

The Gainesville Iguana

*A progressive newsletter
and events calendar*

**September, 2018
Vol. 32, Issue 9**

KEEP GRU LOCAL

by Susan Bottcher

It's a bit ironic that "Local Referendum 1" is the title Rick Scott has given one of the most outrageous attacks on local control in Florida history.

There's nothing local about any of it.

This is purely a scheme to take over Gainesville Regional Utilities, backed by a bill sponsored by Chuck Clemons and Keith Perry and pushed by special interests around the state.

If it passes it would put our community-owned utility in the hands of unelected political appointees. Furthermore, since it's a Tallahassee bill, the state legislature has the power to make changes to it without involving GRU, the governing board, the city commission or you, the citizens.

This is the first time in Florida history that the legislature has forced a charter vote on a local city against their wishes.

Currently GRU is overseen by the people of Gainesville who elect the City Commission to govern how it is run. The governing board model, called the Authority, that Tallahassee is pushing on us, would be appointed by the commission.

But that is where the oversight ends. Even though they appoint them, the city com-

mission cannot remove any members of the Authority, short of a criminal conviction, nor can you vote them out of office. The commission will be prohibited from

changing any decisions the Authority makes. The Authority will write its own code of ethics and rules of business con-

See GRU, p. 21



Amy Goodman coming for CMC 25th

Event: CMC 25th Anniversary Celebration with Amy Goodman

Where: Forage Hall, Working Food, 219 NW 10th Ave., Gainesville

When: Oct. 19, 7:15-9 pm; doors at 6:30 pm

by Joe Courter

The Civic Media Center and Stetson Kennedy Library will be marking its 25th anniversary in October, and we have landed one of the most appropriate speakers pos-

sible, Amy Goodman, the longtime host of Democracy Now!

This is a national radio (and video streamed) one hour newscast that has been

See Goodman, p. 21

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Prisoners lead the way on another nationwide strike, Students announce intent to follow with walkout

By Gainesville IWOC

On August 21, prisoners from groups including Jailhouse Lawyers Speak and the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC) indicated that dozens of facilities in at least 17 states have initiated actions based on a common set of 10 demands, covering basic human rights issues such as fair access to the vote, the court system, paid labor, parole opportunities and real rehabilitative programming, rather than the current system of warehousing people indefinitely.

The focused days of action are anticipated to continue until September 9. The chosen dates signify a remembrance of prisoner activist George Jackson's assassination and the Attica uprising, which occurred respectively in 1971, the first event sparking the other.

Since the time of the Attica uprising, the U.S. prison population has increased by around 700 percent – well over 2 million people locked up today, significantly outpacing an increase in population and crime.

This month's strike plan is the latest in a string of prisoner-led initiatives to apply

pressure on the political system that birthed the epidemic of mass incarceration.

In September of 2016, Florida prisoners kicked off what became the largest coordinated effort by prisoners to push back against the criminal justice system.

Though the momentum had been building in recent years through a series of protests, work stoppages and hunger strikes occurring in other states, including Texas, Alabama, Georgia and California, Florida prisons were propelled into the spotlight.

On September 7 of that year, hundreds of prisoners in Holmes C.I., one of the many remote panhandle facilities, experienced a massive revolt. The FL Department of Corrections (FDOC) called it a "large-scale disturbance" and attempted to deny any connection to an organized protest. By the end of the week, 10 other facilities reported disturbances, and the connection to the nationwide strike became undeniable.

Organizations including the Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons and Gainesville IWOC established communications with hundreds of prisoners through letter-writing campaigns and published reports

on the protests, the conditions that led to them and the repression that participants faced as a result. In the following years, Florida prisoners built on this work, announcing Operation PUSH on MLK Day and a call to action for Juneteenth 2018.

At the time of *Iguana's* publication, detailed news of strike activity is only beginning to trickle out, but reports of sit-in protests and retaliatory lockdowns are already coming out of Florida prisons, along with prisons in an estimated 17 other states.

As momentum builds around the strike, students nationally are also beginning to discuss a solidarity strike, or student walk out, in various states if the prisoners' demands are not being addressed by state and federal agencies.

Due to retaliation faced by prisoners involved in organizing, many prisoners choose to remain anonymous. Likewise, family and friends of prisoners have found that retaliation has also occurred as a result of their advocacy on the outside. For example, family members who spoke up against Florida DOC's proposed visitation cuts earlier this year found that their loved ones faced interrogations, harassment and even forced transfers to other facilities as a result of the public hearings, demonstrations and social media activism they engaged in.

A student activist, requesting to remain unnamed, provided the following statement in regards to prison strike solidarity walkout plans in Gainesville and Tallahassee:

"If Julie Jones doesn't agree to meet with our mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters who are locked up and are demanding basic human rights, such as pay for their work, reinstatement of parole, and an end to price gouging at commissary, then we will call students to also go on strike and not attend school or stage walkouts ... As students made quite clear following the uprisings in response to the Parkland shooting, a new youth movement is building and it will not be restrained to a single issue. This whole system has to change from racist gun violence to prison profiteering and voter suppression. Our communities will not stand for it anymore."

Follow Gainesville IWOC on Facebook for updates on the strike and upcoming solidarity events. 🐊

From the publisher ...

This show must not go on

by Joe Courter

Boy oh boy, the circus really rolled into town in January 2017. The press is just wearing itself out chasing after all the flim-flammery. The cast of clowns, Sean Spicer, the Mooch, Kelly Ann Conway. And all those irresistible tweets, just guaranteeing multiple minutes of the news cycle every day. And then central casting came up with a great line-up of a sort of villainous side show, you can almost imagine the midway barker trying to lure you in, come see the hyper-moralistic vice president Pence; the secretary of education DeVos, who knows nothing of public schools; the anti-science Sec. of Interior Zinke; the Sec. of Energy who wanted to eliminate Dept. of Energy Perry and good old boy Sessions as Attorney General.

And then there are legalistic high-wire acts, attorneys like Michael Cohen who operate outside of the law. Will he fall? Is there a safety net? Or the other attorney Rudy Giuliani; certainly that's got to be an act. There's the former head of the election campaign committee, Paul Manafort, whose life is a veritable clown car of shady dealings, an international track record of sleaze. How do the media and the citizens keep up with it? There are just so many entertaining acts to draw their attention to. They simply stay there and go with the easy stories that are presented to them in the three-ring circus that is the Trump administration. There is such a good view there under the Big Top, why there's hardly a need to go anywhere else.

Well, there is a lot of "anywhere else" to be covering. Things that affect more people, things with important and compelling story lines and history, which are what news media used to spend more time on and citizens cared more about. Things in this country, like how is it that Flint still doesn't have clean water, that we have a pharmaceutical industry-created opioid crisis ravaging the country, that Puerto Rico was left without electric power for so long with so little help.

Outside the country, seemingly endless wars are being fought that were either started by the US or are spin-offs from the destabilization caused by the US-started wars, and are being facilitated by US allies, using US-supplied weapons. Yemen is a prime example of this, see: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/american-made-bombs-in-yemen-are-killing-civilians-destroying-infrastructure-and-fueling-anger-at-the-u-s>.

We have had a diminution of diplomacy in favor of more war, more posturing, crippling sanctions which only hurt the citizens and give authoritarian leaders even more of a strange hold on power. Not only is there no diplomacy, here in this country there is no longer a peace movement. We have reached the level talked about in Huxley's *Brave New World*, where there is always some war going on somewhere; it is as normal as the weather and no one cares.

This is serious stuff going on. Hard-fought-for rights and well-researched regulations are being cast aside. We have as President a man/boy of limited intellect emulating what his authoritarian role models are doing; that is trying to undermine a free media, creating internal divisions among the citizens, and vilifying people who disagree or criticize as the enemy. As of now he is operating unchallenged to any degree, benefiting from a Republican majority in power through their gaming the system over the past decade but then being too cowed by this long-time con man to resist. We have a fractured Democratic party which would rather compromise than lead, and a mass media who have become the ringmasters of the circus.

