



# The Gainesville Iguana

*A progressive newsletter  
and events calendar*

**March, 2018  
Vol. 32, Issue 3**

## GNV votes March 20

*by Joe Courter*

Please, if you live in the City of Gainesville, do not ignore the upcoming election on March 20. Voters on the Eastside (District 1) will have two races on their ballot, the rest of the City but one race, but who we elect and what they prioritize is important.

Everyone registered to vote can vote in the At-Large race. It features two candidates, the incumbent, Harvey Budd, against challenger Gail Johnson.

Harvey has a long and solid history in Gainesville. He is an accountant by trade and has been active in the community as a property owner and Plan Board member. He has been on the Commission for one term, during which he has tried to be a financial watchdog and seeker of compromise. He is a good guy and has served well, but it is his luck in this wave election to have Gail Johnson step in to run for his seat.

Gail has arrived just as a desire for change, for women's and minority voices and perspective, has crested. With long ties to Gainesville, and as granddaughter to a beloved Gainesville icon Joseph Judge, Gail has gone from

Eastside High School and minimum wage work to now being a single Mom with a successful catering business that pays its workers a living wage.

She has energized a broad coalition of support in her campaign, stressing a balance in where the City puts its resources and development, and arguing that we need to stop just talking about solutions but start doing things directly to help people in need. Her life experience and desire to bring her skills to another level of impact in our community won us over to her.

**VOTE GAIL JOHNSON.**

The District One race has three candidates. Incumbent Charles Goston and two challengers, Gigi Simmons and Tyra "Loud" Edwards. We feel that either of the women running would be better than the incumbent, bringing fresh energy and perspective to the seat, and as often happens in a three-way race, this may come down to a runoff between him and one of the challengers, thus voter turnout is really important to keep Goston from the 50 percent + one, as his name recognition and business community money gives him an advantage in this race.

Both women have brought themselves up from poverty in Gainesville. Ty has closer ties to the grassroots struggles, including firsthand experience with homelessness. She has been an active citizen both at Commission meetings and as a community organizer.

Gigi's path took her into public service

*See ELECTIONS, p.21*

**I STAND WITH**




**EMMA  
WE CALL BS**

**#guncontrolNOW #standwiththekids**

*by Araceli Cruz*

One of the most impactful moments since the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, is that of Emma González calling BS on politicians and gun laws. The 18-year-old senior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School is leading the fight against school violence and has become the face of a new movement of young people demanding change in gun laws.

Illustrator Lalo Alcaraz was so moved by González and her speech that he created an illustration of her, pictured above. Read more at: <https://wearemitu.com/things-that-matter/emma-gonzalez-portrait/> 

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# Reflection on support for prisoners’ Operation PUSH

*And a call to action in Tallahassee on March 8 against visitation cuts*

by Panagioti Tsolkas

In January, activists across Florida celebrated Martin Luther King Jr’s birthday with a renewed commitment to struggle alongside those among the most exploited members in our society: the prison slaves.

Over 150 organizations across the country issued statements of support for Florida

prisoners. Some carried banners in their local MLK parades or dropped banners off overpasses for thousands to see. Others handed out flyer, pasted posters and pushed out social media.

It was said by many, including Angela Davis on her visit to Tallahassee, that had King not been assassinated as he joined underpaid workers in Memphis,

Tennessee, fifty years ago, he would most certainly have been in Florida supporting the prisoners of Operation PUSH.

It’s not hard to have imagined him sitting next to us as we were dragged out of the Florida Department of Corrections lobby (then falsely accused of “battering” law enforcement officers, leaving a Gainesville student activist facing felony charges). But could he have imagined that in the time between the civil rights movement he took part in and today, the slavery he decried as the root of poverty would have actually grown exponentially, as the prison population jumped 700 percent?

Under the U.S. Constitution’s 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, every prisoner is a slave, and hundreds of thousands nationwide do the labor of maintaining the prisons, as well

*See PRISONERS, p. 8*



*The mother of a Florida prisoner holds her son’s photo up during the Jan. 16 occupation of the Florida Department of Corrections lobby in Tallahassee. Community activists occupied the FDC lobby for five hours, capturing international media attention on the corruption, abuse and slavery that occurs in Florida prisons. Photo by Shoog McDaniel.*

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

🦄 **Bots and the Battle for American Democracy** - by The Takeaway (PRI) (Podcast) *Non-state actors use bots to spread fake news and subvert democracy.* <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/381444253/pri-the-takeaway> <seek podcast for 2/20/18>

🦄 **Parkland Student Ema González Opens Up About Her Fight for Gun Control** by Emma González in *Harpers Bazaar* *Meet Emma Gonzalez through her own words; see why she and her fellow students make so much sense.* <https://www.harpersbazaar.com/culture/politics/a18715714/protesting-nra-gun-control-true-story/>

🦄 **Top Ten Signs the US is the Most Corrupt Nation in the World** by Juan Cole in *Informed Comment* *From Trump buying the presidency with his own money to the drug war corrupting police departments, Transparency International likens the United States to Austria in terms of corruptness.* <https://www.juancole.com/2018/02/signs-corrupt-nation.html>

## Speak up ... be a nuisance

*Join a local environmental society, but see to it that it does not waste time on superficial purposes...*

*Don’t think it is enough to attend meetings and sit there like a lump.... It is better to address envelopes than to attend foolish meetings.*

*It is better to study than act too quickly; but it is best to be ready to act intelligently when the appropriate opportunity arises...*

*Speak up. Learn to talk clearly and forcefully in public. Speak simply and not too long at a time, without over-emotion, always from sound preparation and knowledge.*

*Be a nuisance where it counts, but don’t be a bore at any time...*

*Do your part to inform and stimulate the public to join your action...*

*Be depressed, discouraged and disappointed at failure and the disheartening effects of ignorance, greed, corruption and bad politics — but never give up.*

*Marjory Stoneman Douglas  
(1890-1998)*

*From the publisher ...*

## Marjory Stoneman Douglas would be proud

Here’s a big note of appreciation to the brave and powerful students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. They took the adversity that was thrown at them and exemplify the adage of speaking truth to power. Seeing Emma Gonzales speak at that rally, all that fierce power and raw emotion, I was in awe.

Likewise seeing Cameron Kasky go face-to-face at the CNN town meeting with Marco Rubio and not back down; wow. I hope this issue will resonate across the country, and not only to the youth. I hope that adults recognize that they need to have this young generation’s back as they fight for a saner future. It is the least we can do, as we are the generations on whose watch this madness has developed.

I am reminded and have distinct memories of a day in fifth grade when we did a nuclear bomb drill, around 1961-62. It was not the silliness of duck and cover. No, we instead single-filed to hallways that did not have any windows and sat silently, backs to the wall, head down to our knees and remained there for about ten or fifteen minutes.

That may have been my first taste of what could be called meditation. In that empty silence and in the days that followed, I processed whether I’d ever get home if a nuclear exchange happened, and whether I would want to bring a kid into this mad world. I have no idea if others in my generation were affected by that shared experience as I was, but we sure grew up to challenge the status quo as the counter culture bloomed across the country.

Another big event for me was a shooting of students my age by National Guardsmen at Kent State in the spring of 1970. Jeffrey Miller, the dead young man on the ground in that iconic photo, was me. He looked like me and was doing what I would’ve been doing that day. I was “woke” that day with a commitment that still burns, that we need to fight back, raise awareness and build resistance.

For all the kids across the country who have to experience shooter drills, to be herded into closets or lay on the floor away from windows and wait for the all clear, may their minds awaken and, instead of isolation, feel the unity these MSD students are showing us.

The MSD students knew this kid, they warned about this kid, authorities were notified about him. We need to do better and deal with these sad and damaged humans in our midst. Help needs to be available.

Stigma needs to be eliminated about getting help. “Mental illness” was a term easily tossed into the discussion, but that is unfair to those have to deal with issues like depression, OCD, bi-polar, or autism.

Is being racist, or anti-Semitic, or misogynist, or xenophobic a mental illness? This kid was a member of his school’s NRA-supported junior ROTC shooting team. He was wearing the club shirt when he was arrested! We as a society need to deal with the fact that people now can find re-enforcement for a wide range of mal-adaptive attitudes and activities and even join groups of people who share such points of view.

The availability of guns is a big problem, yes, but the hate, fear and alienation need to be addressed as well. This will not be an easy fix, but we need to recognize how deep the problem goes.

Seeing solidarity walk-outs across the country is a powerful sign this IS resonating. MSD students could have just had hand-holding prayer circles and made a mountain of flowers. But no, they went at the problem head on. They had the audacity to think big, and put their grief and anger into fighting back, speaking out against the NRA and impacting it like no group has before. Legislatures are squirming in their presence, corporations, too. In drawing big crowds in Tallahassee, Washington, DC, and so many other places, they are seeing their power, and they know they are not alone.

Saturday, March 24, at 11am is the March For Our Lives at the Bo Diddley Plaza. See you there. 🦄



*Joe Courter*

## Subscribe!

*The Gainesville Iguana is Gainesville's progressive newsletter and events calendar*

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

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# Remembering investigative journalist Robert Parry

***What made Bob Parry a trailblazer for independent journalism also made him a bridge burner with the media establishment***

*This article originally appeared on The Nation's website on Jan. 29. View more at [www.thenation.com](http://www.thenation.com).*

*By Norman Solomon*

After Robert Parry died on January 27, I asked another great investigative journalist, Seymour Hersh, for some words.

"I ran into Bob more than three decades ago when he was the first to warn of the Iran/Contra affair, to little avail," Hersh replied. "He was widely seen over the next years as a critic of the mainstream media in America. That was not so. He was a critic of lousy reporting, be it in Pravda or The New York Times. He wanted every journalist, everywhere, to do the research and the interviewing that it takes to get beyond the accepted headline."

