

The Gainesville Iguana

*A progressive newsletter
and events calendar*

**October, 2018
Vol. 32, Issue 10**

VOTE!

Your guide to the Nov. 6 election in Alachua County

The following recommendations are about 95 percent from Jeremiah Tattersall's website TheStrawHat.org, where you can see the original post. Mostly I agreed with them, so why reinvent the wheel? He gave me permission to edit, rewrite here and there, and insert my own thoughts, which I have done. Yeah, it is longish, but this is a major election, and face it, it is a longish ballot, too. Elsewhere you will find an "in order of the ballot" rundown to use if you choose to when you vote. Just promise me this, You WILL vote. ~ Thank you, Joe Courter.

Referenda:

Constitutional Amendments:

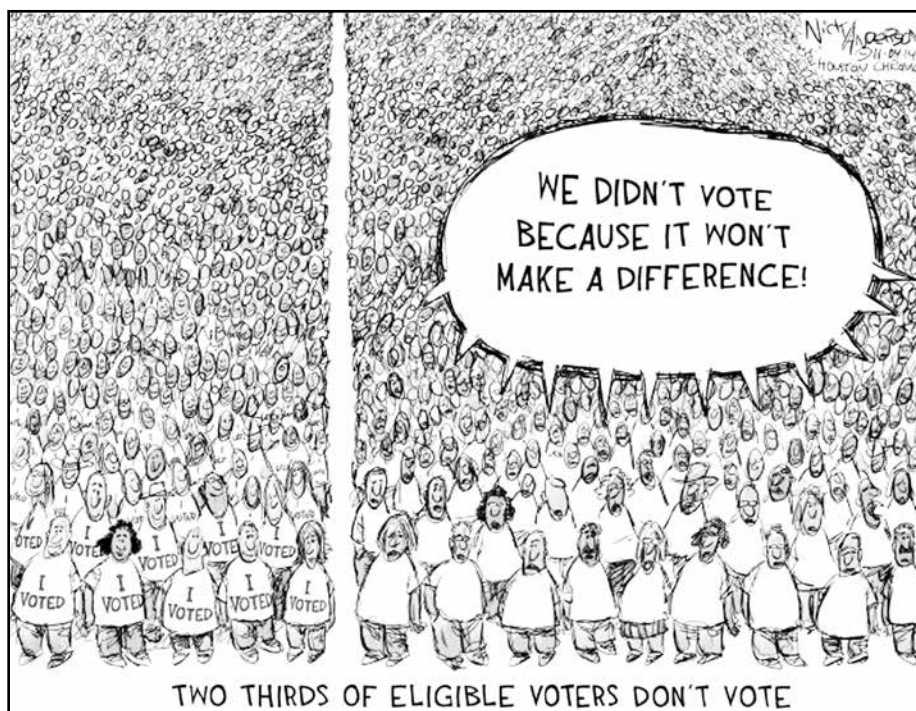
There's a long list of proposed amendments, which need to pass by 60 percent of the vote to become law. The League of Women Voters has gone through a good explanation of all 13 of these, but briefly:

Amendment 1: Grants an additional \$25,000 homestead exemption for property tax. This loss of revenue would cripple local governments from being able to provide services. **VOTE NO.**

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Amendment 2: Would permanently cap at 10 percent the maximum value increase for non-homestead properties. This includes places like vacation homes, vacant land, and office parks. This is something that is already in law but is set to expire in 2019. If it's allowed to expire local governments would be allowed to collect taxes on the true value of these properties. **VOTE NO.**

Amendment 3: Restricts the expansion of gambling. I might catch flak for this as a prude, but I think gambling should be outlawed due to predatory practices exploiting people with addictions. Anything to slow it down is good to me. **VOTE YES.**

Amendment 4: Restore voting rights for most felons who have served their time. **VOTE HELL YES.**

Amendment 5: Would require a 2/3 majority to increase taxes. This is another way to protect reactionary tax cuts for generations. **VOTE NO.**

