



The Gainesville Iguana

A progressive newsletter
and events calendar

April, 2018
Vol. 32, Issue 4

Bolton is bad news

By Dahr Jamail

This article originally appeared at Truthout.org on March 27. The original is at <http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/43966-for-bolton-the-slaughter-of-1-million-iraqis-is-a-job-qualification>.

The illegal 2003 invasion and occupation of Iraq has, thus far, left approximately 1 million Iraqis dead. That is roughly 5 percent of the total population of that country.

If a foreign military superpower invaded and occupied the US and annihilated 5 percent of the total population here, that would be 16,300,000 dead US citizens.

President Donald Trump's incoming national security adviser, John Bolton, still thinks the mass destruction of Iraq was a good idea.

"We are confident that Saddam Hussein has hidden weapons of mass destruction [WMDs] and production facilities in Iraq," Bolton said in 2002 while he served as President George W. Bush's under secretary of state for arms control and international security. He did everything he could to prompt the launch of the US invasion -- under the pretext of WMDs that never existed.

Then, 12 years later, with 5 percent of the

total population of Iraq dead, thousands of US troops dead and trillions of dollars of taxpayer funds bled away, he told the Washington Examiner that he still thought the Iraq War was worth it. He even commented that "the worst decision made after that was the 2011 decision to withdraw US and coalition forces."

I witnessed the carnage firsthand in Iraq. I saw the destruction of an entire country. I watched women, children and the elderly slaughtered in Fallujah by the US military. I walked through freezers full of decayed bodies that were the detritus of Bolton's US empire project.

The fact that this individual is about to become national security adviser feels like a true nightmare about to revisit us.

Two Peas in a Pod

In their refusal to acknowledge reality, Bolton and the president are just alike. They share a disdain for anything that contradicts



Cartoon by Steve Sack
Minneapolis Star Tribune

their fabricated versions of reality -- and they both actively work to undermine whatever happens to challenge their positions.

Bolton was rightly accused of manipulating US intelligence about WMDs during the buildup to the invasion of Iraq. But that didn't slow him down. Bolton claimed, "We estimate that once Iraq acquires fissile material -- whether from a

See **BOLTON**, p. 21

Elections update: May 1 runoff

Vote Gigi Simmons for Gainesville City Commission District 1

by Joe Courter

Nope, City election is not over. It would have been if a few dozen people in District 1 had voted or voted differently, but instead there is a runoff on May 1 between Gigi Simmons and incumbent Charles Goston.

Simmons came really close to an outright victory March 20, and we fully hope that she will prevail in the runoff. Gail Johnson, who won resoundingly in March to unseat Harvey Budd, has endorsed Simmons, and after sitting through all

those joint forums, she has a great seat to understand the differences between Gigi and Charles. The third candidate in that race, Ty Loudd, has also endorsed Gigi.

Goston's poor attendance at Commission meetings and major questions about his claimed circulation of his newspaper Black College Monthly underscore the need for change.

Do what you can to help get out the District 1 vote.

See **ELECTIONS**, p. 21

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Five types of gun laws the Founding Fathers loved

by Saul Cornell

This article originally appeared at TheConversation.com on Feb. 20, 2018. Read more at <https://theconversation.com/five-types-of-gun-laws-the-founding-fathers-loved-85364>.

The Second Amendment is one of the most frequently cited provisions in the American Constitution, but also one of the most poorly understood.

The 27 words that constitute the Second Amendment seem to baffle modern Americans on both the left and right.

Ironically, those on both ends of our contemporary political spectrum cast the Second Amendment as a barrier to robust gun regulation.

Gun rights supporters – mostly, but not exclusively, on the right – seem to believe that the Second Amendment prohibits many forms of gun regulation. On the left, frustration with the lack of progress on modern gun control leads to periodic calls for the amendment’s repeal.

Both of these beliefs ignore an irrefutable historical truth. The framers and adopters of the Second Amendment were generally ardent supporters of the idea of well-regulated liberty. Without strong governments and effective laws, they believed, liberty inevitably degenerated into licentiousness and eventually anarchy. Diligent students of history, particularly Roman history, the Federalists who wrote the Constitution realized that tyranny more often resulted from anarchy, not strong government.

I have been researching and writing about the history of gun regulation and

the Second Amendment for the past two decades. When I began this research, most people assumed that regulation was a relatively recent phenomenon, something associated with the rise of big government in the modern era.

Actually, while the founding generation certainly esteemed the idea of an armed population, they were also ardent supporters of gun regulations.

Consider these five categories of gun laws that the Founders endorsed.

#1: Registration

Today American gun rights advocates typically oppose any form of registration – even though such schemes are common in every other industrial democracy – and typically argue that registration violates the Second Amendment.

This claim is also hard to square with the history of the nation’s founding. All of the colonies – apart from Quaker-dominated Pennsylvania, the one colony in which religious pacifists blocked the creation of a militia – enrolled local citizens, white men between the ages of 16-60 in state-regulated militias. The colonies and then the newly independent states kept track of these privately owned weapons required for militia service. Men could be fined if they reported to a muster without a well-maintained weapon in working condition.

#2: Public carry

The modern gun rights movement has aggressively pursued the goal of expanding the right to carry firearms in public.

The American colonies inherited a variety of restrictions that evolved under English

Common Law. In 18th-century England, armed travel was limited to a few well-defined occasions such as assisting justices of the peace and constables. Members of the upper classes also had a limited exception to travel with arms. Concealable weapons such as handguns were subject to even more stringent restrictions. The city of London banned public carry of these weapons entirely.

The American Revolution did not sweep away English common law. In fact, most colonies adopted common law as it had been interpreted in the colonies prior to independence, including the ban on traveling armed in populated areas. Thus, there was no general right of armed travel when the Second Amendment was adopted, and certainly no right to travel with concealed weapons. Such a right first emerged in the United States in the slave South decades after the Second Amendment was adopted. The market revolution of the early 19th century made cheap and reliable hand guns readily available. Southern murder rates soared as a result.

In other parts of the nation, the traditional English restrictions on traveling armed persisted with one important change. American law recognized an exception to this prohibition for individuals who had a good cause to fear an imminent threat. Nonetheless, by the end of the century, prohibiting public carry was the legal norm, not the exception.

#3: Stand-your-ground laws

Under traditional English common law, one had a duty to retreat, not stand your ground. Deadly force was justified only if no other alternative was possible. One had to retreat, until retreat was no longer possible, before killing an aggressor.

The use of deadly force was justified only in the home, where retreat was not required under the so-called castle doctrine, or the idea that “a man’s home is his castle.” The emergence of a more aggressive view of the right of self-defense in public, standing your ground, emerged slowly in the decades after the Civil War.

#4: Safe storage laws

Although some gun rights advocates attempt to demonize government power, it is important to recognize that one of the most important rights citizens enjoy is the freedom to elect representatives who can

See GUN LAWS, p. 20

Editors’ picks: News that didn’t fit

🦋 **The Cambridge Analytica Con** - by Yasha Levine

British election data outfit Cambridge Analytica accessed Facebook profile information of 50 million folks, eventually “turning people into pliable zombie supporters of Donald Trump.”

<https://thebaffler.com/latest/cambridge-analytica-con-levine>

🦋 **What we know about media giant Sinclair, whose anchors read from a pro-Trump script** - by Eli Rosenberg, Washington Post

The company ordered its anchors around the country to read an identical Trump-friendly opinion piece on the evils of “fake news” (AKA news Trump disagrees with).

http://www.tampabay.com/features/media/What-we-know-about-media-giant-Sinclair-whose-anchors-read-from-a-pro-Trump-script_167044153 🦋

From the publisher ...

The heat is on, and it's not just Spring

Heat can be a good thing. Therapeutic heat can ease muscle soreness. That warm sun we all enjoy in Fall, Winter and Spring is so welcome on our skin (Summer not so much). Sitting around a bonfire, fireplace or wood stove adds a soothing feeling that goes way back in our ancestral memory, keeping the cold at bay. Even the warmth of a nice sweater, a scarf, or the warm embrace of another human is a great comfort.

Heat can also be used as a metaphor for things political, and on many levels things are heating up. Writing this column last month was a breeze, the fired-up students of Stoneman Douglas turned up the heat on the NRA and the insane availability of assault weapons to the wrong people like nothing had ever before.

Watching the big rally in DC, and our local version of the March For Our Lives was powerful and heartwarming to see what could be a generation of young folks waking up and raising their voices. Their inclusiveness of other manifestations of gun violence, in Chicago, in LA, was quite important, too, as are the demonstrations in Sacramento over the killing of Stephon Clark headed up by Black Lives Matter, which has seen the Sacramento Kings basketball team lend their support.