What made Bob Parry a trailblazer for independent journalism also made him a bridge burner with the media establishment. He refused to take on faith the official story, whether from governments or news outlets.

After winning acclaim, including a Polk Award, as an Associated Press reporter who broke many big stories on deadly US policies in Central America, he spent three years at Newsweek—where he saw top editors collaborating with officials of the George H.W. Bush administration on what should be shared or withheld from the public.

Bob left the magazine in 1990, and soon his relations with mainstream media had a whistle-blower quality. His 1992 book *Fooling America: How Washington Insiders Twist the Truth and Manufacture the Conventional Wisdom* named names and pulled no punches.

Midway through the decade, Bob did a stint as director of the Nation Institute's investigative unit. His writing for The Nation during 1996 included pieces about the CIA and drug trafficking by the Nicaraguan contras, the bankrolled power of right-wing foundations, and a seven-page expose that is chilling to read more than 30 years later—an investigative report on the Koch brothers.

In 1995, Parry launched a unique journalistic space, Consortiumnews.com, where he worked intensely as publisher, editor, and writer. For the next 22 years, Parry

oversaw the website's scrutiny of elite wisdom. His work, which included authoring six books, won the I.F. Stone Medal for Journalistic Independence from Harvard's Nieman Foundation in 2015 and, last year, the Martha Gellhorn Prize for Journalism.

I got to see Bob at work up close, in 1996, when we co-wrote a series on a media darling: "Behind Colin Powell's Legend." During interviews, Bob was politely unrelenting. He had a methodical zest for plowing through documents, determined to "master the material." And he was professionally generous; I wrote just a small proportion of the articles, but he insisted that I share the byline on every one.

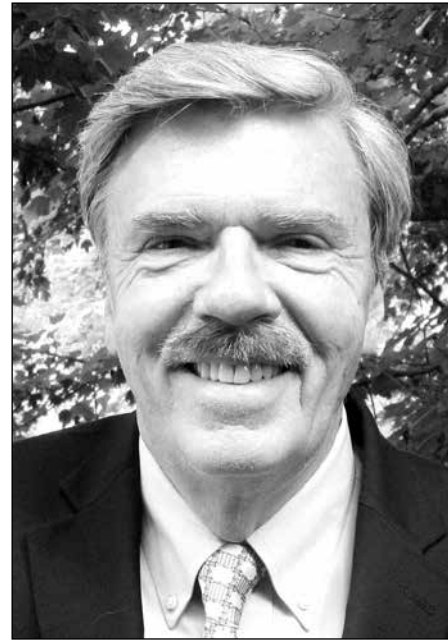
Bob was notably non-ideological. What propelled him was a moral core and determination to follow the facts. That devotion led him to expose the lethal deceptions and machinations of Reagan-era figures like Oliver North, Elliott Abrams, and Caspar Weinberger.

Three decades later, the same resolve to separate fact from spun fiction put him on a collision course with the conventional wisdom of "Russiagate."

No one knew better than Bob Parry how intelligence agencies and major media outlets can create a cascading frenzy. Beginning in late 2016, Bob was prolific as he debunked the torrent of hyperbolic claims about Russia that became an ever-present flood across the US media landscape. Some progressive sites went from often posting his articles in 2016 to rarely or never posting them in 2017.

"For years, the mainstream, establishment media have, by their malpractices in covering US-Russian relations from Ukraine to 'Russiagate,' been deeply complicit in the unfolding of this new Cold War and its unprecedented dangers," said Russia scholar Stephen F. Cohen, a contributing editor at The Nation. "Bob Parry, very often alone, exposed those malpractices, especially those committed by the powerful New York Times and Washington Post, misreported story by misreported story, sometimes daily. For this, he was ostracized, slurred, certainly ignored by mainstream media."

At the end of December, a week after his first stroke left him with badly blurred



eyesight, Bob somehow was able to write what turned out to be his final article, brilliant and transcendent, a kind of cri de coeur that is a stunning last testament to "the journalistic principles of skepticism and evenhandedness."

Western journalists, he wrote, "now apparently see it as their patriotic duty to hide key facts that otherwise would undermine the demonizing of Putin and Russia. Ironically, many 'liberals' who cut their teeth on skepticism about the Cold War and the bogus justifications for the Vietnam War now insist that we must all accept whatever the US intelligence community feeds us, even if we're told to accept the assertions on faith."

At the close of a lengthy tribute that appeared the day after his father's death, Nat Parry wrote that, "ultimately, Bob was motivated by a concern over the future of life on Earth. As someone who grew up at the height of the Cold War, he understood the dangers of allowing tensions and hysteria to spiral out of control, especially in a world such as ours with enough nuclear weapons to wipe out all life on the planet many times over."

Robert Parry carried the lantern high. Now others will need to carry it on.

*For a longer, more in-depth look at Robert Parry's life, check out the piece by his son at <https://consortiumnews.com/2018/01/28/robert-parrys-legacy-and-the-future-of-consortiumnews/>.* 🐘

## CMC board member featured in book on Latin America



**Wednesday, April 11, 7pm  
Civic Media Center, 433 S. Main**

*by Joe Courter*

Take three editors and more than 30 writers (all women) and what you will come up with is a book that (we think) is a fascinating look at the experiences of women traveling and working in Latin America.

CMC Board Member Ronnie Lovler and UF alum Elizabeth Holli Wood are two of the contributors to this book that pays homage to what we as women can do, and our ability to share our experiences. Their writings demonstrate this in *Alone Together: Ties of Sisterhood and Solitude in Latin America*.

Lovler and Holli Wood will read excerpts from their book in an event on Wednesday, April 11, at 7pm at the CMC.

Lovler's chapter, "Journalist don't shoot," examines her life and experiences as a journalist in Latin America from Puerto Rico to Nicaragua to El Salvador during the turbulent 1970s and 1980s.

Holli Wood, who is of Cuban descent, writes of her experiences in Cuba on a recent trip to the homeland she is just now getting to know. Holli Wood is the creator of the podcast, The Future is Gross.

The two recently took part in panel discussions during the official launch of the book in Bogota, Colombia, where the three editors who came up with the idea for this adventure live.

It was exciting experience for all involved in this project. Lovler shared her thoughts about the book and the process of making it a reality in a brief interview with *The Iguana* shortly after her return from Colombia.

She praised the editors for coming up with the idea and then it making it a reality.

"Writers can write, but for the editors the process was perhaps a bit more challenging, because they had to select which writers would be invited to be a part of the book, and then organize the chapters of the book in a way that would appeal to the reader and make sense," Lovler said.

As to her own writing, Lovler said the "biggest challenge was to find the right writer's voice to tell my experiences and decide what to include about my experiences and what to omit. I feel that I managed to convey my experiences in an entertaining and informative way and I hope that those who read my chapter will agree."

The book is available on Amazon in ebook and paperback versions and will be available for purchase at the CMC reading. 🐘

## HAVE YOU HAD ENOUGH? GIVE THEM THE HEAVE HO!

Have you had enough of the NRA running our country? Enough of the pharmaceutical and insurance companies ruining our Health Care? Enough of watching African American men shot by police? Enough of watching our environment poisoned?



We can fix this mess and we can have a good time doing it! Our representatives Ted Yoho and Keith Perry are rubber stamps for the NRA and Corporate Greed. Let's vote them out. It's happening across the country. Let's have a tidal wave wash these pirates off the decks!

## We need all of us to work together! This means You! Yes you, Matey.

Where better to start the revolution? In Melrose, FL. On Saturday, April 21st. Why? Because Melrose is the crossroads for four counties. All the candidates for office will be there, and a dunk tank for dunking your least favorite politician. Music, games for kids, food, contest for the best dressed pirate. But we need creative people to help make this event happen. And as Emma Goldman said, "If I can't dance, I don't want to be a part of your revolution."

We need artists to paint banners! We need people from every class, color, gender, and town to participate! WE HAVE TO COME TOGETHER IF WE ARE GOING TO WIN. If you are part of a Gospel choir, a country band, hip hop band, folk or a rock band, contact us. And of course what revolution is complete without a Kazoo Marching Band?

## IF YOU WANT TO HELP CREATE THE NORTH FLORIDA TIDAL WAVE!

PLEASE CONTACT: Facebook: Heave Ho Festival

In Gainesville, Lee Malis: [sailin@sailin.net](mailto:sailin@sailin.net)

In Melrose, Fran Rossano, 352-475-3012 or Kate Ellison: [kateclarity@gmail.com](mailto:kateclarity@gmail.com)

# Veterans for Peace announces fourth annual college scholarship program for local students



Gainesville Veterans for Peace Chapter 14 announces its fourth annual Peace Scholarship Program for the spring of 2018.

They are awarding three college scholarships of \$750 each to high school seniors, college students or adults in Alachua County who have a commitment to activities involving social justice and peace, conflict resolution and/or nonviolent social change.

Veterans for Peace created these scholarships to give financial support to students who are planning careers in pursuit of a world of social justice and equity.

“To me, receiving the Veterans for Peace Scholarship meant that there are people in our community who truly believe in helping change and shape our society for the betterment of all. There are not many scholarships such as VFP Peace Scholarship because work for social justice is often overlooked in our world,” said 2016 Peace Scholarship recipient Mariana Castro, a University of Florida student, community organizer and president of UF CHISPAS.

The great majority of Veterans for Peace scholarships awarded thus far have gone to first-generation college students as well as to community college students.

