growing issue in our county in the years to come.

Exciting news was mentioned at the conclusion by co-directors Hannah Brown Ayers and Lance Warren. The Southern Poverty Law Center will be incorporating the film and a teaching guide into their “Teaching Tolerance” school curriculum, available to 500,000 teachers across the country.

More information about the film is at www.an-outrage.com. 🐾

Iguana Directory

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

Readers: If there is inaccurate information here, please let us know. If you are connected to an organization listed here, please check and update so others can be accurately informed.

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

Alachua County Green Party Part of a worldwide movement built out of four interrelated social pillars that support its politics: the peace, civil rights, environmental and labor movements.

alachuagreens.weebly.com, alachuagreens@gmail.com, 352-871-1995

Alachua County Labor Coalition meets monthly and organizes to support local labor and advance the national campaigns for Medicare for All and a living wage. 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 Brooker, 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 non-profit research organization working to stimulate conservation action to save threatened species of birds in the southeastern U.S., www.arcinst.org

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Central Florida Democratic Socialists of America A local chapter of Democratic Socialists of America focusing on local social and political activism issues to better our community. General meetings are on the 4th Monday of every month at the Downtown Library in Gainesville in Meeting Room A. centralfldsa@gmail.com, www.fb.com/centralfldsa

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. chispasuf@gmail.com

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

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

Conservation Burial, Inc. promotes natural burial practices in cemeteries that conserve land and reunite people with the environment. 352-372-1095, act.davidp@gmail.com

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

Democratic Party of Alachua County Meetings held the second Wednesday each month at 7 p.m. in the 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 positive change by organizing 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 building 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@famm.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 anyone 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.gaaponline.org, info@gaaponline.org, 352-373-4227, Open Tuesdays 10-1 and last Friday of month 5-7.

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

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. 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 Peer Respite A non-profit, non-clinical mental health community providing sanctuary and support to those experiencing emotional distress. Peer Support Warmline is available 6pm-6am, and we offer wellness activities, support groups and brief overnight respite stays. Call the Warmline at 352-559-4559 for support or online at gainesvillerespite.org

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 8pm, gainesvillesocialists@gmail.com

Gainesville Zen Center and 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)

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 secular, humanist, atheist & agnostic social influences-www.gainesvillehumanists.org or facebook.com/humanistsocietyofgainesville; gainesville-humanists@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

Indivisible Gainesville* is one of 5800 local chapters of the national Indivisible movement, working to peacefully and systematically resist the Trump agenda. We are a group of local volunteers fighting against agendas of division, inequality, financial influence in government, and policies that neglect to benefit all American citizens equally. indivisiblegnv.org.

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

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. Contact Alachua County Green Party for info.

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.ncpsm.org/

National Lawyers Guild Lawyers, law students, legal workers and jailhouse lawyers using the law to advance social justice, 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

NCFAWIS 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 for events or request Meetinghouse space at www.GainesvilleQuakers.org.

Repurpose Project, a nonprofit junk shop and community center, diverts useful resources froj the landfill, redirects these items to the public for art and educaton, inspires creativity, and helps us all rethink what we throw away. Lets all help protect t he planet and buy used. Open to the public. Tues-Sat: 10am–6pm. www.repurposeproject.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

Rural Women’s Health Project is a local health education oregonization developing materials promoting health justice for migrant and rural women. Robin or Fran 352-372-1095

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

Say Yes to Second Chances Florida is a coalition of nonpartisan civic and faith organizations who are working for Florida’s Voting Restoration Amendment to allow people who’ve paid their debt to society to earn back their right to vote. https://www.floridiansforafairdemocracy.com/

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. Meetings are the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Mennonite Meeting House, 1236 NW 18th Ave. (across from Gainesville HS). http://www.gnvsistercities.org

Stand By Our Plan informs the public on critical differences between the Comprehensive Plan and Plum Creek’s proposal, which we do not support. Alachua County’s Comprehensive Plan is the best blueprint for future growth in the county’s unincorporated areas; it protects 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

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/~una-usa/.