The heat is also rising among another group, and a group not unrelated to students; the teachers. Walkouts and pressure in West Virginia, Oklahoma and Arizona see underpaid educators joining together with unprecedented power, They are bravely coming forward and demanding their due, and exposing the realities of their lives, the need to put their own money into classroom supplies, the need for second and third jobs, and the scam of privatization draining money from public schools to private schools. (Locally our Graduate Assistants United and United Faculty of Florida have been quite active, as is the Alachua County Labor Coalition.)

Yet another source of welcome heat is flaring up, and that is women. The #MeToo movement has rattled the halls of power in corporations, the entertainment industry, and into every level of society. Women began speaking out to each other, and in finding each other, grew in strength. That strength may very well make a difference in the upcoming election cycle, with formidable women candidates stepping up and running for office, and women voters realizing their collective power, joining and/or forming organizations. The challenge to Male Supremacy has been picked up worldwide.

These are good beginnings of a resistance to the policies and practices of our current government. Small pressure points on a rather monstrous amalgam of horrors. The perpetual problem of the military-industrial complex spewing weapons and conflict remains unchecked. There seems to be small movement on combating environmental problems with the exception of the valiant efforts around pipeline projects and more generalized efforts at raising awareness about climate change, meanwhile the Dept. of Environmental Protection has been turned over to industry hacks. International relations are deteriorating, diplomatic posts are vacant, and with the adults sent home (Tillerson and McMaster) and war hawks like Bolton and Pompeo replacing them, the potential for escalating conflicts loom large.

The 2018 elections are a major tool we have to try and turn this horror show around, but we need much much more. We need citizen awareness, pressure on elected officials, and the readiness to organize for what we really want. As much as the above mentioned sources of heat give me optimism, I am also worried that the general population remain detached, playing it cool through denial, misinformed by Fox, Sinclair and talk radio, ignoring what's happening due to harried lives, distracted by irrelevancies, or just a childish faith that things will work out without them being involved.

No, sorry, this is a real slide to a stage-managed authoritarian government, deftly using the technological tools to play us, shape us, and suppress our dissent. This is real; be ready to do what you can. 🐢



Joe Courter

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

Individuals: \$15

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Gainesville Iguana

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

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The Iguana has been published monthly or bimonthly by volunteers for over 30 years. Circulation for this issue is 4,500.

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Cover drawing of iguana by Daryl Harrison.

Printed on recycled paper.



Over a thousand demonstrators gathered in Bo Diddley Plaza on March 24 to hear Gainesville Mayor Lauren Poe and students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School demand reforms to gun laws. Photos by Joe Courter.

G'ville protesters in solidarity with March for Our Lives

by Madison Rubert

Well over a thousand demonstrators armed with bold banners, hand-made signs, and most importantly, their voices, flooded Downtown Gainesville on March 24 to protest current gun laws in solidarity with protesters in Washington, D.C.

On that Saturday at 11 a.m., protesters met at the Bo Diddley Plaza at 111 E. University Ave. to partake in March for Our Lives Gainesville, a sister march of March for Our Lives in Washington, D.C., that was organized by UF freshman Heather Yu.

Eighteen-year-old microbiology and math student Yu organized the march after discovering nearby marches online in her room at 2 a.m. They were marching, Yu said, to demand gun law reform.

"We are marching on behalf of all American citizens," Yu said. "Because this is a movement that started with a school shooting, but, in reality, affects everyone."

Gainesville Mayor Lauren Poe, District 3 City Commissioner David Arreola, alumni and students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, and an 11-year-old who led a walk-out for his elementary school spoke before the march.

Speakers encouraged the community to become politically active to combat injustice.

"I think people are recognizing that to create meaningful change that they need to unite, show up and be active," Mayor Poe said. "That's what you're seeing here

today in Gainesville, as well as in places all around the world."

Poe said that individuals must band together to ensure democracy.

"Individual action is meaningless unless you're able to build a movement behind it," he said. "Showing unity by acting as one will become a tidal wave of change that all of these students are looking for."

After the speeches, protesters, lead by police cars, marched down West University Avenue to the intersection of West University Avenue and Waldo Road, where they stood holding signs before returning to the plaza.

Carol Foil, 68, of Putnam County, was among those who marched. She held a sign exclaiming, "Grandma calls B.S.!" in large bold blue and red letters.

Foil was inspired to participate in the march, she said, after discovering a UF freshman had organized it.

"I decided to come out because I really support sensible gun laws," Foil said. "I'm protesting the fact that so many politicians get so much money from the NRA that they can't vote with their constituents."

Another problem, she said, is that the National Rifle Association provides members with a ridiculous interpretation of the Second Amendment.

"Enough is enough," Foil said.

UF freshman Jessica Rosen, attended the march with dormmates from Hugh Hall.

Incidents like the Marjory Stoneman

Douglas High School shooting are a fearful reminder of the current threat of gun violence students face, Rosen, 19, said.

"I wasn't really active about gun control until it happened half-an-hour from my home," she said. "I started to realize that I know people to a second- or third- degree that go there, and I can see the same thing happening at my school really easily."

Although Gainesville resident Pat Harden came to march to advocate for gun safety, she mainly came to support youth, she said.

"I wanted to support these young adults because they are our future," Harden, 82, said. "It's obvious that the politicians won't do anything about [gun safety] ... so the public needs to rise up; we have the power in our hands."

Yu said she was pleasantly surprised by the large turnout.

"It was really moving to see that many people stand united together," Yu said. "To see how that many people care is really cool."

She hopes that the march will send a strong message to politicians.

"Obviously the march itself won't make reform, but I hope it will show politicians that there is so much opposition that they can't ignore it anymore," Yu said.

Her mother Shirley Yu, 51, traveled with Heather's twin brother and family from St. Augustine to attend.

"I'm pretty proud," Yu said. "Heather's now in the history books." 🐾



Students and community members participated in the Gainesville March for Our Lives protest on March 24 that began at Bo Diddley Plaza, traveled east on University Avenue to Waldo Road, then returned up SE 2nd Avenue. The event, organized after a school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, was organized by UF freshman Heather Yu.

‘I tried to befriend Nikolas Cruz. He still killed my friends’

By Isabelle Robinson, senior
Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School

This article was originally published by the *New York Times* on March 27. See the original at <https://mobile.nytimes.com/2018/03/27/opinion/nikolas-cruz-shooting-florida.html>.

My first interaction with Nikolas Cruz happened when I was in seventh grade. I was eating lunch with my friends, most likely discussing One Direction or Ed Sheeran, when I felt a sudden pain in my lower back. The force of the blow knocked the wind out of my 90-pound body; tears stung my eyes. I turned around and saw him, smirking. I had never seen this boy before, but I would never forget his face. His eyes were lit up with a sick, twisted joy as he watched me cry.

The apple that he had thrown at my back rolled slowly along the tiled floor. A cafeteria aide rushed over to ask me if I was O.K. I don't remember if Mr. Cruz was confronted over his actions, but in my 12-year-old naïveté, I trusted that the adults around me would take care of the situation.

Five years later, hiding in a dark closet inside Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, I would discover just how wrong I was.

I am not writing this piece to malign Nikolas Cruz any more than he already has been. I have faith that history will condemn him for his crimes. I am writing this because of the disturbing number of comments I've read that go something like this: Maybe if Mr. Cruz's classmates and peers had been a little nicer to him, the shooting at Stoneman Douglas would never have occurred.

This deeply dangerous sentiment, expressed under the #WalkUp-NotOut hashtag, implies that acts of school violence can be prevented if students befriend disturbed and potentially dangerous classmates. The idea that we are to blame, even implicitly, for the murders of our friends and teachers is a slap in the face to all Stoneman Douglas victims and survivors.

A year after I was assaulted by Mr. Cruz, I was assigned to tutor him through my school's peer counseling program. Being a peer counselor was the first real responsibility I had ever had, my first glimpse of adulthood, and I took it very seriously.

Despite my discomfort, I sat down with him, alone. I was forced to endure his cursing me out and ogling my chest until the hourlong

session ended. When I was done, I felt a surge of pride for having organized his binder and helped him with his homework.

Looking back, I am horrified. I now understand that I was left, unassisted with a student who had a known history of rage and brutality.

Like many pre-teenage and teenage girls, I possessed — and still, to an extent, possess — a strong desire to please. I strive to win the praise of the adults in my life and long to be seen as mature beyond my years. I would have done almost anything to win the approval of my teachers.

This is not to say that children should reject their more socially awkward or isolated peers — not at all. As a former peer counselor and current teacher's assistant, I strongly believe in and have seen the benefits of reaching out to those who need kindness most.