We get out of this by organizing, resisting, and seeking others to engage with. And right now for many, it is getting out the vote, supporting candidates, and hoping, as we have been seeing, a big Blue Wave comes in November. Among people reading this are people to either side of this position, those young (or not) who have never engaged in politics, and those who feel that the system is corrupt and can't see institutional change happening. If you are a citizen, you need to be engaged somehow or you are dead weight on us all. If you are in the former category, keep reading, questioning and find a way to plug in with other people or organizations. In the latter category, just plug into something that is directly helping others. We elected a clown. We got a circus. But that show should not just go on. Resist. 🐊



Joe Courter

Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

🐊 **Introducing The Florida Phoenix** by Julie Hauserman

The Florida Phoenix, part of a new wave of progressive nonprofit news organizations, publishes stories on current events. Check them out:

<https://www.floridaphoenix.com/2018/07/05/introducing-the-florida-phoenix/>

🐊 **Donald Trump is a Dangerous Demagogue. It's Time for a Crusading Press to Fight Back** by James Risen, The Intercept in partnership with Press Freedom Defense Fund
The response to Trump by the American press is still too tepid; what is needed now is crusading series journalism by groups of reporters from all over America joining together in a "Trump Project."

<https://theintercept.com/2018/08/16/donald-trump-media-enemy-of-the-people/>

🐊 **The War on Peace** by Tino Rozzo, The Dissident - A Democratic Socialist Blog
The Yemeni Civil War is yet another illegal immoral war based on regime maintenance and war crimes. Crimes against humanity have gone on too long.

<https://tinorozzo.wordpress.com/2018/08/16/the-war-on-peace/>

🐊 **Inside the Pro-Trump Effort to Keep Black Voters From the Polls** by Lauren Etter and Michael Riley, Bloomberg Businessweek
This is a rather disturbing look at how big money can create voter suppression.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2018-05-29/inside-the-pro-trump-effort-to-keep-black-voters-from-the-polls>

🐊 **How to interfere in a foreign election** by Stephen Kinzer, Boston Globe
If the United States had not crashed into a presidential election in Russia 22 years ago, we almost certainly would not be dealing with Putin today.

https://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/2018/08/18/how-interfere-foreign-election/M4JZpgqqiOsPXbTKPAu5L/story.html?s_campaign=8315

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

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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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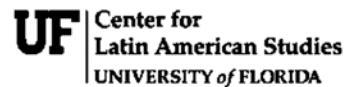
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www.GainesvilleLatinoFilmFestival.com

FILMS

Todos Queremos A Alguien / Everybody Loves Somebody Sept. 13 @ 6:30pm -9:00pm Harn Museum of Art	La Cámara Oscura / Camera Oscura Sept. 19 @ 7:00pm Historic Thomas Center	El Verano de los Peces Voladores /The Summer of Flying Fish Sept. 27 @ 7:00pm Historic Thomas Center	The Gainesville Latino Film Festival comes to Tacachale! Sept. 19 @ 7:00pm
Ella / She Sept. 14 @ 7:00pm Historic Thomas Center	La Distancia más Larga / The Longest Distance Sept. 20 @ 7:00pm Historic Thomas Center	Angélica / Angelica Sept. 29 @ 3:00pm Matheson History Museum	La Hora Del Cuento en Español Sept. 22 & 29 @ 10:30am Millhopper Library Branch
Gigantes Descalzos / Barefoot Giants Sept. 15 @ 3:00pm Matheson History Museum	Era o Hotel Cambridge/ The Cambridge Squatter Sept. 23 @ 3:00pm UF Smathers Library (East) 1st Floor, Room 100	Una Mujer Fantástica / A Fantastic Women Sept. 30 @ 7:00pm Historic Thomas Center	Theater: In the Heights Sept. 21 @ 8:00pm Star Center Theater
No Más Bebés/ No More Babies Sept. 16 @ 3:00pm UF Smathers Library (East) 1 st Floor, Room 100	El Jeremias/ Jeremy Sept. 24 @ 7:00pm The Woolly	Noche de Museo Sept. 13 @ 5:30pm -9:00pm Harn Museum of Art	Noche de Panamá/ A Night of Panama" Sept. 22 @ 6:00pm E-Theater , Bldg. E, Santa Fe College
2nd Short Film Contest Sept. 17 @ 7:00pm The Woolly	Sept. 25 @ 7:00pm E-Theater , Bldg. E, Santa Fe College	Tablas de Sarhua /Sarhua Boards From Perú Sept. 13 - Oct. 15 Cone Park Library Branch	Salsa Concert: Gilberto de Paz & TROPIX Sept. 28 @ 8:00pm - 10:00pm Bo Diddley Community Plaza, Gainesville
ZAMA / Zama Sept. 18 @ 7:00pm E-Theater , Bldg. E, Santa Fe College	Alba / Alba Sept. 26 @ 7:00pm Historic Thomas Center	Viva Museum! Latin American Artifacts, Music, and Dance Sept. 15, @10:00am - 3:00pm Florida Museum of Natural History	Artwalk Gainesville Sept. 28 @ 7:00pm - 10:00pm Downtown Gainesville
		UF Hispanic Heritage Month 2018/ Literacy Fair Sept. 25 @ 12:00 - 3:00pm Reitz Union North Lawn, University of Florida	



Please plan to arrive as early as possible to improve your chances of admission. It's recommended that you arrive 30 minutes early to the screenings. See <http://gainesvillelatinofilmfestival.com> for descriptions of each film and additional information.

Alachua County Supervisor of Elections expands access to early voting

By Jacob Kovach

Alachua County residents will have easier access to early voting options with the addition of three new early voting sites for the 2018 General Election.

The Legacy Park Multipurpose Center in Alachua, Melrose United Methodist Church and J. Wayne Reitz Union will be used for 2018 General Election early voting.

Both the Legacy Park Multipurpose Center and Melrose United Methodist Church were used as 2018 Primary Election early voting locations. The J. Wayne Reitz Union, located in the center of the University of Florida's campus, was added as a location following a ruling from a federal judge allowing the selection of locations on college or university campuses.

Early voting for the 2018 General Election will begin Oct. 22 and last through Nov. 3. All locations will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day.