Amendment 6: Changes victim rights and the way the courts interpret laws. Most of the rights are already in state law and the changes to the courts are problematic. **VOTE NO.**

Amendment 7: Supermajority requirements for raising tuition, imposing student fees, and giving death benefits to first responders. While I'm for free public education, that's not an option and rich kids should pay right now. **VOTE NO.**

Amendment 8: The Supreme Court removed this from the ballot. It was a bad amendment anyway. **VOTE NO.**

Amendment 9: Prevents some offshore oil drilling and vaping

indoors. This would only stop oil drilling 9 miles off the West/South coast and 3 miles off the East coast. No one wants to drill this close to shore because there's no oil there. The Deepwater Horizon, which devastated beaches, was over 100 miles off the Florida coast. There is a fear that this being voted down will be a sign that Florida doesn't care about the environment, but I think the opposite is true. Passing a do nothing amendment will placate many people into thinking something was actually done. As far as vaping indoors, that's douche and can be outlawed via statute. **VOTE NO.**

Amendment 10: Creates a counterterrorism unit in the state and mandates a bunch of stuff on counties. We don't need this. **VOTE NO.**

Amendment 11: Removes an antiquated anti-Asian law that says immigrants can't own land. It would also allow the state legislature to apply sentencing reform on those already convicted of crimes. **VOTE YES.**

Amendment 12: Bans elected officials from being lobbyists while in office and for 6 years after leaving office, as well as other anti-corruption measures. A major issue with this amendment is that it'll be very hard to change once enacted. But this is the only way to get something like this passed, since there's no real mechanism for voters to directly pass legislation and elected officials won't pass this themselves. John Dewey famously said that government is the shadow cast by big business. This bill wouldn't end that relationship but would throw a wrench in it. **VOTE YES.**

Amendment 13: Bans Greyhound racing. Greyhound racing is awful. Just awful. **VOTE YES.**

County Referenda:

Children's Trust of Alachua County: Would set up a special taxing district with a board who will oversee the funds. The funds would go towards postnatal care, childcare for working families, after school programs, etc. **VOTE YES** unless you hate children.

Half-Cent Sales Surtax to Improve School Facilities: Schools in Alachua County are not doing well, and it's mostly because of cuts from Tallahassee politicians (isn't Senator Perry awful?). This tax would add a half cent to your sales tax and the money itself would go to school infrastructure. Two schools in East Gainesville will be completely remodeled but every school is getting numerous projects. **VOTE YES** on the half cent sales tax because children deserve better schools.

MUNICIPAL REFERENDA ON PRIVATIZING GAINESVILLE REGIONAL UTILITIES

This is one of the most important things on the ballot. It was placed here by Representative Clemons and Senator Perry. "Aren't they just the worst?" Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) has a sign above its headquarters that reads "Owned by the People it Serves," which is a problem for fans of privatization. Gatornet, the GRU owned fiber optics network, is signed onto the Net Neutrality pledge while Cox fought against it. GRU has moved away from mountain top removal coal, added solar feed in programs, and built a carbon neutral biomass plant, all of which cut into the profits of GRU. **VOTE NO** on the GRU referendum because people should have democratic control of our utilities. Also Keith Perry is awful and he wants this, so don't let him have it.

See *VOTE!*, p. 5

From the publisher ...

Evolution and trauma

We humans have had to deal with a lot of changes in our sensory input and all the information that our brains need to process. Our early "technology" (candles, lanterns) has brought us the ability to have artificial light, lengthening our productivity. The practice of writing broadened access to knowledge, giving us written information instead of oral histories. Science could flourish as knowledge built on knowledge.

As humans began to travel, trade could develop as well. This further spread knowledge among far flung people. Conquests could also occur, with the appropriation of wealth and territory. This led to weaponry development.