But students should not be expected to cure the ills of our genuinely troubled classmates, or even our friends, because we first and foremost go to school to learn. The implication that Mr. Cruz's mental health problems could have been solved if only he had been loved more by his fellow students is both a gross misunderstanding of how these diseases work and a dangerous suggestion that puts children on the front line.

It is not the obligation of children to befriend classmates who have demonstrated aggressive, unpredictable or violent tendencies. It is the responsibility of the school administration and guidance department to seek out those students and get them the help that they need, even if it is extremely specialized attention that cannot be provided at the same institution.

No amount of kindness or compassion alone would have changed the person that Nikolas Cruz is and was, or the horrendous actions he perpetrated. That is a weak excuse for the failures of our school system, our government and our gun laws.

My little sister is now the age that I was when I was left alone with Mr. Cruz, anxious and defenseless. The thought of her being put in the same situation that I was fills me with rage. I hope that she will never know the fear that I have become so accustomed to in the past month: The slightest unexpected sound makes my throat constrict and my neck hairs curl. I beg her to trust her gut whenever she feels unsafe. And I demand that the adults in her life protect her. 🐿

American civilians in Saigon 1963: U.S. still making war to negate peace efforts

**Reading/Booksigning:
Sat., Apr. 21, 4pm, Third House Books,
113 N. Main St., Gainesville**

by Kathy Connor Dobronyi

When Americans think of Vietnam, they think of the Vietnam War. Vietnam was divided into two countries in 1954 under the Geneva Accords, a treaty that ended the colony of French Indochina. Although the division was temporary, the United States supported a permanent state in the south under President Ngo Dinh Diem, an ardent anti-communist.

Beginning in 1954, the United States spent billions in foreign aid for the new country. Vietnam represented a massive investment by the United States of more than \$28.5 billion in economic and security assistance designed to win the hearts and minds of the Vietnamese, an essential part of countering communists influence.

The U.S. Operations Mission (USOM) oversaw substantial development aid for a number of projects. To improve commercial trade, Tan Son Nhut Airport was expanded, roads and bridges were constructed, and canals were widened and dredged.

On the eve of the Vietnam War in 1963, there were approximately 4,000 American civilians living in Saigon. Most were working for the U.S. State Department in the diplomatic corps, foreign aid workers and secret agencies. Distribution of billions of U.S. dollars was coordinated with President Ngo Dinh Diem's government and USOM (U.S.

Overseas Mission) a program that slowly evolved into USAID (U.S. Agency for International Development).

There were 1,800 military dependents and 500 military personnel. I was one of those dependents, and my father, Major Bobby D. Connor, was one of the military advisers assigned to the 3rd RRU for two years.

Although most Americans lived in Saigon neighborhoods in apartments or walled duplexes and houses, some lived in the JDP Compound near Ton San Nhut Airport. The facility was initially built for Johnson, Drake, and Piper employees and the families in 1954. When their contract ended in 1962, the JDP Compound became home to American missionaries and State Department employees.

In 1963, Saigon was a very dangerous place for Americans. There were always rumors of bombings and kidnappings. The Capital Kinh-Do, an American theater newly opened in June, 1963 was first bombed in September with 200 American women and children in attendance. A second bombing destroyed the facility, killed three soldiers and injured many civilians in February 1964.

Although the lives of American civilians were threatened by Viet Cong terrorist attacks, U.S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge believed their presence showed that Americans didn't cut and run, and that we could protect our own. By February 1965, American dependents were officially evacuated.

In the first decade of the Republic of

Vietnam (1954-64), we primarily invested in peace, with money spent creating a strong trading partner. In the second decade, we invested in war (1965-75), destroying all that we had built in the previous years.

On March 8, 1965, the Vietnam War officially began when 3,500 Marines, the first U.S. combat troops, landed at Da Nang.


The Vietnam War was fought in an era of restrictions set up by the nuclear threat of the Cold War. During WWII the United States focused on total war pitting total virtue against total evil. In the Cold War, our actions were restricted because this type of total war was impossible.

In the decades following the end of the Vietnam War, we've continued to invest more financial aid in war than in peace to insure strong trading partners. There were more than 4,000 American civilians, men, women, and children in Saigon in 1963. They were there to hide the fact that the U.S. government was building a war where their peace efforts would be negated.

Was this period the beginning of the modern era of foreign aid where our troops invade first, followed by economic and infrastructure peace building?


Kathy Connor Dobronyi is the author of "Under the Wings of a Good Luck Phoenix: Memoir of an American Girl Saigon 1963."

There will be a reading and book signing with the author at Third House Books on Saturday, April 21 at 4 pm. 🐾



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Gainesville's Food Not Bombs chapter is back



by Clara Ortega

Food Not Bombs is an international volunteer organization dedicated to challenging excessive waste and ensuring food for all people. We reclaim food that would otherwise be discarded to provide free meals in public spaces. We choose to share vegan or vegetarian food because it contributes less to pollution, water usage, and the creation of greenhouse gases.

Food Not Bombs works to change systems that perpetuate hunger by sharing

literature and engaging with the most marginalized members of our community.

The Gainesville Food not Bombs chapter has recently resurfaced to once again work with our community. Everyone in Gainesville could be fed by the amount of food thrown out each day by local establishments, so we try to make sure as much of that food as possible is put to use. We are a non-hierarchical organization that decide everything by consensus.

Our meals are currently potluck style with people picking up food from different locations. We coordinate to bring diverse food options and literature. Once we have the chance to grow our organization, we hope to cook meals together.

There are many ways you can help. You can educate yourself on the inequality

caused by global capitalism, the effects of animal agriculture on the environment, military spending, and homelessness (especially in Gainesville). Food Not Bombs chapters across the world have written about these topics, an online search of Food Not Bombs will bring up information about these issues. The Civic Media Center is also a great local education resource.

You can contact us at foodnotbombs.gnv.fl@gmail.com if you see food being thrown out unnecessarily or if you think of something new we can do to help make Gainesville a better place to live. Anyone is welcome at our meals on Sundays at 4 p.m. in the Haisley Lynch Dog Park. You could bring food or just come to eat and talk with us. Our food is for all, and we would love to meet you! 🌱

*“You have to stand up
for some things
in this world.”*

- Marjory Stoneman Douglas

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Gainesville Veterans for Peace invited all students, K-12, in Alachua County to submit one poem on the subject of peace. Out of hundreds of entries, winners were selected by a panel of judges. Winners are invited to read their poems aloud at the public reading on May 5 and are also published in the 2018 Peace Poetry book.

For more information, email vfpeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com.

Women and the environment: let the healing begin

By Nkwanda Jah

My connection to the environment and life on the planet started far before I knew what it was. As a child I loved being outside exploring the more than 40 acres my family owned and lived on. I loved chasing the butterflies and mosquito hawks, I loved the fruit from the trees and vines. I loved working in the garden with my grandmother.

It was many years later as I enjoyed my work as a community activist that I (my organization, Cultural Arts Coalition) was asked by the City Commission to design an educational video about recycling. Our city had not been very successful in getting communities of color to participate in its recycling program.

We combined rap, dance, double dutch jump rope and handjive, and partnered with a local television station to produce an award winning video. We used local youth between the ages of 8 and 21. Not only did participation in recycling increase, but the video was used in more than 20 states as educational material.

I perceived this success as a sign from the Creator that I should be doing this kind of work. Over the years I have become increasingly aware of my unusual connectedness to the Earth/

Planet/Environment. I take it personally when any part of life on the planet is threatened. That goes from the smallest of animals and plants to the largest, whether they are below the earth in the oceans, on earth, or flying high or low above. This sometimes is so strong that I feel a deep responsibility for protecting all of this life.

Since that time I have dedicated my life to doing better by the environment and teaching others to do the same. In addition to recycling education, we cover food, water and air quality. We find various ways to advocate for our planet. As chair of the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice committee, I engage the African American community to participate in the discussion and the work.

I am not saying you have to be a woman to truly be one with the Earth, but I truly believe it helps. Its helps to understand the life born from the Creator because of the life a woman/female produces. It's knowing that as a mother you do not love one child more than the other. This helps in the understanding that the Creator loves everything it produces as a mother loves all she produces.

I feel me, my womanism, my feminism, my love for all of life, has lead me to this journey. I find it to be fulfilling, yet I am fearful. I am fearful that not enough humanity has the capacity to love and appreciate all of life. I fear humanity's selfishness and greed will collectively destroy life as we have known it.

I believe it will require the womanist, the strength of mothers, to make our environment/planet well again.