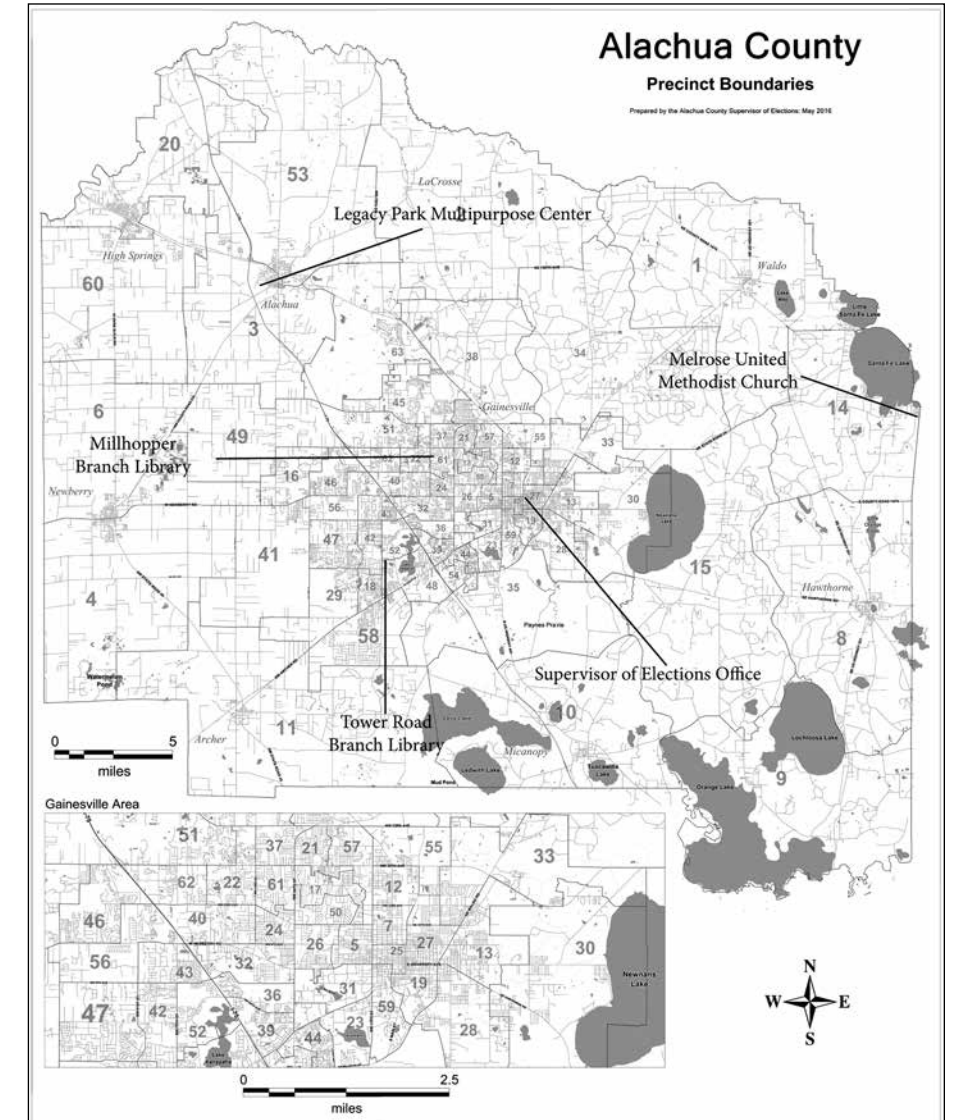
During the Primary Election, the Alachua and Melrose early voting locations saw lower traffic than the locations that were open in previous years – a fact that Alachua County Supervisor of Elections Kim A. Barton expected.

"As these locations remain open for future elections and more voters become aware of them, we anticipate an increase in the number of voters at each location," Barton said, adding that her office is unsure what early voting turnout will be like at the J. Wayne Reitz Union.

Barton, who was elected in 2016, said that the opening of the new locations represents an important expansion of services to voters who live outside Gainesville and those who live or work near or on the University of Florida campus.

The Millhopper Branch Library, Tower Road Branch Library and the Supervisor of Elections Office, all in Gainesville, have been used as early voting locations for multiple elections, though the Supervisor of Elections Office moved to its current location on North Main Street in 2016.

Barton stressed the importance and convenience of alternatives to Election Day voting, especially due to the unprecedented length of the 2018 General Election ballot, which could include up to 17 bal-



lot measures for voters in Gainesville. In addition to early voting, any voter in Alachua County can request a vote-by-mail ballot – no reason or excuse needed.

Alachua County voters can request a vote-by-mail ballot by going to VoteAlachua.com/MBRS or calling 352-374-5252.

"We work hard to make sure that voters have options when it comes to casting their ballots. Whether you vote early, vote by mail or vote on Election Day, we just want to ensure that your voice is heard," Barton said.

Jacob Kovach is a communications intern for the Alachua County Supervisor of Elections.

Hey, Readers!

The Gainesville Iguana has opened a PayPal account, and we're now accepting donations through our website at www.gainesvilleiguana.org.

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

We thank you very much!



LGBTQ supporters march in the 48th Heritage of Pride Parade March on 5th Avenue between 14th and 15th Streets in New York City on June 24. The annual parade and march aims to raise awareness about the need for gay rights. Supporters cheered them with shouts of "Happy Pride." Photo by by Elvert Barnes.

Gainesville native marches in NYC Pride Parade

by Fiona Llana

On June 25 in Manhattan, the anticipation was building. I waited in my holding area for the New York City based company with which I was marching. It was just outside a lovely Asian restaurant that the company had rented out for a few hours on the corner of 16th Street and 9th Avenue.

About 200 employees and plus ones had turned out for the annual LGBTQ Pride March. Those most closely involved insist on calling the event a March as it is intended to continue to raise

awareness about the need for Gay Rights and, therefore, acts more as a protest march than a celebration parade.

The reason I was involved for the second year running is that as a straight ally of the LGBTQ community, I feel strongly that Gay Rights are Human Rights. It's as simple as that.

So I was a plus one for my boyfriend, who is the straight ally liaison for his company.

I did see some striking outfits along the way. Men of all ages wearing glamorous feathered, bejeweled, or even spiked head dresses.

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Men in super high heels. Men in drag. Men in leather. Men in thongs getting spray painted. And women nude from the waist up.

In NYC, you see it all, but the theme of an event like this is a message of acceptance. It goes beyond tolerance. It is a statement of validation that who a person is attracted to and falls in love with does not mean he or she should be denied any human rights.

In the end, all people want and need to feel welcome and accepted just as they are.

One new thing about this year was the route. Whereas before it had gone south on 5th Avenue to Greenwich Village, this year it went south down 7th Avenue, east through the Village, and north along 5th Avenue.

The reason for the change is to prepare for next year's World Pride Day and March. The new route was decided on for this year in order to give it a trial run. It seemed to work fine although the enthusiasm among the spectators along 5th Avenue was much stronger than that of the first two legs of the route, which was good.

Last year, I remember my waves to the crowd being met with waves in response, but it was less so at the beginning of the day. But once we got to 5th Avenue, the crowds were very into it, with full throttle cheers of "Happy Pride," and that was much more fun.

My boyfriend and I are committed to supporting LGBTQ rights. We are all human; let's be nice to each other regardless of who you love.

Upcoming local pride events

GNV Pride Awards Dinner

Friday, Oct. 12
Sweetwater Branch Inn , 625 E. University Ave
6pm: cocktails, 7pm: dinner

GNV Pride Parade & Festival

Saturday, Oct. 20
Noon: Parade
1-9pm: Festival at Bo Diddley Plaza



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SEPTEMBER

- 7 The Shambles (Classic Rock)
- 14 The Impostors (The Beatles Tribute)
- 21 Michael Claytor & His Friends (Folk, Pop)
- 28 Gilberto De Paz & Tropix (Latin Fusion)
In Partnership with Gainesville Latino Film Festival

OCTOBER

- 5 Both Sides Now: A Tribute to the Music of Joni Mitchell by Cathy DeWitt & Friends
- 12 A Tribute to the Music of the Woodstock Era
Highlighting the Work of Jimi Hendrix
by The Relics & Michael Derry & Friends
- 19 UF World Music Ensembles
Jacare Brazil, Agbedidi Africa, Sunshine Steelers & Pazení Sauti Africa Choir

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<http://gnvculturalseries.org/free-fridays-concert-series/>



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THE REPURPOSE PROJECT

Repurpose Project has new hours

By Sarah Goff

The Repurpose Project (1920 NE 23rd Ave.) is excited to announce we are expanding our hours of operation. For years we have gotten requests to stay open later and offer Sunday hours from customers who work 9-5 jobs so that they can shop at our store. We are thrilled to finally be able to offer these extra hours. We will now be staying open until 7pm on Tues-Sat and on Sunday from 12-5pm.


Our new hours are: Tues-Sat: 10am-7pm, Sunday: 12-5pm and Monday: closed.

Our organization has a mission of waste reduction, landfill diversion, and trash education. We believe that extending our hours and making it easier to shop will further our mission of encouraging more reuse of what is already in our communities instead of continuing the trend of buying new items that need to be manufactured and shipped from far away places. When you buy something used, you eliminate all that goes into producing a new product. The raw materials don't have to be harvested or mined from the planet. The water needed for manufacturing isn't used. The energy needed to harvest/mine, produce, and ship the product isn't used. The packaging is eliminated. Buying USED items instead of NEW is good for the planet!"