2016 scholarship recipient Doug Bernal, an Iraq War veteran, explained the economic challenges facing student veterans: “Like many newly separated veterans, I struggled financially for quite some time after leaving the service. Unsure of where I wanted to go in life and lacking the confidence to pursue higher education, I found myself taking on more debt as time went on. When I finally decided to pursue school, it was difficult to purchase books and pay bills while waiting for my GI Bill benefits to come through. I didn’t initially have the grades for financial aid, so the VFP scholarship was instrumental in getting me the books I so desperately needed and putting me on a path to a successful college experience.”

By creating this scholarship, Veterans for Peace is attempting to follow the example of Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai who has urged the US to end wars and to refocus on education as a tool of economic justice.

Gainesville Veterans for Peace is asking the public to spread information about this scholarship program.

To be eligible to apply for the Peace Scholarship, the applicant must be either:

- 1) a high school senior planning to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school in the United States for the 2018-2019 academic year,
- 2) a college student currently enrolled and in good standing, or
- 3) an adult student enrolling in higher education who needs financial assistance.

Peace Scholarship applicants will be asked to provide a brief autobiographical statement and evidence of leadership and/or personal initiative in activities in an organization – including volunteer or paid work – relating to peace and social justice, conflict resolution and/or nonviolent social change. Applicants will also need to provide two letters of recommendation.

## APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 25

The application (PDF file) along with the full announcement and instructions for applying can be found and downloaded from the Gainesville Veterans for Peace website at <http://www.vfpgainesville.org/>. Applications should be printed out, completed and postal mailed to: Paul Ortiz, c/o Veterans for Peace Scholarship Program, 2115 NW 7th Lane, Gainesville, Florida 32603.

The postmarked deadline for the application is April 25.

Peace Scholarship recipients will be announced at the Gainesville VFP Peace Poetry Awards Ceremony in May. For questions, contact Paul Ortiz at: [ortizprof@gmail.com](mailto:ortizprof@gmail.com) or call 831-334-0131. ☘

## Labor Notes

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



Labor Notes Conference  
April 6-8, 2018 in Chicago  
[www.labornotes.org](http://www.labornotes.org)  
for in-depth and up-to-date  
reporting from around the  
labor movement  
Subscribe \$30/year

## VFP Peace Poetry Contest call for submissions

Veterans for Peace Gainesville announces its 9th Annual Alachua County Peace Poetry Contest, where all students, grades K–12, are encouraged to submit one original poem focusing on the idea of peace and social justice.

The deadline for submitting a poem to the contest is April 6, 2018.

Last year, more than 240 students submitted poems, and the winners were invited to read their poems aloud at the Peace Poetry Reading, where they were presented with their awards. Two winners read their poems at the Veterans for Peace Winter Solstice Concert in December in front of more than 350 attendees.

A panel of local authors and poets will judge the poems based on creativity, content, and

use of language. The winners will be published in the 2018 Peace Poetry Book and asked to recite their poems at the public Peace Poetry Reading in May at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Gainesville. Winners will also receive valuable gift certificates to a local bookstore.

If you or your student(s) want(s) to submit a poem to this year’s Peace Poetry Contest, the deadline for submissions is April 6, 2018. Poems can be submitted via email to [vfpppeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com](mailto:vfpppeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com) or via mail to:

VFP Peace Poetry Contest, 2115 NW 7th Lane, Gainesville, FL 32603

For more information, please email [vfpppeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com](mailto:vfpppeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com) or call Sheila Payne at 831-334-0117. ☘

# Upcoming events at Working Food Center, Gainesville



## Veggie Fermentation Workshop

Saturday, March 17, 10am-1pm  
Working Food Center, 219 NW 10th Ave.

Join the Working Food Center for their seasonal vegetable fermentation workshop. If you’ve ever wondered about making your own sauerkraut, kimchi and other vegetable ferments, this is the class for you.

A little bit of education on why this stuff is so good for you, with a lot of hands on demonstrations where YOU will chop, salt, brine and pack your own ferments. You’ll take home several jars of tasty, bubbly ferments good for the belly, good for soul, and perfect for sharing.

## Tomato Bootcamp

Sunday, March 18, 10am-1pm  
Grow Hub 2802 NE 8th Ave.

It’s not easy to grow tomatoes in the south. Our humidity, heat, pest and disease pressure can wreak havoc in the garden. This fun three-hour workshop will let you in on the secrets to successfully growing tomatoes in the south. From seed starting to seed saving, we’ll do it all. Topics to be covered are how to start from your own seeds, variety selection, basic maintenance and care (i.e. trellising techniques, suckering, pruning), saving seeds, and breeding your own varieties.

Light snacks and refreshments will be available. Feel free to bring your own, too, as we will be together over the lunch hour. If you have a folding chair, bring it. If plants are ready, we will be selling tomato plants. Bring cash, check or credit cards. Suggested donation of \$15-25 to help cover costs.

**\*\*REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED\*\***

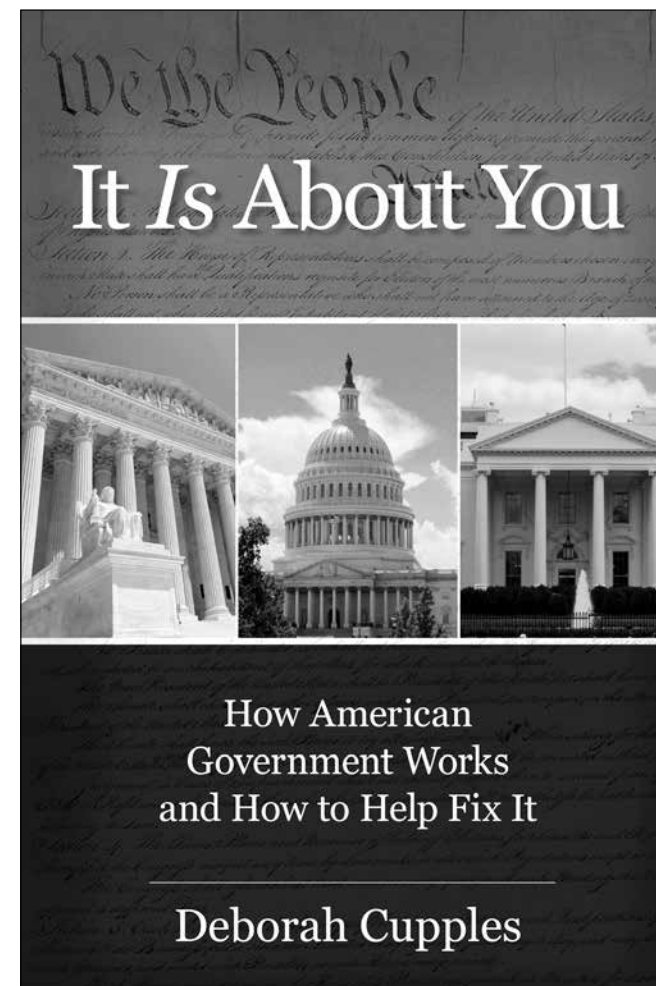
Please visit Working Food’s Facebook page or website at [workingfood.org](http://workingfood.org) for more information and to register. ☘

## Hey, Readers!

*The Gainesville Iguana has opened a PayPal account, and we’re now accepting donations through our website at [www.gainesvilleiguana.org](http://www.gainesvilleiguana.org).*

*Go to our home page and just click on the **Donate with PayPal** to support us via PayPal account or credit card.*

*We thank you very much!*



*Knowledge brings power –  
the power to not be misled,  
the power to have a say ...*

## It Is About You: How American Government Works and How to Help Fix It

- Nonpartisan, plain-language guide to the basics
- Copy of U.S. Constitution in the book
- Available on Amazon in paperback and Kindle versions



From PRISONERS, p. 2

as get contracted out to government agencies, universities, and private companies.

In response to this exploitation, Operation PUSH prisoners called for a peaceful but powerful strategy of noncooperation. And as J.F. Kennedy said in 1962, “Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable.” After FDC’s attempts to suppress prisoners standing up for the

dignity, it appears they may be on the road to manifesting JFK’s prediction.

Despite a month of extreme repression, FDC can’t control the building pressure inside these human warehouses. On Thursday, February 15, a “disturbance” was reported at the Columbia C.I. Annex prison, just west of Gainesville. While details remain unclear, signs point to yet another uprising.

In FDC’s words: “Five staff members

were injured during the disturbance and received outside medical treatment for non-life-threatening injuries. There were no inmate injuries. The Department has transferred all inmates involved in the incident to different facilities and will take appropriate disciplinary action.”

Note this is the same agency with 428 inmate deaths in 2017, an unexplained 20 percent increase over previous years,

Shortly before this event, the Gainesville-based Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons received a letter from Columbia Annex prisoner Paul Luxama. He explained that he had been transferred from Jackson C.I. following the nationwide uprisings of September 2016. Luxama points out that “there’s no such thing as a peaceful boycott against [FDC],” and he elaborates extensively on the experience at Jackson where simple acts of refusal resulted in brutal retaliation thus creating a violent situation which put people at risk.

“[FDC] perceives peaceful boycotts not as a threat to security but as a threat to their power over the slaves’ minds and a threat to their bottom line,” writes Luxama.

While we will once again have to wait for direct contact from prisoners to find out the real story, we are left with MLK’s reminder after a long summer of upheaval in 1966: “We’ve got to see that a riot is the language of the unheard.”

To add insult to injury, FDC has just announced a plan to massively cut back visitation access, in tandem with an introduction of video visitation technology which will generate profits for private contractors at the expense of families of prisoners. Some of these family members are now vowing to join Operation Push supporters on March 8, at noon in front of the FDC headquarters in Tallahassee.

On January 15, Operation PUSH captured the world’s attention by declaring their intention to “lay down” for at least a month, and they. Perhaps some have decided it’s time to start standing back up. What follows is a reflection on the past month, a look at what we’ve learned and what’s to come.