Let the healing begin. ✨



MAY

- 4** Sing Me Back Home: In Memoriam to the Music of Tom Petty, Glen Campbell, Merle Haggard & Gregg Allman
By Mike Boulware & All My Friends
- 11** The Nancy Luca Band with Anna Marie
(Classic Rock)
- 18** A Tribute to the Music of Jackson Brown
By Mick Marino & Friends
- 25** The Gainesville Big Band
(Big Band & Jazz Standards)

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UF OPS workers continue fight for better conditions

by Jeremiah Tattersall, Lead Organizer
Alachua County Labor Coalition

University of Florida OPS (temporary staff and adjunct faculty) workers continue their fight for better working conditions with the help of the Alachua County Labor Coalition.

The campaign started in September 2017, after OPS workers were left with nearly a week without pay, due to Hurricane Irma. All UF workers except the over 15,000 OPS employees were paid for these and other school closures.

OPS workers continue to face extreme hardship due to this policy of UF, with many facing mounting debts, days of hunger, losing health insurance, and at least one OPS worker becoming homeless.

Once OPS workers started organizing around paid leave during forced closures, they discovered they shared experiences of exploitation due to their status as long term “temporary” employees.

These OPS workers receive no paid vacation or paid sick leave and all are required to pay into the alternative FICA system in which the University of Florida contributes no money to their Social Security. Temporary work is defined by the IRS as employment lasting less than a year. Yet 68 percent of UF’s non-student hourly OPS workers have been employed for more than 1 year, 47 percent more than 2 years, and 22 percent more than 5 years.

The exploitation of the OPS classification was further demonstrated on Jan. 1, 2016 when the University of Florida increased the minimum wage for all non-temporary workers to \$12 an hour, leaving behind over 15,000 OPS workers.

It is no surprise that OPS workers are disproportionately people of color and women. Non-student hourly OPS workers are 60 percent people of color and 57 percent female. The median OPS hourly wage for a black male is \$12 an hour and \$12.60 an hour for Hispanic males.


In February 2018, the UF Student Senate passed two resolutions in support of OPS workers -- one to reclassify long-term OPS workers in order to stop the University’s abuse of the “temporary” label, and a second resolution affirming that OPS workers should be paid for lost time during Hurricane Irma.

A similar resolution has been working its way through the UF Faculty Senate and will be voted on at the April 19 meeting at 3pm in the Reitz Union.

These resolutions are important, as both the Chair of the Faculty Senate and the Student Body President have seats on the 13 member Board of Trustees, the governing body of the University of Florida.


OPS workers and the Alachua County Labor Coalition will continue to ratchet up the pressure on UF administration at the Faculty Senate meeting and upcoming Board of Trustees meetings.

Please visit the Alachua County Labor Coalition at LaborCoalition.org to find out more about the campaign for dignity for OPS workers, including a collection of over 500 survey responses about OPS working conditions at UF, a white paper analysis, and ways to get involved. ☘



Jennifer Downey, AP, Dipl OM
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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

Fri, April 13: CMC Spring Board! 6:30 in Forge Hall at Working Food and Connect the Dots: Live Music Show at CMC; Doors at 7pm

Sat, April 14: Divest GNV meeting 2-4pm and WGOT Jam Sesh 5-8pm

Mon, April 16: Monday Movie Series: We are Neutral presents "Merchants of Doubt" 7pm

Tue, April 17: Queer Movie Night: Paris is Burning 6:30pm

Wed, April 18: Communication Skills Workshop 6-8pm

Fri, April 20: Open Jam & Art Show 8pm-2am

Sat, April 21: Water is Life Fest V 6pm

Sun, April 22: Family Friendly Puppet Show 4pm

Mon, April 23: Monday Movie Series: Karuna Productions presents "The Stolen River" 7pm

Tue, April 24: IWOC Prisoner Letter Writing Event 6-8pm

Fri, April 27: Sara Amatniek art show and sale plus Live Music for ArtWalk 7-11pm

Sat, April 28: Free Store 12-5

Mon, April 30: Monday Movie Series: HyperNormalisation 7pm

Tue, May 2: Communication Skills Workshop 6-8pm

Fri, May 4: Open Jam & Art Show 8pm-2am

Sat, May 5: Technical Skills Workshop: Computer Survivor Guide 3-5pm

Sun, May 6: Ep Release: Some Heavy Things 7-11pm

Tue, May 8: IWOC Meeting 6pm

Fri, May 11: CONNECT THE DOTS: Live Music Doors 8

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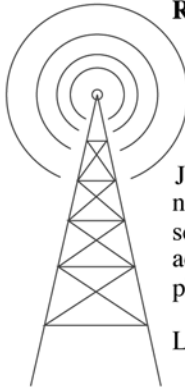
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Mie



Radio Notes: Find schedules for WUFT and WGOT, our local non-corporate stations, at www.wuft.org and wgot.org respectively. WGOT is now a full-time over-the-air broadcast at 100.1 FM. More info on local independent radio on pg 16.

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.

15 Jest Fest - comedy, circus, music acts on 5 stages at Thomas Ctr (306 NE 6th Ave), 11 am-6 pm, free: jestfestgmv.com.

Sunday Assembly - "Baker Interfaith Friends" (immigrants detained in Baker County): SFC Downtown (530 W. Univ. Ave), 11 am, 3rd Suns: see sagainesville.weebly.com.

Keystone Music Festival, Keystone Beach, 11am-2 pm.

West Fest Music Festival, Lois Forte Park (120 NW 260th St, Newberry), 1-8 pm, free.

From Colored to Black - free local history theater, Harn Mus, 3 pm.

Food Not Bombs feeds everyone every Sunday, Lynch Park (S. Main St. & SW 5th Ave), 4 pm; see pg 7.

22 Earth Day Sunrise Walk, Sweetwater Park, 7:15 am.

"Southern Seed School In a Day", Grow Hub (2900 NE 8th Ave), 10 am-4 pm, \$25 (no one turned away for lack of funds): register at workingfood.org.

Alachua Main Street Spring Festival, 11 am-5 pm.

5th Ave Arts Festival continues, noon-5 pm - see pg 24.

FOL Book Sale, noon-6 pm.

Natural Shocks, 2 pm (see 4/21).

Toussaint L'Ouverture art/history talk, Harn Museum, 11 am-5 pm.

Queer Soup Night, 6 pm - pg 15.



EARTH DAY

29 Pioneer Days Festival Sat & Sun, downtown High Springs, 10 am-4 pm.

Pine plays Hippodrome, 5:30 pm.

6 "Ask a Scientist: Salamanders", FMNH, 1-4 pm.

Birds & Brews guided bird walk every 1st Sun, 1st Mag, 4:45 pm.

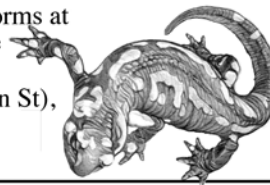
16 Science Café: on seafood; Blue Gill Foods (1310 SW 13th St), 6:30 pm - pre-register at EventBrite.com.

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

Merchants of Doubt presented by We Are Neutral, 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.

GUTS performs at Third House Books (113 N. Main St), 8 pm.



23 FOL Book Sale continues, noon-6 pm.

The Stolen River, plus Q&A w/ director Krisztina Danka, CMC, 7 pm.

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

1564: William Shakespeare born.
1616: William Shakespeare dies.
1896: 1st US movie theater opens.

30 HyperNormalization (2016: most recent work by BBC documentary filmmaker Adam Curtis [*Century of Self, Power of Nightmares*] looking at corporations, media, and the generation of perceived reality), CMC, 7 pm.

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

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

CMC documentary tba, 7 pm.

1954: Vietnamese defeat French at Dien Bien Phu.

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

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

Just Health Care meets, ACLC (901 NW 8th Ave), 6 pm.
1849: Safety Pin patented.
1866: ASPCA founded.

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

Paris Is Burning opens Queer Movie Night series at CMC, 6 pm happy hour, 7 pm film.

"Rape Culture in LGBTQ+ Communities", UF Reitz Union 1100, 6:15 pm.

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

Creators' Lounge, w/ Jordan Burchel, Heartwood, 8-10 pm.

24 County Commish - see 4/10.

FOL Book Sale half-price day, noon-6 pm.

Alachua Cty Labor Coalition meets (topic: schools), Em. Mennonite Meeting House (1236 NW 18th Ave), 6:30 pm.

May 1 Gvl City Runoff

(District One only)

Vote & Work for Gigi! (pg 1)

School Board - see 4/17.

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

The Conch storytelling event (true story, 5 minutes, no notes): "You're not going to believe this..."; Lightnin Salvage, 7 pm.

MAY DAY

US-INSPIRED HOLIDAY CELEBRATED AROUND WORLD BUT NOT IN US.