"Our organization wants to help people realize that buying used items is as green as you can get when it comes to material possessions," said co-founder Sarah Goff. "People often don't have time to research every manufacturer to make sure they are environmentally friendly. Even environmentally friendly products use energy and water for manufacturing and transportation, but when you buy something used, you can be certain that you are only supporting that reuse store, their mission, and the people who work there."

The Repurpose Project is a non-profit community based effort to divert useful resources from the landfill, redirect these items to the public for art and education, inspire creativity, and help us all rethink what we throw away. Let's all help protect the planet and buy USED!

To learn more about The Repurpose Project visit their website: www.repurposeproject.org And their event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1374929812590392/?ti=icl>



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Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School students from Parkland speak at the Gainesville Women's Club on the fatal shooting at their school last February. Alachua County students joined them in a discussion on making schools safer. Photo by Aris Polyzos.

Parkland students' tour comes to Gainesville

By Joe Courter

On Friday July 27, the bus tour by students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas (MSD) High School in Parkland, Florida, arrived in Gainesville and was met by an overflow crowd at the Gainesville Women's Club.

The program featured speeches by MSD students who movingly recounted their experiences on the day of the fatal shooting at their school last February, their sense of shock and loss with the deaths and wounding of family members and friends, and their powerful commitment to make this tragedy yield some future gain.

A panel discussion and Q&A ensued with a mix of students from MSD and Alachua County schools on how to make schools safer, how the tour had been going, and what other actions they've been taking.

Shadowing the students' tour was a pro-gun organization, the "Utah Gun Exchange," traveling in a big motor home and an armored flag-flying Humvee, ominously black with pro-

gun slogans. A half dozen men from this group quite obviously filmed the event, using headset communications and providing a sort of threatening, intimidating presence. Such are the times we are living in. ☹



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'Nothing about us, without us'

Madres Sin Fronteras (Mothers Without Borders)

by Gia Del Pino - Community Organizer

Over this past year we have seen nationwide attacks on our communities. Under the Trump administration, arrests have risen more than 40 percent and deportations from the interior of the United States have spiked 34 percent.

In January, ICE fanned out to 98 7-Eleven stores in 17 states including Florida, which was the largest operation targeting employers.

In March, ICE arrested 271 immigrants across the state of Florida, including neighboring counties such as Volusia and Duval.

In April, we saw the largest single workplace raid since the Bush era. With a surprise blitz of a meat-processing plant in rural Tennessee, the large-scale militaristic workplace raid needlessly shattered families, left children without parents, and sent hard-working immigrants back into the shadows.

Just in the past two weeks, we've experienced an increase in Customs and Border Patrol Activity in the area.

This is a sign the Trump administration is carrying out its plan to aggressively ramp up enforcement this year. This is set against

the backdrop of the upcoming elections where Republicans are running on an anti-immigrant platform.

Many of you stepped up and engaged in one of the biggest civil rights issues of our time, during the "Keep Families Together" march. You protested against the separations of families at the Southern Border.

The reality is they are separating families everywhere, even in our own community. They are picking up parents dropping their kids off at school, families on their way to hospitals, they are waiting outside of court houses, and attacking our leaders and organizers.

They claim they are only cracking down on criminals, the "bad hombres," the "MS-13," but they're not. ICE is going after anyone and everyone. Their dragnet operations are sweeping across entire communities, especially those who do not collaborate.

We need you today to reaffirm your commitment to keeping our communities safe and to protecting our families. We are building infrastructures to resist these targeted operations, and the mean-spirited and racist anti-immigrant policies that come with the high cost of human suffering.

We, Madres Sin Fronteras (Mothers Without Borders), are a local grassroots immigrant-led organization that works to protect the rights of immigrant families in our community and to ensure that all are treated with dignity and respect. We work to build to develop, educate, and empower our communities to protect and defend our families and ourselves.

Our ethos is "Nothing about us, without us." Being in solidarity entails being able to take direction from those who one claims to be in solidarity with. Learning how to take direction, as to what is it that those we are in solidarity with wish us to do, is a huge aspect of shifting the relationships of power between the oppressed and oppressor.

Madres Sin Fronteras is working together with the Human Rights Coalition of Alachua County (HRCAC). We are urgently fundraising for the Faith Action ID program, a community ID program for any and everyone who faces the challenge of not having a valid form of ID.

We are also fundraising for our Bail/Bond fund whose main objective is to bond out those detained so they can fight their cases from their communities instead of behind bars.

If you really want to be in solidarity with the affected community here, please reach out to msfgainesville@gmail.com. If you are interested in donating or sharing with your friends and networks, please donate by going to our website <https://hrcalachua.com/>.

Together as a community we need to remain steadfast in our values of inclusion and united in solidarity until justice is found for all. ✨



www.civicmediacenter.org
coordinators@civicmediacenter.org
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 433 S. Main St., Gainesville 32601
 Park just to the south on SE 5th Ave, or after 7 pm at the courthouse (just north of 4th Ave), or GRU (2 blocks east of CMC).

Civic Media Center Events

- Every Thu: Volunteer Meeting @5:30-6:30pm
 Zine Committee Meeting @6:30pm
 Poetry Jam @8pm
- Every Sat: Meditation @9am
- Tue. Sep 4: Say Yes to 2nd Chances Workshop @6pm-8pm
- Wed. Sep 5: How Bernie Won - meet author & political strategist, Jeff Weaver @6pm-8pm
- Fri. Sep 7: Open Jam & Art Show @8pm
- Sat. Sep 8: Stars Over Latin America Discussion and Signing @6pm-9pm
- Mon. Sep 10: Movie Monday "Embrace of the Serpent" @7pm
- Tue. Sep 11: Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee @6pm
- Wed. Sep 12: Vegan Soap Making Workshop @7pm
- Sat. Sep 15: Groove Therapy @7pm
- Mon. Sep 17: Movie Monday presented by Uhuru @7pm
- Tue. Sep 18: Vegan Potluck + Queer Movie Night @6pm
- Wed. Sep 19: Communication Skills Workshop @6pm
- Wed. Sep 19: Connect The Dots Live Show @10pm
- Fri. Sep 21: Open Jam & Art Show
- Sun. Sep 23: Restorative Justice Workshop @3-5pm
- Mon. Sep 24: Movie Monday TBA
- Mon. Sep 24: Connect The Dots Live Show @10pm
- Tue. Sep 25: Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee @6pm
- Fri. Sep 28: Artwalk
- Sat. Sep 29: 1000 Poets for Change @7pm
- Mon. Oct 1: Movie Monday TBA
- Tue. Oct 2: Say Yes to Second Chances Workshop @6-8pm
- Wed. Oct 3: Communication Skills Workshop @6-8pm
- Fri. Oct 5: "What is Participatory Defense" Workshop by Jhody Polk @5-7pm
- Fri. Oct 5: Open Jam & Art Show @8pm-2am
- Sat. Oct 6: Potluck & "Voicing the Un-Voiced Stetson: Readings of Unpublished Pieces from the Papers of Stetson Kennedy" @ 6pm
- Sun. Oct 7: Zine Reading @6pm
- Mon. Oct 8: Movie Monday TBA
- Tue. Oct 9: Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee @6pm
- Mon. Oct 15: Movie Monday presented by Uhuru @7pm
- Tue. Oct 16: Vegan Potluck + Queer Movie Night @6pm
- Thu. Oct 18: Ultimate 25th Anniversary Poetry Bonanza @8pm
- Fri. Oct 19: CMC 25th Anniversary with Amy Goodman at Forage Hall in Working Food @6:30pm
- Sat. Oct 20: Zine Fest! TBA

To get weekly announcement email, contact coordinators@civicmediacenter.org and request to be added to the list.