#### How PUSH comes to shove

About three months ago, around mid-October, a small group of rebels emerged anonymously from the stagnant swamp gulags of Florida. After decades of tension building alongside soaring incarceration rates and plummeting standards in prison

conditions, a visionary plan aimed at fundamentally changing the penal system began taking root across the state.

In choosing the primary tactics of withholding labor and boycotting commissary, they advocated actions that arguably fall within constitutional rights of political and religious expression, even for prisoners. In addition, these prisoners asked for help to amplify their message as far as possible. The main goal, in one prisoner’s words, being “to shine a light from the outside in on the system.”

Despite the establishment’s attempt to make prisoners invisible, this movement, calling itself Operation PUSH, reached a global audience. While maintaining anonymity, PUSH’s statement captured interest from at least 50 news outlets ranging from international heavy hitters like the Guardian, Washington Post and Newsweek to local radio shows and bloggers. Within a week of announcing their plan, over a hundred organizations had signed on in solidarity.

Around the same time, a public records request by Florida Institutional Legal Services revealed that FDC had already been conducting surveillance on many of these organizations over the past year. Through correspondence from prisoners, we also learned that FDC is attempting to designate groups like Fight Toxic Prisons essentially as gangs (or “Security Threat Groups”) in order to further restrict our communications.

Alongside this interest and solidarity, we are seeing the growth of a national level of pressure on the prison system unparalleled since the tumultuous era of prisoner organizing in the ‘70s, characterized by the Attica uprising —which occurred at a time when prison populations were less than one quarter of the current size.

#### Keep PUSHing

Conditions in Florida prisons have gotten so bad and so well-documented that there is nowhere left for the system to turn.

According to a spokesperson for the Florida DOC, Ashley Cook, the solidarity activists’ statements were “absolutely not true” and “no Florida inmates participated in work stoppages, all daily operations are continuing as normal, including inmate phone privileges.” They are digging their own grave, and every lie like this they tell digs it deeper. The DOC says there was no such thing as Operation PUSH, no prisoner strike and no retaliation against organizers.

We know this to be a lie. Not every prisoner went on strike of course, and not every camp had activity. But we have documented over a dozen facilities that showed signs of pressure: shakedowns, limiting communication (including state phones getting turned off), significantly increased staffing, relocation of suspected organizers, and the use of disciplinary confinement in the weeks surrounding Jan 15.

All of this costs the prison system time, money and social capital.

Operation PUSH is far from over. It will only continue to grow and evolve, culminating in a Juneteenth celebration that will mark, loud and clear, the coming end of prison slavery.

For a full version of this article visit [FightToxicPrisons.org](http://FightToxicPrisons.org) ☘

**“Injustice anywhere  
is a threat to justice everywhere.”**

*- Martin Luther King, Jr.*

## Urban Revitalization Project

Currently seeking local artists to paint a permanent piece of their own on the inside of the SW downtown parking garage.

For more information call 786-478-5486  
Email: [UrbanRevitalizationProject@gmail.com](mailto:UrbanRevitalizationProject@gmail.com)

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**Suggested Donation**  
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WGOT-LP Gainesville celebrates 10 years on air

By Michele LeSure  
WGOT Underwriting Coordinator

WGOT-LP, the Civic Media Center’s low power radio station, has reached another milestone, and adding talk programming such as The Thom Hartmann Program and local and live music programs such as Gainesville Grooves and Jimmy Rocks are just the beginning.

National award-winning shows such as Democracy Now!, Alternative Radio, and Afropop Worldwide are longtime components of our weekly schedule. Our music is diverse, featuring indie rock, jazz, and more. Consider us the college radio station UF doesn’t have.

Our 10th Birthday Bash at The Atlantic in January was a huge success, and we have many people to thank, from the local business owners who donated generously to our raffle, to the bands Radon, Whiskey & Co., Piss Test, and Demo, who performed to a dedicated and enthusiastic

crowd. Perhaps most importantly, thanks to all of the WGOT-LP volunteers who work hard to organize these live shows as well as to program our 24/7 broadcast schedule, troubleshoot system problems, record weekly shows via podcast, and a variety of office and administrative work.

Board positions are open in the areas of sponsorship, IT, and public service. Others may choose to support WGOT-LP by buying t-shirts, contributing to our GoFundMe campaign (<https://www.gofundme.com/wgotto1001>) for new studio construction, or turning out for our events such as the aforementioned 10-year birthday show.

We invite everyone to volunteer for WGOT-LP. Now that we are in the same building as our partner, The Civic Media Center and Stetson Kennedy Library, it will be easier for volunteers to have a home base. You can bring so many different things when it comes to volunteering with us. Being a DJ or show host is obvious,

but we also need copywriters and editors, volunteers to help us find show sponsors in the Gainesville community, programmers for our daily broadcasts, and folks to table at the various local events we attend each year. We have been at many events such as the Mini-Maker Faire, Veggie Fest, and Active Streets. We have met many great people who will no doubt be tuning into, if not volunteering for, WGOT-LP.

Do you have an idea for a radio show or want to help in other ways? We want to hear about it. You can call WGOT-LP at (352) 519-4680, email us at [info@wgot.org](mailto:info@wgot.org), or send a letter to:

100.1 FM WGOT-LP Gainesville  
P.O. Box 14012  
Gainesville, FL 32604

Ready to volunteer? Come to our next volunteer meeting on Sunday, March 18 at 3pm at Third House Books and Coffee (113 N Main St. in Gainesville). Hope to see you there! 🐊

THOM HARTMANN

6–8 AM

DEMOCRACY NOW !

AMY GOODMAN

8 AM, 1 PM, 4 PM

MÚSICA EN ESPAÑOL

VICTOR PEREZ

11 AM–1 PM

JAZZVILLE

ROBBIE STEVENS

6–8 PM FRIDAY

8–10 AM SATURDAY

8–NOON SUNDAY

8–NOON SUNDAY



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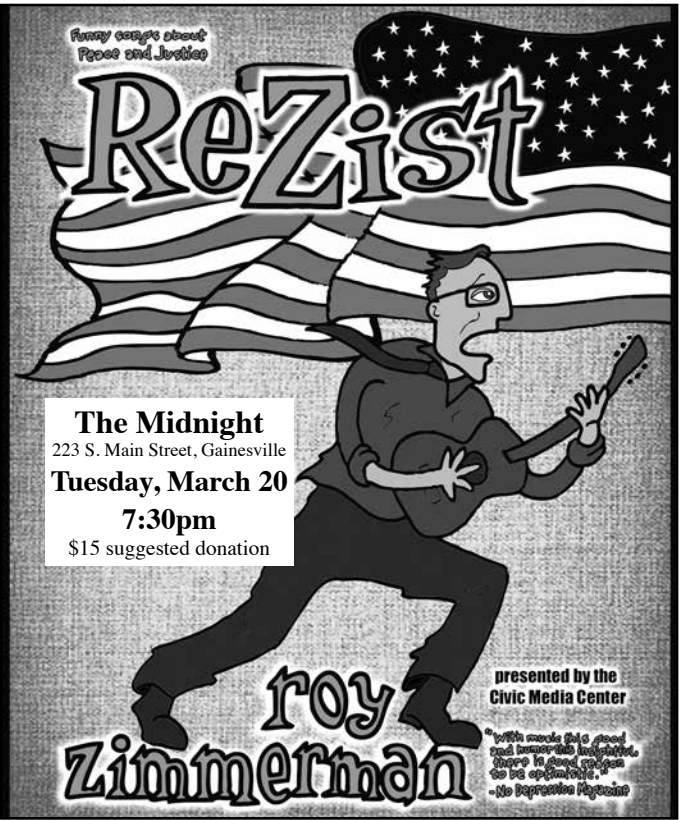
JOE AND CRAIG

GEORGE COLLINET

STAN

GARGS ALLARD

And others



Roy Zimmerman: *ReZist*  
Tuesday, March 20, 7:30pm  
The Midnight, 223 South Main St.

*ReZist* is ninety minutes of Roy Zimmerman’s original songs – a funny and forceful affirmation of Peace and Social Justice.

Roy’s songs have been heard on HBO and Showtime, and his videos have garnered tens of millions of views. He has recorded for Warner/Reprise Records. He’s shared stages with Bill Maher, Ellen DeGeneres, Holly Near, Robin Williams, Arlo Guthrie, John Oliver, Kate Clinton and George Carlin, and tours the country constantly with his wife and co-writer Melanie Harby.