All the above has exploded exponentially in the past hundred years. Communications are world wide and instantaneous. Trade and conquest, whether for raw materials or territory, are on a planetary scale. Our weaponry is nightmarish in power, both on the grand scale among nations, and as well in smaller yet devastating weapons in the hands of individuals and non-state actors. It has even become a world economic system, based on keystrokes rather than tangible things like gold and silver.

Face it, we are not dealing with it well. It is quite distressing.

In a time when we need wisdom and understanding we are evidencing neither. Especially here in the USA. This long lasting democracy seems to be cracking up, with extreme polarization and wealthy self serving egomaniacs hold the reins of government. Our communications media is dominated by a small cabal of ultra rich corporations with a firm agenda preserving their power. Those that are not wed to their wealth are wed to a repressive moralistic religion which they wish to impose on others. On us.

But that's enough macro, let's zero in on the micro ... us. And trauma. We evolved to remember bad things in detail because it helped our survival. It makes a deep impression, and I believe all of us do this. What varies is the levels of trauma we individually experience. That is what we saw with Dr. Ford and her memory of her assault and as well her scientific explanation of this process in our brains. This is what #me too is about, the releasing of these indelible memories after being repressed by social convention. It is like an informal consciousness raising session, people relaying their personal experiences and then drawing conclusions from the testimonies. We never before could be as aware of the trauma of others as now, and since empathy is such a strong emotion for many of us (at least on the left) it can feel a bit overwhelming. But it can also be empowering.

There is a bit of trauma building in all of us now in the time of Trump, not just women. We on the progressive side are seeing political gains we have made being threatened or overtly taken away. There has been a revival in the term "culture war," and it has hit me that yes, it is at this point a war of sorts. It has been fought against us, we have been attacked and we are waking up and fighting back. We have fought for and won abortion rights, LGBT rights, environmental regulations, the right to collectively bargain in unions. These are like actual territory we now must defend. Add to that what women are feeling about the toxic male behavior they have been enduring up until now, the horror of the forced process that was done, and what the elevation of Kavanaugh to Supreme Court means for our future, and there is a lot of fuel for movement building.

Organizing and voting is one of the constructive ways we fight back. This election is absolutely huge. It is too late to register to vote, but those few unregistered reading this, or those prohibited from voting due to felony convictions, you can still get others to go to the polls.

People died for the right to vote.

Don't give me cynicism about how both parties are corrupt and you are too pure to vote for them. Don't give me pie in the sky third party advocacy; in the here and now, voting is math and a third party vote is one thrown away. The Right has played a very effective strategy, the Democrats been slow to respond, and it is up to the Left to step up our game.



Joe Courter

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(written or financial) are welcome. To
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What you need to know about the elections on Nov. 6

Kim A. Barton
Office of the Supervisor of Elections

In nearly 30 years at the Alachua County Supervisor of Elections Office, I have never seen as much interest surrounding a midterm election as what we are seeing now. It's exciting and gratifying to see, and everyone at the elections office is working hard to make sure the November election goes off without a hitch.

With the campaigns and candidates as present as they are, I do not think I need to remind you there is an election on Nov. 6. However, it's always worth reminding voters and prospective voters about some

important pieces of the process — both so you know and so you can tell other people.

Our shared goal is to make sure that everyone who is eligible and desires to participate in elections in this county is able to have a positive experience doing so.

Voter registration applications are pouring into our office — to the point that we've had to bring in more people than usual to help with processing the applications. The voter registration deadline for this election is Oct. 9. If you are not registered by this deadline, you will not be able to participate in this election.

This deadline only applies to new Florida voter registration applications. Previously registered Florida voters are able to update their voter records through Election Day. However, we encourage people whose information has changed to update our office as soon as possible so they are in the best position to have the information they need.

Early voting is as accessible as ever, with six locations opening for the 2018 General Election. As a University of Florida graduate, I'm excited to offer early voting on the campus of my alma mater, in the J. Wayne Reitz Union. Two other locations that were opened this election cycle include the Legacy Park Multipurpose Center in Alachua and the Melrose United Methodist Church. These are all in addition to our office in Gainesville on North Main Street, the Millhopper Branch Library and the Tower Road Branch Library, which were open in past election cycles.