8 County Commission - see 4/10.

Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee meets, CMC, 6 pm.

1945: Germany surrenders.

11 Free confi...
testing at Health Dept, 2 am-3 pm, M-F; 3131 NW 13th & 3rd Thurs; i

Downtown Fa every Wed, Bo (111 E. Univer
Edible Plant

Dismantling Mennonite Mt (18th Ave), 2nd

Authors Rom
Wood read at
1951: Truman

18 Women ship Sy
Emerson Alum
free w/ UF ID,

Mexican-US Pugh Hall Oco

"Now, You Ta workshop, CM

Humanists me NW 34th St), 6

1775: Paul Re
Dawes

25 FOL B noon-6

Science on Ta movie night, 1 Brewing Co. (5-9 pm.

If you apprec please consid Ig with a don subscription Gainesville I

2 "Now, Yo communi CMC, 6 pm.

Vets for Peace directions: 352

There wi events sched this calendar various websi support events active

1941: Britain Iraq for

9 Dismantl 4/11.

IGUANA De June issue is gainesvilleiguana.org call 352-378- updates, adv

**Tuesday
Martes**

**Thursday
Jueves**

**Friday
Viernes**

**Saturday
Sabado**



idential walk-in HIV
t Alachua County
24 SE 24th St, 9
; & at Pride Ctr,
St, 4-6 pm on 1st
info: 334-7961.

Farmers' Market
o Diddley Plaza
(University Ave), 4-7 pm;
Project, 2nd Weds.

Racism group, Em.
g House (1236 NW
& 4th Weds, 7 pm.

nie Lovler & Holli
CMC, 7 pm.
fires MacArthur.

n's Entrepreneur-
mposium, UF
ani Hall, 9 am-1 pm;
\$25 others.

Relations talk, UF
ra, 6 pm.

lk" communications
C, 6 pm.

et, UUGF (4225
5:30 pm.

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ook Sale 10¢ day,
5 pm.

p: Tree of Life
1st Magnitude
(1220 SE Veitch St),

*ciate this calendar,
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ation &/or
: PO Box 14712,
FL 32604.*

u Talk"
ications workshop,

meet, 7 pm; call for
2-375-2563.

*ll doubtless be
uled that aren't on
at press time: check
tes and listings, and
s in our wonderfully
community.*

aunches war on
regime change.

ing Racism - see

adline for May-
May 9th; write
uana@cox.net or
5655 with events,
ertisements & info.

12 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, Civic
Media Center, 6:30 pm.

"Hiroshima After Iraq" art
history talk, UF Art School, 8 pm.

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

19 Support OPS workers at
UF Faculty Senate meeting,
Reitz Union, 3 pm; see pg 10.

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

No Fear, Only Joy film of local
artist w/ ALS, Harn Mus, 5:30 pm.

1775: Insurgents battle British at
Lexington & Concord.
1943: Warsaw Jews resist
deportation.

26 Living Sustainably talk by
Whitney Sanford, Matheson
Museum, 6 pm, free.

Swamp Records Showcase,
Heartwood Soundstage, 6 pm-1
am, \$8 adv/\$10 door.

Dismantling Racism - see 4/12.

**1986:
Chernobyl
meltdown
begins.**



3 UF Women's Lacrosse Big
East Tournament, 3rd-5th,
Dizney Stadium.

Salamander Conservation
benefit, 1st Mag, 6-9 pm;



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

Peter Rowan, Sam Pacetti in
Jewel Box concert at Thomas Ctr
(306 NE 6th Ave), 7 pm.

CMC Volunteers & Poets.

The Accidentals at Heartwood
Soundstage (619 S Main St), 8 pm.

NATIONAL DAY OF REASON

10 MomLife: a Mommy
Reads benefit show for
mothers in prison: The Wooly (20
N. Main St), 7:30 pm, \$12 (\$10
students).

1995: Nelson Mandela becomes
president of South Africa.

13 "Building Bridges of Love not
Hate" talk, Golden Corral
(2111 State Rd 200, Ocala), 11:30 am.
"Florida Soul" Fla soul music history
since Ray Charles: Matheson Museum
(513 E. Univ Ave), 6 pm, free.

CMC Springboard fundraiser w/ Lars
Andersen & Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson,
Working Food Comm Ctr (219 NW
10th Ave), 6:30-9 pm, \$25-50 req.

Connect the Dots, live music w/ 5
bands, CMC, 7 pm, \$5-15.

1962: Silent Spring published.



20 Columbine Anniversary
Student Walkouts nationwide.

Endo Sesh 2018 medical cannabis
event w/ music, art, more: Heartwood
Soundstage, 4-11 pm.

5th Ave Arts Festival opening reception,
A. Quinn Jones Auditorium (1108 NW
7th Ave), 6 pm.

The Christians opens at The Hipp (25
SE 2nd Pl), 8 pm; runs through 5/13.

The Skin of Our Teeth opens at
Acrosstown Rep (619 S. Main St), 8
pm; runs through 5/6; see pg 11.

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

1945: Steve Spurrier born.



27 Downtown Artwalk, 7-10 pm -
Artwalk at CMC features work
by Sara Amatniek; see pp 9 & 24, and
artwalk.gainesville.com.

Gvl Orchestra Pops Concert, Santa Fe
College Fine Arts Hall (3000 NW 83rd
St), 7:30 pm, \$40.

Ironics benefit for Sustainable
Cambodia, Heartwood Soundstage (619
S. Main St), 8-11 pm, \$15-20.

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

4 "Steam Wars" Star Wars events
& costume contest, Fla Mus of
Nat'l History (3215 Hull Rd), 4-8 pm.
Art & Music Jam, 1st & 3rd Fridays,
CMC, 8 pm-2 am.

"Sing Me Back Home" tribute to Tom
Petty, Glen Campbell, Gregg Allman,
Merle Haggard opens Free Fridays
concert series, Bo Diddley Plaza (111
E Univ Ave), 8 pm; see pg 8.

**STAR WARS DAY:
MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU**

1961: Freedom Riders begin bus trip.

11 Gvl Playreaders, Acrosstown
Rep (619 S. Main St), 7 pm.

Nancy Luca Band rocks Free Fridays
concert, Bo Diddley Plaza, 8 pm; pg 8.

*Whether here or anywhere:
please support live music!*

14 Community Meditation,
CMC, 9-10 am every Saturday.
"Beetles and More" - bug hike at
Prairie Creek Lodge (7204 SE Cty Rd
234), 9 am.

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

DACA discussion, UF Reitz Union
Chamber Room, 10 am.

Swallowtail Farm Spring Festival -
music, workshops, kids' activities, &:
17603 NW 276th Lane, Alachua;
noon-11 pm.

Divest G'ville meets, CMC, 2-4 pm.

WGOT-LP Rent Party, snacks &
open jam: CMC, 5-8 pm; see pg 16.

Roller Derby: Swamp City vs
Thunder City, MLK Ctr, 6 pm.

The Freeway Revival, 1st Magnitude
(1220 SW Veitch St), 7 pm, free.

Princess Bride, Depot Park, 7 pm, free.

Gatorbone Band, Heartwood, 8 pm.

21 Friends of the Library Book
Sale opens: amazing deals on
books, music, art, videos, more - 430
N. Main St, 9 am-6 pm (bring boxes).

5th Avenue Arts Festival opens -
music, speakers, vendors: NW 6th St,
2nd-5th Ave, 10 am-7 pm; see pg 24.

Heave Ho! Get Out the Vote Festival
- music, games, more: Melrose Heri-
tage Park (204 Pearl St), 1-5 pm; p 15.

Vietnam War author booksigning,
Third House Books, 4 pm; see pg 6.

Water Is Life Fest V, CMC, 6 pm.

Natural Shocks - 1-woman play on
gun violence w/ Sheila Bishop: Flow
Space (117 NW 16th Ave), 8 pm; \$7.

28 Interfaith Dialog - see 4/14.
Grove Street Festival, NW
10th Ave & 4th St, 4 pm-midnight.

Tree Fest - buy 1 beer, plant 5 trees -
Swamp Head Brewery (3650 SW 42nd
Ave), noon-5 pm.

Free Store at CMC, 12-5 pm.

WGOT benefit, Hardback Café (211 W.
Univ Ave); see pg 16.

5 Veg For Life vegan potluck,
UUGF, \$2+veg dish, 6:30 pm.

Peace Poetry Contest reading, pg 7.
CINCO DE MAYO

12 Interfaith Dialog - see 4/14.
Shimmy Mob World Belly
Dance Day event for domestic violence
victims, Thornebrooke Village (2441
NW 43rd St), noon.

Bill Nye, Phillips Ctr, 8 pm.