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

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RIP, David McReynolds

Many times when famous people die, only then do we learn the depths of their good work and gain an enhanced appreciation of their life's work. Such was the case with Aretha Franklin, and how we learned of her support for the early civil rights movement, fundraising and singing for not just Martin Luther King, but Angela Davis, too. We got to see her incredible talent, spanning from teenage years to late in life.

Then there are others, those who truly leave their mark, but in the shadows of mainstream culture and therefore, with their passing, nearly forgotten. The Movement lost one such person recently, David McReynolds.

What follows is the NY Times obituary, and within it you will learn that he was also allied with other great "unknowns" who made their mark such as Bayard Rustin and AJ Muste.

For testimonials about both Aretha Franklin and David McReynolds, check out Amy Goodman's Democracy Now! program. Below is what the NY Times ran on August 18:

David McReynolds, socialist activist who ran for president, dies at 88

by Jacey Fortin

David E. McReynolds, a pacifist, socialist and sometime political candidate whose activism spanned many decades, died on Friday in Manhattan. He was 88.

The War Resisters League, where Mr. McReynolds had been a staff member, confirmed his death. He was taken to Mount Sinai Beth Israel hospital after falling in his Manhattan apartment, a friend, Bruce Cronin, said.

Mr. McReynolds was best known for his demonstrations against the draft during the Vietnam War, his advocacy of pacifism and denuclearization, and his two bids for president in 1980 and 2000 as an openly gay man running on the Socialist Party USA ticket.

"He'll be known for the lifetime of leadership and the pacifist movements that, to a large degree, he defined in the post-World War II, Cold War era," said Professor Cronin, the chairman of the political science department at City College of New York. "But what I think helped to define him was that he was as much a humanist as he was an activist." He had met Mr. McReynolds at a denuclearization rally in the 1980s.

Mr. McReynolds spent almost four decades as a staff member for the War Resisters League, a pacifist organization based in New York City. His

activism took him around the world for demonstrations and meetings as a member of delegations in Libya, Japan, Vietnam and other countries.

"There were all these things that made him a giant in antiwar and civil rights and social justice," his cousin Dusty Kunin said on Friday.

He was also a photographer, a writer and a music aficionado who regularly hosted friends at his home for discussions about art, life and politics.

David Ernest McReynolds was born on Oct. 25, 1929, in Los Angeles. He was raised as a Baptist and was once affiliated with the Prohibition Party, he told The Villager in a 2015 interview.

Mr. McReynolds, who was the oldest of three children, described his childhood as "pretty protected." His father's job as head of the local water reserve and his family's access to his grandfather's farm and livestock helped insulate them from the worst effects of the Great Depression, The Villager reported.

By the time he attended the University of California, Los Angeles, in the early 1950s, he had become an active socialist and an ardent pacifist.

This was during the era of McCarthyism, and the government took notice of his activities. Mr. McReynolds would later write that the F.B.I. had compiled hundreds of pages of files on him,



Photo by Ed Molinari/New York Daily News

which he obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request.

His work spanned myriad issues. He demonstrated in favor of civil rights and against the Korean War in the 1950s, so that by the time widespread antiwar sentiment had gripped young activists during the 1960s and '70s, he was an experienced protester.

Mr. McReynolds was known as a mediator with a human touch, and much of his organizing work took place behind the scenes. But he occasionally appeared in news reports, including the time he publicly burned draft documents during Vietnam War protests in 1965.

He first gained wider public attention as a candidate for Congress in 1958. He ran as an openly gay candidate for president in 1980, and again in 2000, although he did not make gay rights a central issue in either campaign.

By the time of his last presidential bid, he was 70 and technically retired from his position as a field secretary with the War Resisters League.

"I think we have a title for me," he said at the time. "I'm an emeritus of some kind. I'll have to ask someone up front what my title is."

Mr. McReynolds resigned from the Socialist Party in 2015 after he was censured for two comments he had made

on social media. In one, he expressed concern over Islamist extremism following a terrorist attack on Charlie Hebdo, a newspaper in Paris. In the other, he used the word "thuggish" in reference to Michael Brown, the unarmed black teenager who was shot and killed by a police officer in Ferguson, Mo. "The failure of the Socialist Party, its tendency to substitute a kind of left rhetoric for serious analysis, is to be regretted because if ever we needed a democratic socialist movement

it is today," Mr. McReynolds wrote after his resignation. He is survived by a sister, Elizabeth Gralewski, and a brother, Martin McReynolds.

On Friday, the War Resisters League said in a statement that Mr. McReynolds was on its staff until 1999 but had remained a member of the league's community throughout his life, adding that he "will be remembered for living radical pacifism." ✨

Peace activist David McReynolds: Two lighter sides

By Marc Grobman

Peace and civil rights movements activist David McReynolds, who died August 17 at age 88, was known for his vigorous dedication and leadership, and long-time activism. Example: He was arrested for resisting the draft—in the early 1950s.

Web obituaries abound on Dave's life and accomplishments. But they probably don't illustrate his skills in cooking and in humor.

I met Dave only once. In the late 1960s, Win Magazine (originally published by the Workshop In Nonviolence) and other leftie organizations shared headquarters in NYC. I occasionally wrote for Win, and someone once introduced me to Dave. We said hello, and then went on to take care of business.

I'd heard that Dave was an accomplished cook, and a short time later he wrote a Win Magazine article that gave me a life-long cooking lesson.

In 1970, the United Farm Workers, led by Cesar Chavez, called for a nationwide boycott of all non-union harvested lettuce. The health foods movement was miniscule then, and to most people, "lettuce" was simply what we now know as iceberg lettuce. Few of us knew other varieties or alternatives existed.

That put many boycott supporters in a quandary. Do we have to give up salads? No more lettuce on tuna fish sandwiches? But Dave had the wonderful ability to recognize an important story "hidden" in plain view from other reporters. He responded with a Win Magazine article titled, "Living without the Iceberg."

His article contained several recipes, and I don't even remember what Dave suggested as a substitute for iceberg. What astounded me were his other suggestions for making a tuna fish sandwich. It had never occurred to me to do anything other than mix tuna with mayo, spread it on white bread, and add a tomato slice.

Dave suggested to try adding such things as pickles or minced celery, vinegar and/or hot sauce, fresh-ground black pepper, an onion slice, and using toasted whole wheat bread.

The delicious result was the most important food prep lesson I've ever had. Now, whenever I prepare food, I know I can choose to experiment: I have this in the refrigerator – what might go well with it?

In a Democracy Now! remembrance, investigative journalist Jeremy Scahill recalled that David "loved to both facilitate serious discussion, but then

also interject with something incredibly witty or funny. He was a master – and it's very difficult for people to do this – of using sarcasm not at the expense of the smaller people. David definitely employed sarcasm as a way of punching up at the powerful."

Here's an example: In 2004, Dave, who was gay, ran for Senate on the Green Party ticket against Senator Chuck Schumer. Democracy Now!'s Amy Goodman asked Dave about Schumer's opposition to gay marriage. Dave responded that Schumer's opposition wasn't fair ... to non-gay people:

"I think it is really outrageous for Schumer ... to come out against gay marriage. I really think this is contemptible on his part ... although that's not nearly as important in my mind as the issue of killing people and being killed in Iraq. I don't understand why gays and lesbians shouldn't suffer from the same angst, anxiety, tribulations and trials of marriage which, you know, heterosexuals have to go through. Why should we be exempt from these problems?"