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

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

WGOT-LP 100.1 FM Community low-power radio station operating as part of the CMC. wgot947@gmail.com, www.wgot.org

Women’s March Gainesville meets on the second Monday of each month: for location and agenda information, please see are on the second Monday of each month, see www.hearourvoice-gnv.org; m.facebook.com/wmflgnv/www.facebook.com/groups/wmflgnv/; Instagram.com/womensmarchgnv/; Twitter.com/WMFL_Gnv/ and/ or email wmw@hearourvoicegnv.org. Together we can do anything... Join Us! We Need You. Let’s build this peaceful movement together!

World Socialist Party of the United States (WSP-US) welcomes anyone wanting to know more about Marxian socialism and our 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 🐼

Veterans for Peace to host annual Winter Solstice Celebration



Veterans for Peace will host its 31st Annual Winter Solstice Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 8 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4225 N.W. 34th St.

The event will feature music from Cathy Dewitt & Mark Billman, Cherokee Peace Chant, Drums of Peace, Lauren Robinson, Janet and Maggie Rucker, Quartermoon, Other Voices, The Errelrics, Jason Hedges & Sarah Darden, A Choir of Heavenly Semi-Angels, and more, along with readings from our Peace Poetry Contest winners. Bill Hutchinson will be the MC for the event.

If you've never been part of a community of 400 people, holding hands and singing John Lennon's 'Imagine,' come experience the possibility of peace and love.

If sold out, standing room will be available outside where the concert can also be heard through large speakers.

Tickets can be purchased in advance from McIntyre Stained Glass Studio & Art Gallery, Thornebrook Village, 2441 NW 43rd St., #11, for a suggested donation of \$15 to \$30. Doors open at 6:30pm and the concert begins at 8pm. Advance tickets guarantee admission until 8pm.

Outside the event, organizations and groups from the Gainesville area will set up informational booths and tables. Attendees are encouraged to bring for donation clothing, food and personal items, to be collected and distributed by Helping Hands Clinic. Refreshments will be available.

Parking is available at the event, but is limited (carpooling recommended). Parking attendants will be present to assist drivers.

All proceeds from the celebration will be used to support programs that Veterans for Peace organize year round, including the Memorial Mile on 8th Ave., the Peace Poetry Contest -- held for K-12 students in Alachua County -- as well as the Peace Scholarship, awarded to two graduating seniors from Alachua County who work for peace and justice.

Proceeds may also help other organizations who work for peace and justice.

Veterans for Peace advocates the abolition of war as an instrument of government

policy. For more information about the Winter Solstice Celebration and VFP's other projects, visit their website at <http://www.vfpgainesville.org>. ☸

31st Annual Winter Solstice Celebration

Saturday, December 16th, 8:00 P.M.*

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

4225 NW 34th Street

Featuring Music By

Cathy Dewitt & Mark Billman • Cherokee Peace Chant

Drums of Peace

Lauren Robinson

Janet and Maggie Rucker

Quartermoon

OtherVoices • The Errelrics

Jason Hedges & Sarah Darden

A Choir of Heavenly Semi-Angels

and more

with readings by our Peace Poetry Contest Winners

Special thanks to our Master of Ceremonies, Musician & Veteran

Bill Hutchinson

Special thanks to Peter Theoktisto of Everyman Sound

\$15-30 Suggested Donation to Benefit

Donations of clothing,
personal items, and
food for Helping
Hands Clinic will be
appreciated.

VETERANS FOR PEACE



Tickets available at

McIntyre Stained Glass Studio & Art Gallery

Thornebrook Village, 2441 NW 43rd St. Suite 11A

(352) 372-2752

***Doors open at 6:30 PM. Ticket only guarantees admission until 8:00 PM.**

The Gainesville Iguana

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list your event or group, contact us at:*

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