Girls Rock Camp benefit, Loosey's.



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We thank you very much!

Food Justice Study Group

Meets: Thursday, May 31, 6:30-7:30pm
Civic Media Center, Gainesville

Florida Organic Growers (FOG) continues with its Food Justice Study Group for local residents in Gainesville and its surrounding communities.

Every other month, we discuss a book or documentary that has been selected to generate a conversation about how our contemporary food system can help us better understand the complex issues of race, class, gender, both our collective and individual histories, and how we might envision and achieve a more sustainable, socially-just society.

The Food Justice Study Group will next meet Thursday, May 31 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at the Civic Media Center in Gainesville (address: 433 S Main St, Gainesville, FL 32601). All are welcome.

For the May meeting, we will discuss food sovereignty and compare decentralized, localized food systems with those designed from a more top-down, centralized structure.

The key text we will look at is Peter Kropotkin's "Field, Factories and Workshops: or Industry Combined with Agriculture and Brain Work with Manual Work." A classic anarchist text, the book advocates food production on a cooperative, local level.

Supplementing Kropotkin's work will be discussions on the Green Revolution, the post-World War II kibbutzim movement in Israel, the Zapatista struggle in Chiapas (Mexico), the international Via Campesina movement, and here in the U.S., the history and ideas behind collective Black land ownership in the 1960s and 1970s.

Online versions of other readings will be uploaded to Florida Organic Growers web site (www.foginfo.org) and FOG's Facebook event page for the May 31 meeting.

As always, FOG welcomes all points of view in our discussions and also encourages attendees to share their own experiences as producers, consumers, citizens, students, and educators.

Questions? Suggestions? Please contact David Vaina, FOG's Education and Outreach Director, at david@foginfo.org or at 352.377.6345 (ext. 130). ☞

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Queer Soup Night: Soup from the LGBTQ Soul

April 22, 2018 6-9:30pm

219 NW 10th Ave.

RSVP on Facebook @Queer Soup

Night Gainesville: Earth Day

ALL ARE WELCOME

After a resoundingly successful launch, Queer Soup Night (QSN) is back for a second installment of its feel good/do good community supper. The donation-based fundraiser offers party-goers live music, a selection of three soups made by local chefs using locally-sourced ingredients, and the opportunity to come together in solidarity with the Gainesville Queer community.

In celebration of Earth Day, all proceeds from Queer Soup Night will benefit programming at Working Food. This local non-profit, which will also host the event in its beautiful mural-studded courtyard, is committed to a sustainable and equitable food future for all in North Central Florida.

Currently, Working Food hosts the Southern Heritage Seed Collective, coordinates multiple garden-based after school programs, and organizes the annual I Love Local Food Week. Build-out of a certified, commercial kitchen and entrepreneurial support program are ongoing.

QSN Gainesville is a spin-off of the original Brooklyn-based Queer Soup Night-a monthly gathering created in the wake of the 2016 election by Liz Alpern, chef and co-author of The Gefilte Manifesto, alongside a crew of active volunteers.

“At its heart, QSN is a party for queer folks and allies to gather in community and soak up the nourishment -- physical and mental -- we all need to keep doing the work we’re doing while facing our harsh political climate,” said Alpern. “It’s a space to feel supported and useful, to make a new friend, and to eat soup made with love by talented queer chefs.”

Not surprisingly, the inspiration for the first Gainesville QSN was cooked up in a

kitchen one evening by new friends Finn Plocek and Larissa Sheldon. Sheldon, a recent Brooklyn transplant, was an early co-conspirator of Alpern’s back in 2016. Soon, they had rallied a small band of big-hearted Gainesville queers around the idea, and the first QSN outside of New York was born.

Hosted by The Vine Bakery in January of this year, this initial fundraiser drew well over 100 attendees and raised more than \$1,000 for Gainesville Girls Rock Camp. The happy crowd noshed on fancifully-named soup options (Hot Chick, Sage Bush, and Root Chakra) and cozied up to the tunes of local musical act Wax Wings.

Queer Soup Night’s organizers hope to keep the Gainesville chapter active on a regular basis. They welcome enthusiastic volunteers and are specifically looking to highlight LGBTQ-identified chefs (especially Chefs of Color) as Soup Makers at future events. Contact them at qsgainesville@gmail.com. 🐾

Give these Pirates The Heave Ho! Rally to Get Out the Vote!

MUSIC...PIRATE KAZOO MARCHING BAND... GAMES FOR THE KIDS

In Melrose, FL Heritage Park, April 21 From 1 to 5 pm



A Rising Blue Wave Is Flooding The Countryside!

We Win our District when Everyone pulls together!

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Paid for by the Putnam County Democratic Executive Committee

WGOT studio ready to roll with upcoming events

**Rent party/Jam session: Apr. 14, 5-8pm
Civic Media Center
Benefit Concert: Sat., April 28
Hardback Café**

*By Fred Sowder
WGOT Station Manager*

It's been months in the making, but thanks to the patience and kindness of donors, listeners, and volunteers, WGOT is getting its studio together at the Civic Media Center for regular use beginning this summer. A finished studio will finally allow WGOT to present live programming featuring news, interviews, great new music, and more. Through the magic of Skype, we should also soon be able to take phone calls from listeners and guests.

These accomplishments can only continue to happen with your support. Like most radio stations, WGOT has regular monthly expenses such as rent and utilities as well as other rights fees that allow us to bring you the latest music across genres in addition to in-depth news and

analysis such as Democracy Now! with Amy Goodman and The Thom Hartmann Program. All of our local hosts and other members do so without payment or other compensation, so we are forever grateful for their steadfast service. However, your support, financially or otherwise, is vital for us to continue bringing you a compelling mix of local and national music and talk programs 24 hours a day.

Unbelievably, volunteering to help your community radio station can be something as simple as dragging programs into our schedule, which requires little to no broadcast experience and very little of your free time. This seemingly simple process would help us tremendously and help us achieve more long-term goals such as streaming our signal worldwide.

We hope you'll join us at our next few upcoming events to find out how you can help. On Saturday, April 14, we'll be having our monthly rent party and jam session at the Civic Media Center from 5 to 8pm with refreshments, entertainment, and hopefully

our first attempt at a live studio broadcast. A week later, on Saturday, April 21, we'll celebrate our first annual Robert Smith Day, featuring music and more from The Cure frontman's entire career throughout the day. It will be in celebration of the musical icon's 59th birthday.

Finally, we'll also have the next in our series of benefit concerts on Saturday night, April 28 at the Hardback Café, with local favorites Loose Bearings, Piss Test, and other surprises to be announced.

Sponsors and sustaining donors help us keep to our mission of providing grassroots, progressive programming to the local community. We also strive to be the college radio station that one of the largest college towns in America does not have. You can also find out how your business can get its message to our listeners for as little as \$50 per month by emailing Michele at underwriting@wgot.org.

Thanks for your continued support of grassroots community radio in Gainesville. 🐾

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Prison visitation cuts held at bay ... for now

By Panagiotti Tsolkas, *FightToxicPrisons.org*

In February, the Florida Department of Corrections announced intent to start a new visitation schedule, known as Rule Change, 33-601.722., that could leave a mere fraction of options available to prisoners and their families. Currently, visitation is allowed every weekend, from 9am to 3 pm, plus holidays. This averages over 50 hours of possible visitation a month. Proposed cuts would allow FDOC to provide half of the days (alternating weekends) and as little as two hours per visit, leaving an average of around 10 hours per month.

It was been studied and reported that frequent visitation is a driving force for prisoner rehabilitation (in the cases where that is needed). Visitation improves the rate of successful re-entry back into society and is proven to reduce recidivism rates—where currently over a quarter end up back in prison within three years.

Despite that, FDOC says that cuts are needed in an effort to reduce contraband. But by their own data, only 2.5 percent of all contraband

recovered enters through visits. This leaves 97.5 percent unaccounted for, and that points primarily to FDOC staff themselves bringing in the drugs, weapons and cell phones.

These cuts come on the heels of the #OperationPUSH prisoner strike launched in January, on MLK Day, where cell phones were used to communicate with the outside world about the protests and repression without fear of retaliation from violent guards.

A public hearing was held at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 3 in Tallahassee. Despite only one week's notice, over 100 people drove for hours across the state to provide comments on the rule change.

Florida is already one of the worst states for prison visitation (as it is with other bad prison policy and abysmal record of abuse.) New York state prisons, for example, still have visitation seven days a week. An effort by their governor to cut back to weekends, in favor of expensive video calls, was defeated last year by public opposition.