Freelance writer Marc Grobman is a Gainesville native who now lives in Fanwood, NJ. ✨

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On to the Nov. 6 elections

by Joe Courter

Well the primaries are behind us now, and Florida has become much more exciting and prominent with the upset victory of Andrew Gillum for Governor, who will face off against Ron DeSantis, who tied himself closely to Trump. Gillum's populism and positive energy will hopefully be contagious and help Democrats all down the ballot. And we really need it

This election will set the tone for what needs to be a big swing in 2020, the decade year when the power and responsibility for re-drawing districts happens in each state. The Republicans were very strategic in 2010, and it is their gerrymandering then that our blue wave is up against. They were very aware that when the President is not up for election, many people think voting is less important and stay home. This ripples down the system, leaving governors and congressional seats vulnerable to a coordinated campaign. The Republicans, and more importantly their strategists such as the Koch Brothers, used huge money and ideological opposition to Obama to win state after state, and thus win that power to redraw districts. With demographic analysis they, in effect, chose the voters their office holders will face. Some of the more blatant examples of this practice have been overturned in the courts, but it is still with us. Florida is a great example: in 2016 it

went for Clinton narrowly, but the legislature stayed solidly Republican. Now, with Gillum at the top of the State ticket, maybe we can start to undo the damage, and locally knock out Perry and Clements.

This election of 2018 is the lead in to that important census year election of 2020, when the power to redraw districts is given. But while the Republican had their well-funded organizational talents and reactionary ideological certitude fully in gear in 2009 and 2010, here in 2018 the Democratic side is hampered by their usual internal divides, a pretty well funded mainstream which is convinced it knows best, and a progressive, more populist wing that wants to be much more aggressive in going for things like increased funding for education and health care, for civil rights and science-based environmentalism, and shamefully, not so much now as in the past, taking a stand against war. It's like something in our ideological make-up, Republicans tend to fall in line, but Democrats, being much more diverse and many feeling the stress of oppression, and the outrage of continued injustice, tend to fall into factions. Gains must be made here in 2018 to begin the big turning in 2020. The ongoing dumpster fire of the Trump administration should be a great motivator, and indeed turn out is up, and Gillum will add energy, but as the country slides more

to the right in the courts and more authoritarian in its attitude from the top, we have a long way to go.

November voting will present clear choices. Between now and then, getting unregistered people registered is big. Oct. 9 will be the last day, and I expect we will see a big push here motivated by the need to elect Andrew Gillum and also defeat Rick Scott's Senate bid. At least I sure hope so. But it is important to remember that the power of the vote mostly manifests in local races, and it is beyond frustrating when people ignore this, feeling that if the candidates at the top aren't who they'd like they stay home. A local referendum is talked about on page one of this Iguana, to keep local control of GRU: very important, Also on the local ballot 1/2 cent for schools. And as far as looking ahead to 2020, we have a very important item on the statewide November ballot to give people with felonies a second chance at voting in Florida, the state which has suppressed these voters more than any other state. (Vote Yes on 4)

LOCAL RESULTS: Regarding our local races, the turnout was pretty good for an off-year primary, about 28%, and while some races were clearly decided, a couple of others will go to runoff with the November balloting. Please consider multiplying the power of your vote by supporting the ground work of these candidates as they work to represent you.

State Senate District 8: Kayser Enneking ran a well-funded (and Democratic party-aided) campaign and prevailed against the grassroots campaign of Olysha McGruder. This race was marred by many negative mailers from an outside group which at this point is still questionable as to their monetary source and intent. They distracted from the issues, doubtless hurt McGruder, and we will report further on this issue in October. Meanwhile, onward to defeat Keith Perry.

State Representative District 21: Jason Haeseler won against Amol Jethwani and will move on to take on Chuck Clements. Clements and Perry (above) need to go, they are primary authors of the ballot item to strip GRU of local control (see pg. 1) This will be hard, but Amol's campaign will hopefully join forces with Jason's.

Alachua County Commission District 2: Marihelen Wheeler beat Randy Wells in a race of two really nice and very well-qualified people. She will face a very well-funded local publisher running as a No Party Affiliate (NPA). The Wells campaign has pledged to work with Wheeler.

The two Judges races on the ballot will both be decided in November as no one got over 50%.

Circuit Judge Group 8: Gloria Walker and David Robertson will face off. Covering 8 counties, Walker ran strong in Alachua County, but rural voters brought her down to 47.9%. We hope Walker can win.

County Judge Group 2 comes down to Meshon Rawls (35.5%) and Craig DeThomasis (28.6%) in November. Two other candidates split the rest of the vote. They are both really good with different backgrounds and life experiences. Alachua County wins either way.

In the School Board races, District 3 will come down to a November run-off between the long-serving Gunnar Paulson (45.5%) and challenger April Tisher (31.6%). There is a real feeling of wanting change from the community which will help Tisher. This will be interesting. In the other races Tina Certain (Dist. 1) knocked off April Griffin in a close race, and Rob Hyatt (Dist. 5) won reelection decisively over a youthful challenger Paul Wolfe.

More election coverage to come with the next Iguana in mid October. 🐊



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History and the people who make it: Joseph W. Welch

Joseph Welch [W], WWII vet, Gainesville area civil rights worker and school teacher, was interviewed by Ryan Morini [M] in April, 2013.

This is the 49th in a series of transcript excerpts from the UF Samuel Proctor Oral History Program collection. Notes in [square brackets] by SPOHP; interpolations in {curly brackets} by Iguana. Transcript edited by Pierce Butler.

W: I'm from a family of two children, my sister and I. June 16, 1922, I was born here in Gainesville.

M: What part of town?

W: Porters Addition. My mother and grandmother was a seamstress. My father was a minister, in theory. But he was a womanizer who ran around a lot. As a result, he and my mother separated when I was a year and six months old. My mother was pregnant with my sister. He's dead now – but he never laid eyes on my sister in his life. He hadn't laid eyes on me since I was eighteen months old.

After I became an adult, was inducted into the army, went over to Europe, and came back in 1945, I was twenty-three, I said I'm gonna look up my father and let him see what I look like now.

I wasn't able to find him because he was dodging police, even though he's a minister! His brother took me to a church that he built, with his own congregation, his name there on the cornerstone. My uncle introduced me to the audience there and they say that boy is just like Elder Welch! But, he never did anything for me. I was raised by my mother and grandmother.

Oh, and, I lived with an ex-slave for fourteen years – my great-grandmother. She was born in 1852 in South Carolina and migrated to Florida in 1865, when slavery was abolished.

M: What was her name?

W: Margaret Veal. She worked for the University of Florida in the ag department from, I believe it was 1907 until 1936. She was known by all at the university as Aunt Margaret.

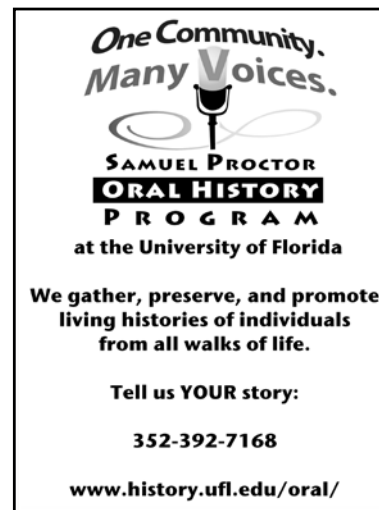
She was a very powerful person. She was one of the earlier Black property owners in Alachua County. Many times, she served as a bond agency for people who were arrested. She only had to sign her name, not put up any money. Even guys who had committed murder, she'd bond them out. I would like to know her maiden

name because Veal was a married name. She married Andrew Veal. She had a very large family and she and her husband finally separated and he moved away.

M: Sounds like she was a pretty strong person –

W: Oh, she was. [laughs] She was strong on me, too, because when it came to chores around the house, she thought a boy, he's supposed to do all those chores. And I'd better not complain, either. [laughs]

If she were still working at the university in the same role, I would consider her a member of the faculty of the ag department. You would find her surrounded by eight or ten or more white males, because it was an all-boys school, and they were getting the theories in the class, but the



practical application, they received under her supervision out there in the field.

A white woman – I believe her name was Susie Balknight. She was very wealthy. She was a close friend of my great-grandmother. She didn't live but about two and a half blocks from us. She'd come to our house, sit on the front porch with my great-grandmother, and they would converse for the longest. And my grandmother would go off to her house and sit on the front porch. They were very close.

She was in slavery until her thirteenth birthday. She must have been a member of the household, and her master taught her to read and write. She spent a lot of time rereading her Bible.