See Roy and hear his funny songs on peace and justice on Tuesday, March 20 at 7:30pm at The Midnight, 223 South Main St. in Gainesville. Suggested donation is \$15. *ReZist* is presented by the Civic Media Center. Advance tickets are available through Eventbrite. 🐊




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[coordinators@civicmediacenter.org](mailto: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, 5:30-6:30pm, Zine Committee Meeting, 6:30pm, Poetry Jam, 8pm

Thu, Mar 8

Travelling to Solidarity Protest with Prisoners on Strike at FDOC in Tallahassee

Fri, Mar 9

"The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter," film in celebration of International Women's Day, 7:30pm

Sat, Mar 10

Community Meditation, 9-10am  
Poetry Brunch Potluck, 11am-2pm  
Divest Gainesville Meeting, 3-5pm  
Peace Farms Initiative discussion with Larry Smith, 7-10pm

Mon, Mar 12

Movie: Gentleman Bank Robber - true story of lesbian-anarcho-feminist bank robber, 7pm

Tue, Mar 13

IWOC Meeting, 6-8pm  
Hellraiser Anne Feeney Takes CMC Stage! *Don't miss this!* 8pm

Wed, Mar 14

Marcy LaHart speaks on how to efficiently obtain public records in honor of Sunshine Week, time TBA

Fri, Mar 16

Open Jam, 8pm-2am

Sat, Mar 17

Community Meditation, 9am-10am  
Indivisible Gainesville Book Club, 2-4pm  
Food Not Bombs Jam Out Fundraiser, 8-11:30pm

Sun, Mar 18

Shout your Abortion! - two women on Bible Belt Abortion Storytelling Tour!, 7pm

Mon, Mar 19

Movie: Human Flow - Ai Wei Wei film on the world refugee crisis, 7pm

Tue, Mar 20

Women in 1930s Films: The Women, time TBA

Wed, Mar 21

Now, You Talk: Communication Skills Workshop, 6-8pm

Fri, Mar 23

Live Music Benefit for CMC, bands TBA, 8-10pm

Sat, Mar 24

Community Meditation, 9-10am  
Peace Farms Initiative - discussion with Larry Smith, 7-10pm

Mon, Mar 26

Black Hats presents: Race - The Power of an Illusion for extra credit for Alachua County Schools, 4-6pm  
IWOC meeting, 6pm

Wed, Mar 28

Black Hats presents: Race - The Power of an Illusion for extra credit for Alachua County Schools, 4-6pm

Fri, Mar 30

Black Hats presents: Race - The Power of an Illusion for extra credit for Alachua County Schools, 4-6pm  
Survivors of Violence Art Exhibit for ArtWalk, 7pm

Sat, Mar 31

Community Meditation, 9-10am  
Gators Against Human Trafficking Intl. Food Festival, 1-3pm  
People's Empowerment Series: Anti-Fascism Movement, 5-7pm

Sun, Apr 1

IWW Meeting, 6pm

Mon, Apr 2

Movie: Planned Parenthood presents "The Hunting Ground," 7pm

Tue, Apr 3

Women in 1930s Films: Dames, Time TBA

Wed, Apr 4

Now, You Talk: Communication Skills Workshop

Fri, Apr 6

Open Jam & Art Show, 8pm-2am

Sat, Apr 7

IWW Organizer Training 101, 10am-5pm

Sun, Apr 8

IWW Organizer Training 101, 10am-5pm

Mon, Apr 9

Movie, 7pm

Tue, Apr 10

IWOC Meeting, 6pm  
Tina & Her Pony - Queer Lady Night, 8:30pm

Wed, Apr 11

Ronnie's Lovler Book Launch event at CMC, 7pm

Fri, Apr 13

Spring Board! See pg 24. To be held at Working Food, 219 NW 10th Ave, 6:30pm

Sat, Apr 14

WGOT Jam Sesh benefit for the CMC radio station, 5-8pm

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





Marzo

# The Gainesville Iguana

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

March

## Sunday Domingo



**Radio Notes:** Find schedules for WUFT and WGOT, our local non-corporate stations, at [www.wuft.org](http://www.wuft.org) and [wgot.org](http://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 10.

Jacksonville's public station WJCT at 89.9 has varied news programming as well during the day - check their schedule. In addition, there's music ranging from acoustic to electronic, jazz and blues, in an eclectic and pleasant mix in the evenings and night.

LISTEN TO AND SUPPORT COMMUNITY RADIO!

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

**11** "Azaleas & More" plant walk, Santa Fe River Preserve (27025 N. State Rd 121), 10 am.

"An Afternoon of Poetry", Thomas Center (302 NE 6th Ave), 3-4:30 pm.

**2011: Fukushima meltdowns start.** DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

**18** "Tomato Bootcamp" growing workshop, Working Food Community Ctr (219 NW 10th Ave), 10 am-1 pm; see pg 7.

**Sunday Assembly** - "Impacts of Food Choices" with Lynne Westmoreland; SFC Downtown (530 W. Univ. Ave), 11 am, 3rd Sundays - see [sagainesville.weebly.com](http://sagainesville.weebly.com).

**WGOT** volunteer meeting, 3rd House Books (113 N. Main St), 3 pm; see pg 10.

"Shout Your Abortion" Bible Belt Storytelling Tour at CMC, 7 pm.

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

**25** Tree Bark Identification walk, SF River Preserve (27025 N. State Rd 121), 10 am.

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

**1934: Gloria Steinem** born.

**Apr 1** Birds & Brews guided bird walk every 1st Sunday, 1st Magnitude, 4:45 pm. IWW meets, CMC, 6 pm.



**1970: Richard Nixon** signs law banning cigarette advertising on radio & television.

EASTER

## Monday Lunes

**12** PolitiFact Director speaks, Fla Free Speech Forum, Wyndham Grdens Conf Ctr (2900 SW 13th St), 11 am, free (lunch extra).

**Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice** meets 2nd Mons, Em. Mennonite Church (1236 NE 18th Ave), 6 pm.

**Women's March** meets, 2nd Mondays, United Church (1624 NW 5th Ave), 6:30 pm.

**Science Café:** Birds of pre-human Americas, Blue Gill Foods, 6:45 pm; pre-register at [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com).

**The Gentleman Bank Robber**, Civic Media Center (433 S. Main St), 7 pm.

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

**19** Human Flow (Ai Wei Wei film on international refugee crisis), CMC, 7 pm.

**Grow Gvl 3rd Monday Meetup**, Working Food Community Ctr (219 NW 10th Ave), 7 pm, free.

**26** Race: The Power of An Illusion, presented by Black Hats; CMC, 4-6 pm (also 3/28 & 3/30); documentary film at 7 pm tba.

"The Green Amendment" healthy environment rights talk, Working Food Community Ctr (219 NW 10th Ave), 5:30 pm, free; see pg 15.

**ACYD Candidates Forum**, CIED (530 W. Univ Ave), 5:30-8 pm.

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

**Palestine non-violence** activist speaks, Em. Mennonite Church, 7 pm.

**2** Hate & Understanding panel, UF Pugh Hall Ocora, 6 pm.

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

**Hunting Ground** hosted by Planned Parenthood, CMC, 7 pm.

## Tuesday Martes

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

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

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

**1st woman NFL coach** speaks, rm 105 UF Fla Gym (1864 Stadium Rd), 9:30 am.

**UF Women's Lacrosse** vs Navy, Dizney Stadium, 1 pm.

**Paris Blues**, Harn Mus, 6 pm.

**Just Health Care** meets, ACLC (901 NW 8th Ave), 6 pm.

**IWOC** meets, CMC, 6 pm (also 3/26 & 4/10).

**Anne Feeney** returns to CMC, 8 pm - see pg 9.

**20** VOTE! (if you live in city of Gvl - see pg 1)

**Radical Rush**, UF Plaza of Americas, 11 am-2 pm.

**School Board** - see 3/6.

**The Women** - Women in 1930s film at CMC, 7 pm.

**PFLAG** meets, 3rd Tuesdays, United Church (1624 NW 5th Ave), 7 pm.

"Love Heals All Wounds" dance, Phillips Ctr (3201 Hull Rd), 7:30 pm, \$10-35.

**Rezist: Roy Zimmerman** performs, The Midnight, 7:30 pm; advance tickets at [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com) \$15 (no one turned away) - see pg 11.

SPRING EQUINOX

**27** County Commission - see 3/13.

**Catholics & Jews** talk, UF Pugh Hall Ocora, 6 pm.

**ACLC** meets, Emmanuel Mennonite Meeting House, (1236 NW 18th Ave), 6:30 pm.

**3** School Board cancelled. The Conch storytelling - "Leap of Faith" - at Lightnin Salvage, 7 pm.

**Dames**, women in 1930s film, CMC, 7 pm.

**1865: US retakes Richmond, VA.**

## Wednesday Miercoles

**7** 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.

"Now, You Talk" workshop on communication, CMC, 6 pm; see [civicmediacenter.org](http://civicmediacenter.org).

**14** School Walkout: students to leave classes at 10 am for 17 minutes in protest of gun violence and political inaction.

**Esther Heboyan** poetry & short stories, downtown library (401 E. Univ Ave), 5 pm, free.

**Science Journalism** talk at UF Pugh Hall Ocora, 6 pm.

**Sunshine Law** workshop, CMC, time tba; see [civicmediacenter.org](http://civicmediacenter.org).

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

II DAY

**21** "Now, You Talk" workshop on communication skills, CMC, 6 pm.

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

**UF Women's Lacrosse** vs Towson, Dizney Stadium, 6:30 pm.

**Play Your Own Thing** film & talk on jazz in Europe, Harn Museum (3259 Hull Rd), 6 pm.

**IGUANA** Deadline for April issue is Mar 30th; write [gainesvilleiguana@cox.net](mailto:gainesvilleiguana@cox.net) or call 352-378-5655 with events, updates, advertisements & info.

**28** Russian rock doc - film & discussion on Russian rock star Sergey Shnurov, Harn Museum (3259 Hull Rd), 3 pm.

**Race: The Power of An Illusion**, part 2, CMC, 4-6 pm.

**Living Sustainably** author, rm 100, UF Smathers Library, 6 pm.

**Dismantling Racism** - see 3/14.

**4** Take Back the Night: speakers, music, march - UF Plaza of the Americas, 5-9 pm.

"Now, You Talk" workshop on communication, CMC, 6 pm.

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

## Thursday Jueves

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

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

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

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

**Zines** meeting every Thurs, CMC, 6:30 pm.

**Open Poetry** every Thursday at CMC, 9 pm: Gvl's longest-running poetry jam, open to all; informal & welcoming to both readers & listeners.

INTERNAT'L WOMEN'S DAY

**15** Support OPS workers at UF Faculty Senate meeting, UF Reitz Union, 3 pm.

**Jazz & Early Cold War** talk, UF Univ Aud, 5 pm.

**Living Wage** meeting, ACLC (901 NW 10th Ave), 5:30 pm.

**All's Fair** world premiere at Acrosstown Rep (619 S. Main St), thru 3/25, 8 pm, \$15; see pg 15.

**22** Joshua Bell & Academy of St Martin in the Fields, Phillips Ctr, 7:30 pm, \$20-75.

**Luna Gale** opens at UF Black Box Theatre, through 3/31, 7:30 pm.

There will doubtless be events scheduled that aren't on this calendar at press time: check various websites and listings, and support events in our wonderfully active community.