Early voting locations will be open Oct. 22 to Nov. 3 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day. No matter the address in Alachua County where you are registered to vote, you can vote at any of the early voting locations.

In addition to early voting, our office has worked to make more voters than ever aware of their ability to vote by mail. In September, the American Civil Liberties Union published a report on voting by mail in Florida. To most people, the report was alarming, showing that the rejection rate for vote-by-mail ballots in Alachua County for the 2016 General Election was more than 1.5 percent.

The vote-by-mail process rests on our office's ability to compare the signature a voter provides on his or her mail ballot certificate to the signature in his or her voter record. When the signature on a vote-by-mail ballot has been flagged as one that is not comparable to the signature in a voter's record, we make efforts to contact the voter, sending letters and emails, and making phone calls.

If the signature is not comparable and attempts to contact the voter are unsuccessful, the signature is reviewed by the canvassing board and the final decision is made by the canvassing board.

As more people become aware of the rules associated with voting by mail, I expect the rejection rate to come down, and this expectation is reinforced by the fact

See **REGISTRATION**, p. 7

From **VOTE!**, p. 2

CITY OF GAINESVILLE CHARTER AMENDMENT CITY COMMISSION ELECTIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE

This referendum is years in the making and has a lot of group think momentum. This would move city elections from the current March/April to the August/November cycle. It's important because turnout for city elections hovers between 10 percent and 15 percent outside a presidential primary. It would also save a lot of money for the city and time for voters. There is a counter argument which says it is better to have focused attention on the City election rather than all lumped together in the fall (see page 9).

Local/Regional Races:

COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

Marihelen Wheeler is a retired union teacher, who is good on the environment and great on workers' issues. She'll also be the only woman on the 5 member board of County Commissioners. **VOTE FOR MARIHELEN WHEELER** because she earned it.

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT AND DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS

It's weird that there's an option to recall or retain judges. The judicial branch is supposed to be outside of politics but that has changed a lot in recent years (see the successful recall of the judge in the Stanford rape case). This is the moment we live in and we should vote no on the Rick Scott Appointments.

VOTE YES for Alan Lawson.

VOTE NO for Rick Scott appointee Harvey Jay.

VOTE NO for Rick Scott appointee Stephanie W. Ray.

VOTE YES for Brad Thomas.

VOTE NO for Rick Scott appointee Kemmerly Thomas.

VOTE NO for Rick Scott appointee Allen Winsor.

CIRCUIT JUDGE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GROUP 8

David Robertson is a former military lawyer and current Department of Transportation chief counsel. His job is under threat at the DOT because of the large number of affairs he has had with subordinates. Obviously, he's now working tirelessly to get the whistleblower fired.

Meanwhile Gloria Walker is the managing Attorney and Director of Litigation at 3 Rivers Legal Services which services the abused, disabled, elderly, and poor. She has a powerful life story. **VOTE FOR GLORIA WALKER** because she's the most qualified for the job.

COUNTY JUDGE GROUP 2

I (we) like both of the candidates for this seat. Craig DeThomas is a local defense attorney whose firm has represented people facing political persecution in Alachua County. And Meshon Rawls is a distinguished UF Law professor who has spent much of her career defending juveniles in the criminal justice system. **A win either way.**

SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 3

There are some very vocal people who are quite frustrated with Gunnar Paulson. At times he can be abrasive and I understand why people would blame the perceived failures of the current school board on him. He's been good for the teachers and paraprofessionals in many ways though. Nonetheless, I understand

why some people are not supporting him in this election.