These cuts in Florida are coming in tandem with a new private contract to provide

video calling service for \$2.95 for 15 minutes. FDOC says the cuts and the contracts are not related. But those who spoke at the hearing, some who had decades of dealing with FDOC, repeatedly indicated no reason to trust the agency. All signs point to lobbying by the now-merged multi-million dollar contractors, JPay and Securus, as another major factor this decision.

The cuts were supposed to go into effect on a trial basis April 7. That has been delayed by public opposition, though they could still take effect in the coming months, if FDOC chooses to ignore public input.

Written comments concerning the policy change can be submitted until April 13, addressed to: FL Department of Corrections, Attn: Gregory Hill, Office of General Counsel, 501 S. Calhoun St., Tallahassee, FL 32399, or emailed to: CO-GCAgency-Clerk@fdc.myflorida.com

Specific language for the proposed rule change can be found on the FDOC's website: https://www.flrules.org/gateway/notice_Files.asp?ID=20211228 🐘



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the power to have a say ...*

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Deborah Cupples

History and the people who make it: Clarence Sears, pt. 2

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

This is the 47th in a series of transcript excerpts from the UF Samuel Proctor Oral History Program collection.

Transcript edited by Pierce Butler.

Content note: This interview, like the previous excerpt in the March Iguana, includes offensive racial slurs, repeated intact here for historical accuracy.

This portion of the interview is continued from the March, 2018 Iguana. Part 1 can be found at: <http://www.gainesvilleiguana.org/2018/articles/history-and-the-people-who-make-it-clarence-sears/>

S: The Klan died in that moment, in Duval County. Once the Klan know that they're not secret, they've lost it. Scared to death.

They kept meeting in a little barn on what is now Bay Meadows Road. In those days it was a dirt street, and a guy had a little barn there. It had a room upstairs, and that became our clubhouse, but it never was the same. Nobody ever advocated violence. They'd just come and talk about Americanism [Laughter].

They took down all of the "White only" signs, and right then it was over, because of that violence. Same way in Birmingham. The ones who won the Civil Rights battle were the four little girls that got blown up, and they finally said "Enough is enough is enough."

M: When you were downtown on Ax Handle Saturday did you see any of the violence?

S: When I got there, here comes Mercer. "Hey brother Sears! Get in here and help me," he says. "We're going to pass out these bats," and there were already White people walking along. "Here's a baseball bat, or an ax handle." New ones he bought. I don't know where he got the money.

He was kind of another Don Quixote. Mercer Johns gave his life for the "Great" cause. He'd been in the right wing all his adult life practically. He had guns, lots of guns. And old mimeograph machines. The FBI probably had a Xerox machine, but most people would grind out on these mimeograph machines. If you were into some kind of a cause, that's what you had to have.

One cold night we had a cross burning out north of Jacksonville up in Nassau County, a county park up there. We were

going to put confederate flags on your car, and have a parade. Mercer Johns had a big wooden cross. That was to be the fire cross, and they would go up and make their speeches.

We had ten cars, and we had on our white robes. Mercer was getting ready to make his speech we'd heard a thousand times, and somebody came up. "See that car?" There was another car pulling up. "It's loaded with niggers." "What they doing here?" "Well, there's nobody else."

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Here comes another car, it's loaded, and they don't do anything, just park there listening. "Let's get the hell out of here."

We didn't have any onlookers, except two carloads of Blacks. So much for that cross burning in Callahan. [Laughter]. It was a total failure that night.

M: Did the Black people ever get out of the car?

S: No, they didn't do a thing, but Mercer stopped his speech, and started folding up there, trying to put in goddamn fuses out. You can't put them out. [Laughter].

Jacksonville's establishment didn't want this violence downtown. They didn't care about the Black people so much. Maybe they did, I don't know, but what they cared about is just don't make our city a place noted for violence. They wanted to "just keep the lid on this thing." Jaime Walker, he left Jacksonville forever. I guess. That was typical of a Klans.

M: What made it so that you were not caught up in the Klan? You grew up as a White Baptist in the south, right?

S: You know, as I mentioned about President Obama, my father died, and I was nine years old. He was on a baseball team at a cigar factory. I was batboy at nine years old. I know now what I was doing. I'm looking for my father. And I couldn't be the same.

Just before my father died of pneumonia, we went to the beach on Fourth of July, and that was a big deal! He was making like 30 cents an hour at the cigar factory. It cost twenty cents to ride the ferry across the river. That would be like ten or fifteen dollars to go to the beach.

The Fourth of July in Jacksonville was fabulous. Big wooden roller coaster, all the goodies, the Ferris wheels; it's like a circus. We're going to the beach! And we're so excited. You only went once, maybe once in a lifetime. Of course we didn't get to ride all these things [Laughter]. We didn't have that kind of money.

First we stopped at a place where macho men took their shirts off, he-men, pounding this big wooden mallet down on a lever. Sending this little cannon ball up, up, up to the big alarm there. When they couldn't get it, everybody says, "Oh." Everybody want somebody to ring the bell. Well, my dad was little tiny Catholic from Boston, surely he didn't weigh a hundred pounds. My sister and I went across the street, they had two Black guys. You know Amos 'n' Andy?

They were radio black-faced White guys actually. Amos 'n' Andy, sitting on this bench, and the guy was selling baseballs. Shooting a baseball at a target caused these niggers to fall in the water with a big splash. And everybody, "Yay! Hey, watch them niggers now."

This was 1937. Nobody talked about race relations much, but it was ugly, really ugly. My sister was like 13 and I was nine. I was standing there holding her hand, and somebody came up and paid the quarter and Amos 'n' Andy fell into the water, and boy we were whooping it up, really laughing.

My dad came and pulled us away. I said, "What's he mad about? We're having fun, Daddy." I said, "Daddy, you're playing baseball on the team. You could hit that target." "Just come on, let's go."

We went over to where that guy was standing with a hammer. He was madder than hell, about us being over in that thing, and he off and hit it. And it didn't

make a little ting, it went up there with a loud gong. According to Melissa, it shook the boardwalk [Laughter].

My mother come running back just in time to get the ten dollars that my dad had won. That's like a hundred today. And daddy got a little wooden hammer just like the mallet that they were using, and he put it on the dashboard of our little Chevrolet. It stayed there till long after he died.

I said, "How come he was so mad?" She [said,] "I'm not going to tell you, figure it out."

He's mad about mistreatment of Black people. But I wouldn't know, since I wasn't from Boston [Laughter]. What I remember now was his principles.

M: Did the Klan have any influence in the police departments?

S: No, the Klan was a lot more decent than people thought [Laughter]. They didn't have a good reputation. That's the kiss of death, if you want to run for politics.

Twenty years before that they had some respect. Everybody was joining in back in the [19]20s, but it was looked on as kind of a Christian organization. By the time I was in it wasn't something you'd brag about.

J.B. Stoner was later a Klan type. These people, like J.B., would have clubs of various kinds. It's just to get money.

We had an old saying, If you want to join the Klan there's three things you got to have. "You hate niggers?" "Yeah." "You hate Jews?" "Yeah." "You have ten dollars?" [Laughter] That's just about the way it was.

Donald Trump is an expression of angry White men who don't like all the modern stuff that's going on, the political correctness.

"You can't say anything." They think a lot of things are laws, and there's no law against you using the word nigger, but I wouldn't advise it. Not only are you going to hurt somebody, but people are going to look down on you, because it identifies you as a troublemaker. But it's not against the law.

M: The White Citizens' Council, did you go to any of those meetings?

S: Yeah, a lot of them. When I first started working for this Jewish community, they would send me. We met at the Brentwood Baptist Church. They were moderate, establishment Baptist. They worried about property values, and that Blacks were moving in. So they'd say "We could buy

the property if it's up for sale, and trying to sell it to Blacks. We could buy it as a group." – that was the kind of thing you would run into. It wasn't hatred, it's fear of what would happen to our neighborhood.

I went to the [KKK] meeting one night, and somebody had got a copy of the Unitarian Church membership list, and lo and behold there was Clarence Sears on the list.

"Brother Sears, one of our members here has got kind of disturbed about it." The EC at that time, Cooksey was his name, he says "What are you to make out of that?"

I said, "Well, Brother Cooksey, these people are Communist, and I'm trying to find out what's going on."

"Oh really?"

I said, "I didn't know they put my name on the list, but that's kind a good place for me to be; see what's going on. But if it compromises our group, I wouldn't want to hurt that. So I want kind of drift out of this."

He says, "Well, no, we don't want you to..." [Laughter].

I was a good dues-paying member. They never questioned. I was very careful not to get too rowdy. I'd go to the meetings, do things, but If I made a speech, it was about patriotism. Oddly enough I never heard a word from any of them. Nobody's ever confronted me. I'm not hiding. Even when I was in the front page in the Times Union telling the same story I'm telling you, never got a call.