I was required to attend church all day, every Sunday. You didn't miss. Sunday school at 8:30, morning services, afternoon services, and evening services. You

had to attend all those services. Programs that children participated in, we had to be a part of that – learning and saying a speech, or being a part of a play.

Out of all the kids that came up during that time, only three of us graduated from high school. I was the only boy. There were two girls. All the others were drop-outs. I graduated May 1, 1942.

Another thing, [laughs] that I used to wonder about – why can't I attend Gainesville High School? Only one and a half blocks from me! I'd pass by there, going to Lincoln High School, on the other side of town.

Let's see if I can recall the days of the Depression. My mother was a commercial cook. She earned a pretty decent salary. Most other women who were domestics at that time, you want to know the prevailing wage for them? Two dollars, fifty cent a week.

There was a club, known as the "Twentieth Century Club." Now it's the "Women's Club" out on University Avenue. Their responsibility was to orientate newcomers to Gainesville. They would tell them the patterns around here: see now, you have a maid, and you have to transport her. Never allow her to occupy the front seat beside you. Sit in the back. Don't pay her more than two dollars fifty cent a week. That was the prevailing wage around Gainesville during the Depression.

My mother cooked at fraternity houses and things of that sort. In 1955, if you wanted a new automobile you had to place an order for it. Then, it would arrive and you could pick it up. At this time, she was working at Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity house. The house mother bought a 1954 used car. The next day my mother's new car arrived. So my mother drove it to work several days and finally, the house mother asked her, Rowena, whose car is that? My car. She goes, anybody who can afford a car like that don't need to work on my job, and fired her right there on the spot. [laughs]

M: Was your mother upset?

W: [laughs] No. She became assistant director of the Gainesville Black Recreation Center on NE 2nd Street. She worked until she developed breast cancer and had to have a breast removed. She somewhat recovered. Finally, she begun to suffer pain, and we took her to the emergency room. The doctor informed my wife and I that your mother has a terrible case of cancer.

The cancer has permeated all of her major organs.

At that time, she was crazy about my young son. She would get him in the car, cause she had an automobile practically all of her life, and she would take off to places like Jacksonville, and take my boy with her. In that condition I didn't want her to take my boy [laughs] but I couldn't tell her not to do it.

M: Around what time was that?

W: [19]57, [19]58. Yeah. My grandfather, his name was Doc Willis. He was an immigrant from Haiti. He used to operate a used furniture store in Jacksonville. He was a very prominent looking person.

If you're interest{ed in} my war record, {US troops landed} on Normandy Beach on my 22nd birthday, never forget it. June 6, [19]44. Ten days after that, I waded ashore. The person in charge of supplies didn't know anything about our being there. We couldn't get supplies. Not even any food!

We went a whole day and had to hike. We had only ten miles between the Germans and the English Channel that we occupied. If those German boys had stiffened their resistance [laughs] we would have been in trouble.

The most frightening time during my service overseas was the Battle of the Bulge. The Germans were not taking any prisoners. Old George Patton came through. He rescued us. They were puttin' hell on us, on American allies. [laughs]

M: When did you go into the service?

W: I got drafted. In 1942. I spent eight months in the States before going to England.

M: Where was your training?

W: Camp Cleveland, Louisiana. We trained under some terrible conditions there, being a segregated army. When it came time to catch the bus back to camp, all Black soldiers had to stand aside while they {lined} up all the whites. If there were seats left, you'd have seats. We're all supposed to meet at reveille at the same time. You had to just wait. Oftentimes, we were late getting back to camp.

M: They knew what was happening, but they didn't cut you a break.

W: We went in the same uniform, representing the same country [laughs] yet, we're separate. And the commanders, all white. Even with black outfits.

M: Do you remember any Black commanders? At all?

W: There was a guy from Jacksonville, Major Devaux. His job was to go around and investigate our conditions. He would stand before us and first thing, he would list off things that if they bothered you, or you had problems with, he couldn't do anything about it. In the process, he covered – [laughs] – all the problems we had. So he couldn't do anything. He disappeared mysteriously. They found him dead. They never found to this day what happened, or who killed him.

M: What was it like to be segregated overseas?

W: I enjoyed the English administrators because they'd be switching between the Black and the white soldiers. They wanted things to be fair. Of course, the problem mainly was the English women.

During the whole time that I was over in Europe, I saw only one black woman and she was a Congolese from the Belgian Congo. They would let the whites go to town tonight, and restrict the blacks. Tomorrow night, they would let the blacks go and re-

strict the whites. It was terrible.

M: Did any of the black soldiers and the white soldiers ever work together?

W: No, we were totally separate. One time in Liege, Belgium we were converting an old cavalry station into an emergency hospital and we had a group of {Germans} to perform certain general duties. We were told that if anyone attempted to escape to cut 'em down. But we had an officer, he was white, Captain Swiser. We looked 'cross the hill, boy, there were two or three German prisoners running across there. We could of {shot} 'em, and he yelled halt! [laughs] We never allowed to shoot them. So they managed to escape. He didn't wanna see a black soldier shoot a white German prisoner.

I was in the general service organization: our job was to maintain what we call the Red Ball Highway to carry supplies, equipment and manpower to the front line. Oftentimes when the {Germans} would retreat, they would blow up bridges. My job, under fire, was to repair that. Do you know they have private organizations performing wartime duties? During World War II, general service outfits performed those things.

M: Were you ever under fire?

W: The main thing is we were exposed to the German V1 and V2 robot bomb. Once, when we were building an airbase, I was on this steel structure, hangars for B-17 bombers. The Germans came over and {strafed} us. I was in Liege, Belgium, living in an old museum. There was a river right there. Whenever the alarm would sound, we would rush out and get down beside the bed of the river.

On one occasion, that thing sounded and being scared as hell, they stampeded coming down those stairs – 'cuz we lived on the second floor – with every ounce of strength that I had I had to try to hold on. 'Cuz if not, you could be trampled to death. Then and there, I said I'd be damned if I will ever run again. When I heard that siren, I lay right in my bed. If I get killed, I won't be the only one.

M: Do you think that attitude kinda stuck with you after that?

W: Right, right.

To be continued in the October Iguana. Search for "Joseph Welch" 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. 🐢

Radical Rush to take place first week of October

By Joe Courter

Radical Rush, the progressive tabling fair coordinated by the Civic Media Center, will take place this fall during the first week of October.

Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 1 and 2, Radical Rush will be held at UF's Plaza of the Americas, and Wed., Oct. 3, it will be at Santa Fe College's NW campus in the Oak Grove.

Radical Rush is an organizational fair for progressive and radical activist groups of Gainesville to recruit new members and publicize their work to students. Radical (going to the root of a problem) Rush (entertaining bids for membership), first held in 1998, brings community and campus organizations together to expose students to organizations in which they might want to get involved.

Breaking the town/gown wall of separation has always been a

role of the CMC. In addition to the new sign-up, people from the various organizations have an opportunity to meet each other, as well. The event runs from 11 am to 2 pm each day.

In addition to the tabling, other Radical Rush evening events are planned.

"What is Participatory Defense," hosted by Jhody Polk, will take place Friday, Oct. 5, from 5 pm to 7 pm. There will be a Zine Reading Night hosted by the CMC Zine committee on Sunday, Oct. 7, at 6 pm. Both will be at the CMC. (Other events will be announced throughout September.)

On Friday night, Oct. 5, a CMC benefit show will be held at One Love Cafe in Magnolia Plaza at NW 51st St. and NW 39th Ave. from 7-10 pm. The Couch Messiahs will be playing.

The CMC could use a "rush" of older folks' participation, too. ✨



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From GRU, p.1

duct and will be given complete control over GRU's checkbook and assets. This is a recipe for corruption.

So how did all this begin? It all started in the back rooms of the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce Building when a group of lobbyists, energy company owners, and other business executives began looking at GRU reform. They produced a document called the Energy Competitiveness Report which outlined four recommendations they insisted the city commission meet.