What I don't understand is why anyone is supporting April Tisher. She is a Republican who wants more cops in schools and can count anti-education Florida Senator Keith Perry as a supporter. I don't understand how progressives could vote for a reactionary as opposed to **VOTING FOR PAULSON**, despite his faults.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT GROUP 3

Chris Rose II declared himself for Soil and Water and thought he could coast through unopposed as districts 1 and 5 had. This plan hit a snag when actual environmentalist Kaithleen Hernandez entered the race. Rose is a neo-confederate who often airs his regressive views at public meetings. Please support and **VOTE FOR KAITHLEEN** as she will actually bring knowledge and commitment to the position, and has garnered much support from people acquainted with the issues she will be involved with.

State and Federal Races:

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 8

There's not enough negative things that can be said about the current Senator in District 8, Keith Perry. He's tried to preempt our wage theft ordinance (spoiler: his business has been found guilty of wage theft), has kneecapped our local hiring preference which helps young construction workers in certified apprenticeship programs (spoiler: his business benefited from this), and he recently pushed a bill that would lead to the privatization of Gainesville Regional Utilities (spoiler: his donors would benefit

See **VOTE!**, p.6

BE ELECTION READY THIS YEAR

GENERAL ELECTION

NOVEMBER 6, 2018

The voter registration deadline for this election was October 9

Vote by Mail

You may request a vote-by-mail ballot by contacting our office in person; by mail, phone, fax or email; or through our website (VoteAlachua.com/MBRS). Any voter can vote by mail.

Requests for vote-by-mail ballots must be received **no later than 5 p.m. on October 31**. Follow the instructions included to complete and return your ballot. **Return postage is prepaid.**

Vote-by-mail ballots must be received no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day. Vote-by-mail ballots can be returned by mail or hand delivered.

You may track your ballot status at VoteAlachua.com/My-Registration-Status.

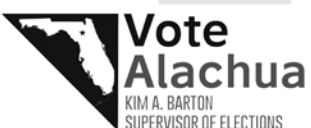
Vote Early

Early voting is offered for all elections. Regardless of assigned polling location, all eligible Alachua County voters may cast a ballot at any of the early voting locations in Alachua County. Early voting locations for the 2018 General Election are open **Oct. 22 to Nov. 3 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day**. For a list of locations, go to VoteAlachua.com.

Vote on Election Day at Your Assigned Precinct


Polls are open from **7 a.m. to 7 p.m.** You must vote at your assigned polling location — not at an early voting site. Early voting sites are not open on Election Day. If you are not sure where your assigned polling place is, call 352-374-5252 or go to VoteAlachua.com.


Photo and signature identification is required to vote.



Vote Alachua
KIM A. BARTON
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

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fax: 352-374-5264
Josiah T. Walls Building
515 N. Main Street, Suite 300
Gainesville, FL 32601-3348
VoteAlachua.com





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for state senate

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Paid by Kayser Enneking, Democrat, for State Senate, District 8.

From VOTE!, p. 5

from the privatization). He's pushed tax cuts that have benefited him and his rich friends, was the deciding vote on HB 7069 which is leading to the closure of Hawthorne Middle/High School, and has put school privation on steroids. And he's terrible on Stand Your Ground, is opposed to marijuana decriminalization, and has offered little more than lip service for felon re-enfranchisement. To put it bluntly, Perry sucks.

Kayser Enneking is a physician who got in this race on the issue of healthcare after Gov. Scott turned down Medicare funding. She's also a powerful woman breaking into the almost-all-boys-club of state politics and is a physician who has been a consistent advocate for access to healthcare. **VOTE FOR ENNEKING** because she'll push for a living wage and housing rights inside and outside the Florida Senate.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 21

VOTE FOR JASON HAESELER as someone much better than the empty suit corporate shill he is up against, Chuck Clemons. He's a veteran, very conscious of healthcare issues as his young daughter faced health crises, and will work for the people of this area well. Clemons' pac and corporate dominated donor list says who he works for.