That's just most of the people dead and gone. I was in my thirties and the officers were twenty years older.

M: Any final thoughts?

S: I'm a happy guy. Happiest person you'll ever meet in your life. I've had all these things that have happened, but I feel very very good about it, and the good guys are always winning in the end.

My first wife played the organ in a Baptist church and her granddaddy was a Baptist preacher, and her mother didn't know us in doing anything with the FBI, that was my mother-in-law. One day, she says, "If these Black people," she called them colored, "if they start going to the schools, you're going to wind up and have a Black grandchild."

Well, guess what? My granddaughter has a Black baby. Her grandma was right [Laughter]. I hope somehow she gets some kind of influence.

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


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

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From GUN LAWS, p. 2

enact laws to promote health and public safety. This is the foundation for the idea of ordered liberty. The regulation of gun powder and firearms arises from an exercise of this basic liberty.

In 1786, Boston acted on this legal principle, prohibiting the storage of a loaded firearm in any domestic dwelling in the city. Guns had to be kept unloaded, a practice that made sense since the black powder used in firearms in this period was corrosive. Loaded guns also posed a particular hazard in cases of fire because they might discharge and injure innocent bystanders and those fighting fires.

#5: Loyalty oaths

One of the most common claims one hears in the modern Second Amendment debate is the assertion that the Founders included this provision in the Constitution to make possible a right of revolution. But this claim, too, rests on a serious misunderstanding of the role the right to bear arms played in American constitutional theory.

In fact, the Founders engaged in large-scale disarmament of the civilian population during the American Revolution. The right to bear arms was conditional on swearing a loyalty oath to the government. Individuals who refused to swear such an oath were disarmed.

The notion that the Second Amendment was understood to protect a right to take up arms against the government is absurd. Indeed, the Constitution itself defines such an act as treason.

Gun regulation and gun ownership have always existed side by side in American history. The Second Amendment poses no obstacle to enacting sensible gun laws. The failure to do so is not the Constitution's fault; it is ours. 🐢

From BOLTON, p. 1

foreign source or by securing the materials to build an indigenous fissile material capability -- it could fabricate a nuclear weapon within one year.”

This deceitful strategy went beyond Iraq: In 2002, Bolton had his staff prepare a speech for the president that alleged that Cuba had an active biological weapons program, which was patently untrue. The lead bioweapons analyst for the State Department at the time refused to sign off on the preposterous claim.

Now, he has already openly argued for attacking North Korea, and has spoken out publicly against diplomatic efforts, including the upcoming talks in May between Trump and Kim Jong Un.

Similarly, Bolton has repeatedly called

for bombing Iran. He has a record of favoring unilateral solutions to delicate issues such as these -- “solutions” that would almost guarantee the loss of another million lives, for starters.

Meanwhile, he has consistently disparaged the UN and shown an open disdain for diplomacy, advocating military solutions at every turn.

“There’s no such thing as the United Nations,” Bolton has said. In 1994, he also said that if the United Nations Secretariat building in New York “lost 10 stories, it wouldn’t make a bit of difference.”

And let us not forget about the so-called “Axis of Evil” -- North Korea, Iraq and Iran: Bolton claims this “axis” went beyond rhetoric, and that there was “a hard connection between these regimes

-- an ‘axis’ along which flow dangerous weapons and dangerous technology.”

One would think that this kind of man would have made himself irrelevant by now, and beyond disqualified for any sort of public office. But in the world of Trump, where truth does not matter -- and is often viewed as an inconvenience -- Bolton has become the perfect man for his job.

We don’t have to guess what Bolton’s “national security” strategy would be. I saw it with my own eyes on the streets of Iraq.

This time, when the US goes on the attack -- against North Korea, Iran or someone else -- there will be even less slowing it down.

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From ELECTIONS, p. 1

Beyond that, here is a thumbnail view of what’s coming up in the Primaries on August 28 for our region:

U.S. Senate: Incumbent Bill Nelson will have some challengers in the primary, but the main event is November,

Florida Governor: We like Andrew Gillum in the primary. Gwen Graham and Philip Levine are also in the running.

U.S. Rep. District 3: Defeating Yoho is much desired.

Dushyant Gosai, Yvonne Hinson Hayes, and Tom Wells are in the primary as challengers. All three would be vast improvements in what will be a tough race thanks to gerrymandering; hopefully,

unity will reign after the primary.

Wells has been a candidate against Yoho previously and has been showing great improvement on the stump.

State Senate District 8: Kayser Enncking and Olysha Magruder are Democrats running to unseat Keith Perry. Both women are good choices with the former a doctor and the latter a teacher. We like Olysha a lot.

State Rep. District 21: Unseating Chuck Clemons is the goal here. As of now, there are two democrats in the primary, Jason Haeseler and Amol Jethwani. Amol is very active with College Democrats and has a fired up youthful core of workers and progressive vision. Again, a hope for unity after the primary.

Alachua Co. District 2: Democratic Primary is a race between two really nice people on the Democratic side -- Randy Wells and Marihelen Wheeler in a race to succeed Lee Pinkoson. We like Marihelen.

Alachua Co. District 4: Re-elect Ken Cornell. No opponent at this time.

School Board District 1: We like Tina Certain to defeat incumbent April Griffin.

School Board District 3 and 5: At press time, neither Gunnar Paulson nor Rob Hyatt have challengers.

Other candidates can still jump in or opt out through July 30, but this looks like the menu.

Bon appetit. 🐞

Iguana Directory

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

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

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

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

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

Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs (ACORN) Clinic is a not-for-profit (501C3) organization that provides low-cost, high-quality medical and dental care, and social services for people with and without health insurance. The clinic primarily serves residents of Alachua, Bradford and Union Counties. The Clinic fulfills its mission with the help of a broad-based core of volunteer physicians, nurses, dentists, hygienists,

pharmacists and counselors. Located at 23320 N. State Rd 235 Brooker, Florida 32622 352-485-1133

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

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

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

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

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@fam.org. 352-682-2542

Final Friends helps families learn how to accomplish legal home funeral care as an alternative to employing a commercial funeral home. We are an independent group of volunteers who provide free education, guidance and support to 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@lww-alachua.org<mailto:info@lww-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.ncpssm.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, nw1@womensliberation.org

NCF AWIS is an advocacy organization championing the interest of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) across all disciplines and employment sectors. Meetings are usually the first Monday of the month (except holidays) from 5:30 -7:30 pm Millhopper Branch, Alachua County Public Library. All meetings open to public. ncfawis@gmail.com or www.ncfawis.org

Occupy Gainesville is about engaging local people in grassroots, participatory democracy, diversity and dialogue; we stand in solidarity with the Occupy Wall Street Movement and the rest of the people peacefully occupying public space across this county and the 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 LGBT+ 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 comprehensive 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 from the landfill, redirects these items to the public for art and education, inspires creativity, and helps us all rethink what we throw away. Lets all help protect the 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 organization 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.floridiansforfairdemocracy.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 Menonite 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](https://www.facebook.com/UFcollegedems)

UF Pride Student Union LGBT+ group open to queer folk of all sorts, including 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. info@wgot.org, 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/](https://www.instagram.com/womensmarchgnv/); [Twitter.com/WMFL_Gnv/](https://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> 🐾



Sara Amatniek at CMC's ArtWalk

The Civic Media Center's ArtWalk for Friday, April 27 will feature an opportunity to purchase low-cost prints by New York-based artist Sara Amatniek. Ms. Amatniek, the mother of Gainesville resident Kathy Sarachild, died in 1996, and this is a sale of her unframed printworks at a discounted price. Amatniek's works were displayed around the NYC area, as well as in Egypt, Israel and India. They are colorful, textured prints of great detail, and their production incorporates contemporary techniques and ancient forms of printmaking.

Sara Amatniek was a feminist who strongly supported the work of her daughter Kathy, a founding member of Redstockings of the Women's Liberation Movement (founded in the late 1960s). The proceeds of the sale will benefit the continued work of Redstockings, now an activist think tank and archive project working to advance the Women's Liberation agenda, and the Civic Media Center and Stetson Kennedy Library, a progressive community resource center marking its 25th year in 2018.

The CMC is at 433 S. Main St., with parking on SE Fifth Ave. or on South Main Street. The sale will run from 7-10 pm. There will be live music starting shortly after 9pm. 🐾

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WORKING TOWARDS DEGENTRIFICATION OF OUR COMMUNITY

April 20-22, 2018

20th - 6 pm-8 pm

Reception at

A. Quinn Jones Auditorium

21st - 10 am - 7 pm

22nd - noon - 5 pm

Stage Performances & Exhibits

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