The city commission quickly met three of the four recommendations. The fourth was to turn GRU over to an independent board of appointees who would govern the utility. The city commission had reservations about this, so they countered with a reasonable compromise: They wrote an ordinance to create the Utility Advisory Board.

From Goodman, p.1

aired on the CMC's radio station WGOT since the station's inception 10 years ago.

The anniversary celebration will be on Friday evening, Oct. 19 in the Forge Hall at Working Food, 219 NW 10th Ave. with the doors opening at 6:30 pm, and the program slated for 7:15 pm, finishing at 9 pm. We will be set up with maximal chairs inside the hall and room for overflow outside, with sound and video screen.

To help with parking we will have bike

taxies running from the North Main Shopping Center, 2-1/2 blocks east of Working Food.

We will have beverages, snacks and finger food outside – no dinner, because we expect a crowd. Advance tickets will be available through Eventbrite and be...what else ... \$25.

Democracy Now! is more than a newscast; the on-line archive of shows is a treasure of movement history going back decades. There are interviews with famous writers

and thinkers, and those regular folks who are fighting for justice.

and Amy is more than a host, she is a probing questioner, and a damn good reporter. She has taken the show around the world, at World Social Forums, climate change conferences, zones of war and conflict, and all over this country from political conventions and disasters to the Sundance Film Festival.

Mark your calendars and get your tickets, and help the CMC celebrate 25 years. ✨

other unidentified special interests he created a GRU governance bill. It failed in the 2014, 2015 and 2016 legislative sessions.

Finally in 2017, now state Senator Perry along with Rep. Chuck Clemons resubmitted the bill (HB759) which was passed and signed into law by Gov. Rick Scott.

So in November, Gainesville is being forced to vote on a referendum our citizens did not ask for, defined through a bill written by Chamber and Tallahassee special interests.

Rep. Clovis Watson, who has fought this bill every step of the way for the past four years said this, "Never in the history of the Florida legislature have we had a change in municipal governance in this manner. In this bill we would be surrendering all local control."

Learn more at <https://nogruauthority.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/NoGruAuthority/> ✨

and those regular folks who are fighting for justice.

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. gainesvillegreens.webs.com, alachuagreen@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.

org, 352-375-2832, PO Box 12051, 502 NW 16th Ave., 2B, Gainesville, 32601

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

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

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

Avian Research and Conservation Institute

and those regular folks who are fighting for justice.

And Amy is more than a host, she is a probing questioner, and a damn good reporter. She has taken the show around the world, at World Social Forums, climate change conferences, zones of war and conflict, and all over this country from political conventions and disasters to the Sundance Film Festival.

Mark your calendars and get your tickets, and help the CMC celebrate 25 years. ✨

(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. 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

Continued on next page

Continued from preceding page

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gainesville Citizens for Alternatives to Death Penalty works to abolish the death penalty. Join vigils when Florida has an execution. Meets 6pm first Tuesday every month at Mennonite Meeting House, 1236 NW 18th Ave, 352-378-1690, www.fadp.org.

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

Gainesville Loves Mountains partners with Appalachian allies to end mountaintop removal coal mining and build a prosperous economy/sustainable future. We pursue policies to strengthen our local economy through energy efficiency, clean energy. gainesvillelovesmountains@gmail.com, 352-610-1090, http://gainesvillelovesmountains.wordpress.com/

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

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

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 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/humanistsocietyof-gainesville; gainesvillehumanists@gmail.com.

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

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@lwvalachua.org<mailto:info@lwvalachua.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

Madres Sin Fronteras (Mothers Without Borders) is a local grassroots immigrant-led organization that works to protect the rights of immigrants' families in our community and to ensure that all are treated with dignity and respect. Email: msfgainesville@gmail.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, nwl@womensliberation.org

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

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

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

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

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

Pride Community Center of North Central Florida Resources for the 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 comprehensible information about the Cabot/Koppers Superfund site. 352-354-2432, www.protectgainesville.org

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

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

Repurpose Project, a nonprofit junk shop and community center, diverts useful resources from the landfill, redirects these items to the public for art and education, inspires creativity, and helps us all rethink what we throw away. Let's all help protect the planet and buy used. Open to the public. Tues-Sat: 10am-7pm, Sun noon-5. 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.floridiansforairdemocracy.com/

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

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

Stand By Our Plan informs the public on critical differences between the Comprehensive Plan and Plum Creek's proposal, which we do not support. Alachua County's Comprehensive Plan is the best blueprint for future growth in the county's unincorporated areas; it protects valuable wetlands, standbyourplan@gmail.com; http://standbyourplan.org/

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

Sunday Assembly, a secular congregation which celebrates life, meets the third Sunday of each month at 11 am at 530 W. University Ave. (Santa Fe College campus building in downtown Gainesville). There is a talk, music, sing-alongs, discussion, refreshments and fellowship. See http://SAGainesville.weebly.com/

UF College Democrats (UFCD) meets Tuesdays at 6:30 in Little Hall 121. 407-580-4543, Facebook.com/UFcollegedems

UF Pride Student Union 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, 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/; 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. 🐾



Happy birthday Stetson Kennedy!

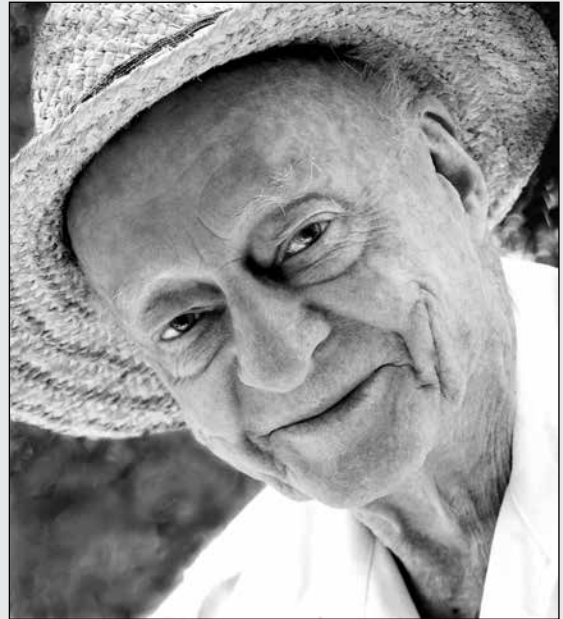
by Joe Courter

In honor of Stetson Kennedy's 102nd birthday, the Civic Media Center will have a potluck dinner on Saturday, October 6, at 6pm, followed by a program called *Voicing the Un-Voiced Stetson: Readings of Unpublished Pieces from the Papers of Stetson Kennedy*. Sandra Parks, Stetson's wife, came to the CMC and suggested the reading of recently found writings of the famed anti-racist, civil rights and environmental author and activist.

Jim Cusick from the Smathers Library at UF was asked and agreed to bring essays, poetry and other unpublished short writings from their collection, and we will all share in the readings.

The CMC's official name is Civic Media Center and Stetson Kennedy Library Inc. because Stetson donated his personal library of over 2,500 books to the CMC before he died in 2011, and these books are integrated into the various sections of the CMC's collection.

The event will also serve as a birthday party for Gainesville community activist Kali Blount. Vegan or vegetarian foods are preferred but not absolutely required. ♻️



Sunday Assembly Gainesville is a secular, radically inclusive community that meets to hear great talks, sing together and celebrate the wonder of the one life we know we have.

**We gather at 11 AM on the 3rd Sunday of the month.
CIED Building of Santa Fe College
530 W. University Avenue
Downtown Gainesville, FL**

Established 2016 - Accredited 2017

sagainesville.weebly.com [@SundayAssemblyGainesville](https://www.facebook.com/SundayAssemblyGainesville)
 sundayassembly32601@gmail.com [@sagainesville](https://www.instagram.com/sagainesville)

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

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