**1621: Plymouth Colony Pilgrims** sign treaty with Wampanoags.

**1638: Pilgrims** expel Anne Hutchinson for religious dissent.

WORLD WATER DAY

**29** 1998 No. Ireland Peace Plan talk, UF Pugh Hall Ocora, 6 pm.

**LPT** at Heartwood Soundstage (619 S. Main St), 8 pm.

Whether here or anywhere: please support live music!

**1929: 1st telephone** installed in Oval Office.

**1973: Last US combat troops** leave Vietnam.

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

"Predicting Pres. Trump" - race & politics talk, UF Pugh Hall Ocora, 6 pm.

**Fla Native Plant Soc.** meets, 1st Magnitude Brewing, 6 pm.

**CMC Volunteers & Poets.**

## Friday Viernes

**9** Poetry Brunch Potluck, CMC, 11 am-2 pm.

**Ripcord** at Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl) through 3/25, 8 pm; see [thehipp.org](http://thehipp.org).

**The Life & Times of Rosie the Riveter**, documentary, CMC, 7:30 pm.

**1991: LA cops beat Rodney King.** **2010: Rush Limbaugh** vows to leave US by 2015 if Obamacare takes effect.

**16** Women's History Month Self-Care Fair, UF Plaza of the Americas, 11 am-2 pm.

"Socialist Response to Gun Control" discussion, CMC, 6 pm.

**Mud** opens at Actors' Warehouse (619 NE 1st St), thru 3/31, 8 pm, \$20; pg 17.

**Art & Music Jam**, 1st & 3rd Fridays, CMC, 8 pm-2 am.

**1968: US troops** massacre hundreds of Vietnamese at My Lai.

**23** Victim Advocate Happy Hour - Public & General (1000 NE 16th Ave), 5:30 pm.

"Elements of Style" dance theatre at SF College Fine Arts Hall, noon & 7:30 pm (also 3/24, 7:30 pm); \$9-15.

**Steep Canyon Rangers** bluegrass sextet, UF Univ Aud, 7:30 pm, \$10-35.

**Bob McPeck**, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S. Main St), 8 pm; see pg 14.

**Connect the Dots:** live music - Boston Marriage, Mermers, others - CMC, 9 pm.

**Pearl and the Oysters**, The Atlantic.

**30** "Bartram's Blonde Beer Launch" fundraiser for butterfly conservation, 1st Magnitude Brewing (1220 SE Veitch St), 4-8 pm, \$10+.

**Women's History Month** wrap-up at WARPhaus Gallery (534 SW 5th Ave), 6:30-8:30 pm.

**Downtown Artwalk**, 7-10 pm; see pg 20 & [artwalk.gainesville.com](http://artwalk.gainesville.com).

**Race: The Power of An Illusion**, part 3, CMC, 4-6 pm.

**Wild Blue Yonder**, Heartwood, 8 pm.

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

**6** Spring Plant Sale opens, Fla Mus of Natural Hist. (3215 Hull Rd), 10 am-5 pm (also Sat; 1-5 pm Sun).

**Give Springs A Break** opens, Ginnie Springs, FL, \$50 - see [www.floridaspringsinstitute.org](http://www.floridaspringsinstitute.org).

**Art & Music Jam**, 1st & 3rd Fridays, CMC, 8 pm-2 am.

**Phoebe Hunter & the Gatherers**, Heartwood Soundstage, 8 pm.

**Local Playwrights Forum**, 1st Magnitude Brewing, 8-10 pm.

## Saturday Sabado



**10** Early Voting 10th-17th - see pg 15.

**SSJ Sierra Club Garage Sale**, 4118 NW 69th St, 8 am-1 pm.

**Community Meditation**, CMC, every Saturday, 9 am.

**Alachua Conservation Trust** "Pancakes on the Prairie", 211 SE Tuscaquilla Rd, 9-11:30 am, free.

**Interfaith Dialog**, Em. Mennonite Church, 2nd & 4th Sats, 10 am.

**Heart Pine Waldorf School Open House**, Bldg C, 1000 NE 16th Ave, 10 am-noon: see [heartpineschool.org](http://heartpineschool.org).

"Earth Man" on Peace Farm Initiatives, CMC, 6-10 pm (also 3/24).

**Moana**, Depot Park, 6 pm, free.

**SoMa** 2nd Grand Opening, 619 S. Main St, 6-9 pm.

**17** Energy Conservation Community Forum, Thelma Boltin Ctr (516 NE 2nd Ave) - includes lunch, free high-efficiency light bulbs, 11 am-2 pm.

"Florida's Magical Waters" talk by author Rick Kilby, Matheson Museum (513 E. Univ Ave), 4 pm, free.

**Conservation Steward Awards**, Prairie Creek Lodge (7204 SE County Rd 234), 5:30 pm; \$75/person pre 3/12, \$95 after; kids <12 free; pg 16.

**Tacky Tourist Party Amazing Give** kickoff: costume party fundraiser for local nonprofits, Matheson Museum, 6 pm; \$25 includes food, drink.

**Food Not Bombs** Jam Out fundraiser, CMC, 8-11 pm. ST PATRICK'S DAY

**24** Interfaith Dialog - see 3/10. **Kanapaha Spring Garden Festival**, 4700 SW 58th Dr, 9 am-4 pm, Sat & Sun, \$8 adults/\$5 kids.

**March for Our Lives** - support national march at Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E. Univ Ave), 11 am-4 pm.

**TEDxUF** - 9 speakers, Hipp, noon.

**March Against Palm Oil Benefit Party**, 1st Magnitude, 4-9 pm.

**31** International Food Festival hosted by Gators Against Human Trafficking, CMC, 1-3 pm.

**Anti-fascism teach-in**, CMC, 5-7 pm. BLUE MOON

**7** Santa Fe River Paddle, 8 am: see [alachuaconservationtrust.org](http://alachuaconservationtrust.org).

**Great Am. CleanUp:** Massey Park (1001 NW 34th St), 8 am: see [kabc.org](http://kabc.org).

**IndiaFest**, SF College NW, 9 am-6 pm.

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





**TABLE TOP**

*A destination game store and parlor.*

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The registration deadline for the April 8-10 conference at Emerson Alumni Hall at UF is March 24. Cost is \$10 for UF students, \$25 for UF staff and faculty, and \$100 for others. A \$50 late registration fee will be added after March 24.

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## Phosphate mining update: 'opportunistic, irreversible decision'

By Kate Ellison

People are worried about a proposed Phosphate Mine spanning the New River in Bradford and Union Counties. Residents of Alachua County are affected, because this mine is just north of where the New River meets the Santa Fe flowing along Alachua County's border with these two rural counties. Additionally, water underground knows no borders.

This is an opportunistic, irreversible decision by landowners with long range implications for our shared environment. People in outlying counties are waking up and need our support.

### Bradford: I think we know where this is going

The Bradford County Commission decided last year to hire Onsite Environmental Consultants (OEC) for \$53,265.00. The consultants will generate a report evaluating whether the HPS II permit application for a phosphate mine will comply with regulations. Commissioners had the idea to ask both HPS II and opposition groups to cover the cost of hiring this firm. This was never something the opposition considered doing. This is the resolution they voted on, as written in their October 19 minutes:

*Commissioner Durrance moved to accept the proposal submitted by Onsite Environmental Consulting, LLC. He would prefer the costs be split equally. However, it would not be judicious of the Board to turn down the money should the applicant decide to pay all the costs. Commissioner Dougherty seconded the motion. The MOTION CARRIED 4-1, with Commissioner Chandler dissenting.*

Frank Durrance is the commissioner from the proposed mining area (Brooker). The "opposition" is a loose association of grassroots groups under the name Citizens Against Phosphate Mining in North Central Florida (CAPM). This includes Our Santa Fe River, Santa Fe Lake Dwellers, the Suwannee Riverkeeper, plus many other individuals. Those who live near the proposed mining area, just north of Brooker and Worthington Springs on both sides of the New River, can see that they will be harmed by this mine. Residents of our whole area can see that a new mine will probably harm the New River and adjacent wetlands, the Santa Fe and Suwannee Rivers, the Floridan Aquifer, and air quality. Few new jobs will be created, since the HPS landowners (Hazen,

Pritchett, Shadd, and Howard) already have hundreds of employees.

The opposition will not share the cost of hiring OEC, but HPS II is happy to pay. Jim Gross, director of Florida Defenders of the Environment, said, "This sounds quite a bit like the Fox guarding the hen house. Just how likely is it that the consultant will find anything but compliance?"

County attorney Will Sexton sees no conflict with HPS II paying the full \$53,000+ because accepting money from interested parties is commonly done when folks want to close a county road, for example, and the county is incurring extra expenses. He did grant these contributions were usually "for non-controversial issues". The HPS II "interested parties" are seeking a particular outcome from the county, permission to strip-mine at the edge of a river, in wetland areas prone to flooding. The consultants have not started their study.

The consultant issue appears to be a setup to justify County approval. Everyone is encouraged to attend Commission meetings (first Monday of each month, 9:30 AM, and third Thursday, 6:30 PM) and speak up, especially Bradford County citizens. Residents can call or write their commissioners. Their contact info is published on <http://www.bradfordcountyfl.gov/commissioners>.

### Union County: A very different picture

In Union County, the commissioners are listening to their constituents. The County Commission has adopted another year extension of their mining moratorium, in

order to complete the process of updating the county Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations.

About a dozen people spoke in support of the moratorium and a strong Comp Plan at the Dec. 18 Commission meeting, its third reading. There were no public comments against the moratorium extension, only objections from the lawyer hired by HPS II. This law firm has filed two lawsuits alleging the moratorium is an unlawful delay. At their February 19 meeting, Union County commissioners approved 5-0 for County Attorney Russ Wade to fight the most recent HPS lawsuit to prove the moratorium is legal. Alachua County is supporting Union County's efforts to defend themselves.

The final Mining Comprehensive Plan Amendment Adoption Public Hearing is scheduled for April 16 at 5pm. We need to pack the hearing room that night to show Commissioners we support the ratification of this new Comp Plan. Meetings are held at the Courthouse in Lake Butler, side entrance.

Union County Commissioners have scheduled the revisions and hearings throughout 2018, ending with adopting the new Mining Land Development Regulations Amendments on December 17. Each meeting is important to attend. Meetings will be posted on the CAPM Facebook page.

Citizens opposing the mine meet monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at 6pm, 165 SW 4th Ave. in Lake Butler. Keep up with news on Facebook by searching @nomining4phosphateBU, or visiting [oursantaferiver.org/](http://oursantaferiver.org/).



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**MUD**  
by Maria Irene Fornes  
March 16 - 31, 2018

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# History and the people who make it: Clarence Sears

Clarence Sears [S], FBI KKK infiltrator, was interviewed by Ryan Morini [M] in August, 2015.

This is the 46th in a series of transcript excerpts from the UF Samuel Proctor Oral History Program collection.

Transcript edited by Pierce Butler

Content note: This interview includes offensive racial slurs, repeated intact here for historical accuracy.

**S:** I’m 87 years old. Lived in Jacksonville all my life. Was in the Air Force at the end of World War II. Went to Jacksonville University and the University of Florida. I had a career with the railroad. I was a train director, something like a dispatcher. Worked at night, talking to crews on the trains. I spent 45 years doing that.

**M:** Where did you grow up in Jacksonville?

**S:** On the north side, in a working class community. I was a Baptist. I’m a Unitarian now.

**M:** Your father was from Boston?

**S:** He was a Catholic from Boston. He died when I was nine. I was really raised by my Baptist mother.

I was a teenager hitchhiking around, and I ended up in Atlanta, Georgia Tech, a place called The Varsity, a drive-in restaurant. I worked in The Varsity. There was a hotbed of neo-Nazis, I mean really serious, wearing brown shirts, and something like a swastika, a bolt with lightning. We had these red arm bands with that bolt of lightning, and we’re marching around Atlanta making sure Black people get off the sidewalks so White people wouldn’t be bothered. Pretty ugly, and, now and then, there’d be a confrontation, and police would be out there.

Our leader was a guy from Brooklyn, Homer Lummis, who aspired to be the American Fuhrer, and the guy that I met was from Savannah. He was into Nietzsche. We roomed together. He started taking me to meetings. On Saturdays, we’d go out.

Servicemen were just coming back after World War II, and we were preaching the problems coming with Black people. The local newspapers of course weren’t too friendly to the Columbians. That was a little heavy even for Georgia. Eddie Iverson was his name. We would go in this inner circle of the Colombians, a

notorious Neo-Nazi outfit. Eddie came home one night and said “We got to get the hell out of Atlanta.” Homer and those idiots were getting ready to [blow] up Ralph McGill’s home. Ralph McGill was editor of the Atlanta Constitution and Atlanta Journal. Eddie was a devout Nazi, but he wasn’t that devout. He said, “We don’t want to get arrested.”

So we went hitchhiking, and we ended up in my father’s hometown, in Massachusetts. The House Un-American



Activities Committee called them in to testify, and exposed them. A whole bunch of them got arrested for conspiracy to blow up people’s homes.

One of them eventually ran for governor of Georgia. This guy, J.B. Stoner, he was a licensed attorney in Georgia, and head of the Klan group. He was defending the bus bombers in Aniston, Alabama. He was a real nutty guy. He had his paper suitcase he bought at the dime store, tied with a rope. It’s full of leaflets; he was passing out leaflets everywhere. He was constantly recruiting people for the cause – White people of course.

J.B. bombed a couple of places in Jacksonville, but he wasn’t very good as a bomber. He had gasoline with a wick, the wick would go out, and it wouldn’t blow up. If it blew up it just made a big boom, and didn’t really do any harm.

He was self-educated. Somehow he passed the board in Georgia. JB was hired by that guy who killed Martin Luther King. They called me one day many years after this was all over. A judge in Alabama went to the door, and a messenger handed them an envelope exploding, and injured the judge. The FBI

called me, said “You know what’s going on out there. What about JB Stoner?” I told them about the bombs that he made in Jacksonville, and it sounded a little too sophisticated, that envelope bomb, for JB. But he had the heart to do it.

**M:** You were with Eddy Iverson, after you’d come out of the service, correct?

**S:** I was AWOL. It was while I was in the service. [Laughter]. It was January of [19]47, so I would have been 19. That whole episode in Atlanta was probably two, three months.

**M:** How did you get involved with the FBI?

**S:** Jack Price and I were going to JU Junior College. Jack was working for the Jewish community. They’re getting real upset, because these White Citizens Councils were springing up all over the south. He said, “They want somebody that will make sure what’s going on. Don’t think it’s anti-Semitic but it could be. You interested?” I says, “Yeah, I guess.”

So he connected me with B’nai Brith, and the anti-defamation league, the ADL. They liked [that] I would fit in real good, I knew the language. I knew how to pronounce “grits” [Laughter]. So, I got involved. There was a FBI agent who was Jewish – Bennett Hirsh. He grew up in Springfield, in Jacksonville. I didn’t like the idea of spying, and Bennett, didn’t like it either. He was in favor leaving these people alone if they’re not doing something.

But he said “We want somebody in there where they’re violating the law.” We’re not there to do anything except find violations of law, and not interfere with their right to get up and say they hate niggers, or whatever they want to say.

**M:** What time is this?

**S:** 1960. Eisenhower was president. In those days, You didn’t work for the FBI; you worked for J. Edgar Hoover.

Thursday night we’d meet in this little house, out in Arlington. The Grand Dragon, president of the state, Jason Kersey, came up from Samsula, that’s a little town near Daytona; he’s a cattle rancher in a big white Cadillac with confederate flags and a white ten-gallon hat.

“We have got to put a stop to them damn niggers. They’re lining up every Saturday morning.” He thought they were coming

from Florida A&M. This guy run a Black funeral home, Hearst, and his son Rodney Hearst, in junior high in Jacksonville, leading the NAACP youth council. Rodney Hearst and his kids, mostly girls of junior high school, they lined up protesting, joined with a guy that went to Florida State, a redheaded White guy.

Of course right away the police laid hands on this White guy, and threw him in jail, and he got roughed up pretty bad. He was from Miami. I forgot his name.

Anyway, they made plans for Jacksonville’s moment of history.

“On Saturday we’re going to let the Johnny Rebs,” – the junior Klan, teenaged boys. – “start a fight with these demonstrators, and then the adult Klansmen will come in with fists and clubs, and beat the hell out of them.”

I put in my report all this, things like Mrs. Johnston, who was a teacher at Annie Belin school on the west side, she was going to fall down in front of these demonstrators and pretend that she had been struck by one of them, to give the Johnny Rebs the right to move in and beat the hell out of all these demonstrators.

That didn’t happen, but that’s what the plan was. Mrs. Johnston whose husband was a chiropractor, nice guy by the way. Some of these people in the Klan were decent neighborhood people. Some were really awful. They were ready to go kill a bunch of niggers if they could. That’s the way they talked. But officers in the Klan were generally people who went to neighborhood church, and they weren’t all nuts [Laughter].

I called my contact. They gave me instructions. “You’re going to have some emergency in your family to get you out of town.” Saturday morning the FBI was on the phone, “You got to get downtown right away so we can identify these people.”

My wife was the only one who knew what I was doing. A good old Baptist, but she understood, and scared to death. So I went downtown. Here comes Mercer Johns, he’s like vice president of our club.

“Hey brother Sears!” He had a big four-door sedan, and I got in the front. The back was loaded with baseball bats, and anything he could get. He’d been down to Sears, and bought out the store. The riot was already going on in Hemming Park, and he passed these out to White people to hit people with, bats, and ax handles, and so on. He had ammunition, everything, in the back seat.

The police finally arrived. I had sent my re-

port to the FBI and the FBI took a copy, and put it on the sheriff’s desk. The Sheriff was Dale Carson, who was a former FBI agent. They were sure this guy was straight with the law, but he was on vacation or something, and he left that on his desk.

Somebody passed the report to the Klan. The local police didn’t do anything. The fire department got out there with hoses, and laid down the riot. That’s where I arrived. Mercer Johns said “Brother Sears, we got to get down to the jail, bail these people out. We’ll go get some money.”

Mrs. Duckworth, a local rich woman, lived in a house boat at the end of Pearl Street. Mercer goes on the houseboat, an hour or so, and finally comes back with a lot of money. I’m worried now. My wife didn’t know what happened to me. The FBI is going nuts because I was supposed to go to a phone booth, I have a pocket full of nickels, but I hadn’t had a chance.

It was starting to get dark when we got back to the police station. Finally, Mercer got busy with somebody else, and I disappeared. I call the FBI, and the guy, about to blow up, “What the hells? Why didn’t you call us before now? The main thing,” he says, “You call your wife. Ellen’s about to go nuts. You call and tell her you’re okay. We’ll talk later.” So, I got home to my poor little wife [Laughter].

The EC – Exalted Cyclops, president of the club – said, “We’re going to meet tomorrow night in Brother Fowler’s house,” he’s the Chaplain, an old Baptist preacher, but he didn’t have a church. I went in, and the windows were all draped with blankets and sheets. It was spooky, and it’s in the middle of the summer, no air conditioning, full of people. They show up when there’s some violence going on, because they like it. they had

[a] long line of tables and chairs. the EC sits on that end, and Kleckster, which is me, the security guy, sits at the other end, and the Klud is over here, and people all stand around.

Jaime Walker was our EC. Jaime said, “We have a big problem. Somebody has written a report, I’ve got it right here.” It wasn’t that good of a report by the way [Laughter]. “Had the names of everybody that was in that building, including Brother Kersey from Samsula, and his tag numbers. All people, including Clarence Sears, too.” He held it up, and of course there was my report. I’m waiting. “Oh God, this is it.”


He says, “You remember we were in the Woodland Acres club house there was a wire going out, and there was a crappy little house trailer parked out there?”

That was when Haydon Burns was mayor of the city – later ran for governor. “Haydon Burns’ agents were in the trailer writing down everything said in that meeting.” [Laughter]. Not one mention of FBI. They called the local police communists, and they were the enemies. It wasn’t so but – they’re stupid. So I kind of relaxed.

[To be continued in the April Iguana.]

Search for “Clarence Sears” at <http://oral.history.ufl.edu> for the recording of this interview.

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# Explaining city candidates’ ‘criminal’ histories not job of corporate media

by James Thompson

So many in our community cringed at the reporting of criminal histories and arrests of Gainesville City Commission candidates by the *Gainesville Sun*. But we cannot expect corporate media to do the job of progressive advocacy journalism. That is what publications like this one, and voices like ours, are for.

Andrew Caplan is a capable and hardworking political beat

reporter, and the Sun Editor-in-Chief Doug Ray is socially engaged and accessible. But I’m not surprised at the racial and gender tone deaf reporting, imaging, and editing that went into the piece (“City Candidates’ Records Spotty,” *Gainesville Sun*, Feb. 10, 2018).

The Sun has historically reported on candidate records, so the article was not an explicit attack on a field of three black women and one black man. The piece does, however constitute a good example of where even competent corporate media fails, and left-progressive advocacy journalism thrives--telling histories, giving context, and lifting the veil of class, gender, and race relations to speak truth to power. Let us discuss the limits of what Mr. Caplan can do, and see how we can move beyond them.

The subject was a powderkeg to being with, especially considering it was the first major piece of reporting on the District One race.

A white male journalist was given or chose an assignment to detail the criminal histories of four black candidates, three of them black women, all but one. The fifth and arrest-free candidate is (by no fault of his own) a white man. Care should have been taken to remind newly engaged citizens that the Sun regularly runs pieces on candidate criminal records.

A triptych (like the one currently on the *Sun*’s website) of those with criminal records might have been used to convey that multiple people were reported on, instead of the original lead

photo on the website, of Gigi Simmons alone, who is running against Goston and Ty Loudd in the D1. This came off as a hit piece against Ms. Simmons, or against black candidates in general. The title of the piece was negative. Coupled with Ms. Simmon’s originally solo title photo, it created an emotional context assuredly unintended by the authors or the newspaper.

Or did it? Even had Caplan and the editors done all this right, we are still left with a corporate newspaper whose job is to make money for shareholders selling advertising.

The “candidate criminal history” is a staple combination of shock piece and public service announcement, a kind of political beat boilerplate for every election cycle. Mr. Caplan and the Sun missed some cues, but they didn’t do anything unexpected or out of character. It’s a for-profit enterprise. These people write every day, for a living. Boilerplate is production. And truth be told criminal histories are newsworthy.

### From ELECTIONS, p. 1

in the City with work in the Department of Parks and Recreation and as a Technician with Planning and Development. She is a small business owner of Simmons Tax Services. She is also a fourth generation resident of the Porters Community.

Goston is known for making dubious claims and unfulfilled promises, and his most recent idea of large illuminated signs promoting Eastside businesses was not only illegal but ludicrous. Time for him to go. Get out the Eastside vote, and between the two women we say **VOTE GIGI SIMMONS.** 🐢

But they are also about history, politics, and power. This is where advocacy journalism--research and writing which clearly states an agenda and ideological purpose – takes up the slack from corporate media. It’s the kind of stuff we sometimes see in another part of the Sun, the Opinions section. It’s also, obviously, the life’s blood of the Gainesville *Iguana* and the *Fine Print*.

A piece in this mode could point out that crimes of poverty, which black Americans disproportionately experience, dominate the list. Without referring to individual candidates, we could discuss how everything from check kiting (writing checks before you have the money, to buy food or get your breadwinner out of jail, or pay a loan shark), to driving with suspended licenses (because you can’t pay for insurance and got busted for that), and even violence (when it is perpetrated by a victim of abuse who sees no way out) – do not speak alone to individual character. In fact they form the warp and weft of America’s history of racial, gender, and class inequality.

A progressive would point out that District One in particular (with two black women and one black male candidate) includes a greater portion of our poverty, a larger share of the long bus rides, and a majority of the incarcerated breadwinners that make a life without a record unlikely for anyone honestly “representing” that district.

A more radical journalism could also go further with the kind of personal histories of both the author and the subjects that newspaper journalism forbids. For example, this white male writer could open a piece on

candidate records with the story of my own criminal past, of the day I watched a dozen black men go to prison for felony probation violations in front of me.

I didn’t go because I was white and we had a racist judge, thankfully now departed. The irony is, but for my being white, I probably wouldn’t be writing this article about black candidate records. I could reflect on this irony, and celebrate the stories of these candidates, including the single mothers running for office who faced different obstacles than my white single mother – but who share the struggles and solidarity of class and gender and motherhood.

Finally, I could ask the candidates to reflect on what it feels like, in the gut, to know every time you run for office you will be judged more severely than your white peers. Because every one of those candidates, and each of us, knows that the bar of character is higher and the stain of the past more deep for the oppressed than for the privileged.

I can write and ask all these things, but Mr. Caplan cannot. Not for the *Sun*, and not if he wants to continue as a beat reporter, as I hope he will.

Advocacy journalism does sometimes involve money and profit, but at its core it comes from we the people, volunteers and movement activists. If people with criminal pasts deserve to be in office, it is our job to help explain why.

*In 2010, James Thompson pled Guilty/ No Contest to a charge of felony drug possession. He is a political activist.* 🐢

## Iguana Directory

Call 352-378-5655 or email [gainesvilleiguana@cox.net](mailto: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.

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**Alachua County Green Party** Part of a worldwide movement built out of four interrelated social pillars that support its politics: the peace, civil rights, environmental and labor movements. [alachuagreens.weebly.com](http://alachuagreens.weebly.com), [alachuagreens@gmail.com](mailto:alachuagreens@gmail.com), 352-871-1995

**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](mailto:info@laborcoalition.org), 352-375-2832, PO Box 12051, 901 NW 8th Ave., Suite A1, Gainesville, 32604

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

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

**Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI)** 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](http://www.arcinst.org)

**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.

*Continued on next page*



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*Thursday*  
Gainesville Language Exchange at 9pm  
\$3 domestic Pints & \$5 domestic Tankards

*Continued from preceding page*

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 6pm first Tuesday every month at Mennonite Meeting House, 1236 NW 18th 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; gainesvillehumanists@gmail.com.

**Humanists on Campus** UF organization provides a community for freethinking, secular humanists. Goals include promoting values of humanism, discussing issues humanists face internationally. We strive to participate in community service and bring a fun, dynamic group to the university! Preferred contact info: email ufhumanistoncampus@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: Our.Circle.Of.Care@gmail.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 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

**Putnam County Florida Democratic Party,** http://www.putnamcountyfloridademocrats.com, check website or call for upcoming meetings, 107 S. Sixth St., Palatka - For information on volunteer activities call Fran Rossano at 352-475-3012

**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://vfp Gainesville.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 🐢



# CMC SpringBoard fundraiser at new location

*Will feature speakers Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson and Lars Andersen on rivers and springs*

**Friday, April 13, 6:30-9pm**

**Working Food, 219 NW 10th Ave.**

Save the date: on Friday April 13, the Civic Media Center will be holding the 2018 version of its SpringBoard fundraiser. This event is timed to give the CMC a boost as the summer approaches, with its higher utility costs and diminished population in town.

This year the event will be held at a new and exciting location, Working Food at 219 NW 10th Ave. This large meeting hall (and large parking lot) is one of three new additions in the block of NW 10th Ave., joined by the restaurant Afternoon and Cypress & Grove Brewing. The event will run from 6:30 to 9pm.

The evening will feature great tapas and finger food from various restaurants and individuals, time for socializing, and an informal and entertaining panel discussion on issues regarding issues around rivers and springs featuring Lars Andersen and Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson.

Lars Andersen is the owner of Adventure Outpost in High Springs and a longtime environmental activist, tour guide and advocate for health and preservation of our rivers and springs. He has been speaking about and educating about our rivers and springs for decades.

Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson has lived in Florida since 1975 and is a dedicated volunteer working to protect the springs, rivers and other waters of Florida. Merrilee participates in numerous committees, advisory boards and consultant groups. She owns and operates Rum 138 with her husband and she is an Organizing Representative for Sierra Club, Florida.

There will, of course, be some silent auction items and raffle items as well. A donation of \$25-\$50 is requested as the CMC moves into the summer and then the fall, which in October will see its 25th anniversary celebration.

Come meet the CMC Coordinators, volunteers, Board members and all the many supporters of the CMC, who make

up an array of the best progressive folks in Alachua County.

If you cannot make it but still wish to donate please do, either from Paypal (at [www.civicmediacenter.org](http://www.civicmediacenter.org)) or by mail to 433 S. Main St., Gainesville, FL 32601. Advance tickets can be purchased the same way. ☺

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