UNITED STATES SENATOR:

US Senator Nelson is not a progressive by any stretch of the imagination. He hasn't signed on as a cosponsor or said he would support Senate bill 1804, the Medicare for All act. He's not great on Palestine and is generally pro-empire (imperialism, war, etc.). He was part of the Clinton "New Democrat" coalition of fiscally conservative Democrats who cut back social spending to anemic levels and domestically waged war on black and brown people. It's important that we do not whitewash Nelson's politics for

expediency. But as Trump showed us - it can get worse.

Rick Scott is one of the most vile politicians in the history of Florida. He's a millionaire who oversaw one of the largest Medicare frauds in history and bought his way into his seat. He continues to make himself and his friends richer at the expense of working people. His formula of tax cuts, school privatization, social spending cuts, and the over policing of people of color would be brought to DC. **VOTE BILL NELSON** for US Senate because he's not Rick Scott.

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT 3

Congressman Ted Yoho is just awful. Most recently he pondered why the Kavanaugh accusers didn't come out sooner while claiming Roy Moore's charges were bogus. The list of things he's said and done is so absurd it's hard to believe he's a real person. Hell, he said only landowners should be allowed to vote in 2014 and was still elected. Twice. Yvonne Hayes Hinson is a former City of Gainesville Commissioner. She was good on her three years on the city commission but it's an uphill battle against Yoho. Nonetheless, **VOTE FOR YVONNE HAYES HINSON** because she'd be a good Congressperson.

GOVERNOR AND LT. GOVERNOR

There's a real opportunity for Florida to elected a progressive Governor with Andrew Gillum. The Miami native, who grew up in Gainesville, is the current Mayor of Tallahassee. He's called for a \$50,000 starting salary for teachers (paid for by taxing the rich). He's an environmentalist, wants to reign in Stand Your Ground, and stop private prisons. While not directly under investigation, his administration has been tied to some financial questions over trip expenditures. And of course he's also a progressive black man and the far right will use any dog whistles they can.

Ron Desantis won his primary in large part thanks to support from

Trump. After winning the nomination he couldn't wait a full 24 hours before calling on voters not to "monkey up" the election by voting for this "articulate spokesperson for Socialism." And this is a theme he's used throughout his campaign. Scare white people away from Gillum by calling him a gay socialist criminal. **VOTE FOR GILLUM/KING** in November unless you're a racist, in which case congrats on actually reading through this.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Florida Attorney General is a very important position. Of particular interest to me is the prosecution of violations to the state's minimum wage law. When we were working on the Alachua County Wage Theft Ordinance, we called the Attorney General's office to see what data they had, and we found that they were unaware that they had this responsibility.

Sean Shaw has committed that, if elected, his office will start prosecuting wage theft violations, loosen regulations on marijuana, and hold pharmaceutical companies accountable for their role in the opioid crisis. He also has one of the most progressive voting records in the Florida house and has been a strong supporter of public schools. **VOTE FOR SEAN SHAW** because we need someone to keep the bosses who steal our wages in check.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Jeremy Ring is a millionaire, an early employee at Yahoo, and your run-of-the-mill technocratic Democrat. He was lukewarm while in the Florida Senate, even becoming one of the few Democrats allowed to chair a committee in the Republican controlled chamber. That said, he's mountains better than the Republican running, Jimmy Patronis.

VOTE FOR JEREMY RING because you're pretty sure you don't want a Republican doing the job.

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

This is a pretty important position with a lot of say over consumer protections. Of most interest to me is Niki Fried's positions on deregulating medical marijuana and taking on the NRA. Matt Caudwell is an unimpressive white dude who thinks that wearing ridiculous bow ties has prepared him for one of the most important elected positions in Florida.

VOTE FOR NIKKI FRIED because she'll help bring smokable medical marijuana to Florida. 🐾

From REGISTRATION, p. 4

that, for the 2018 Primary Election, the percentage of vote-by-mail ballots that were rejected was less than one percent.

The most effective way of ensuring that your vote-by-mail ballot gets counted is by tracking it after it's sent in. Voters can do that at VoteAlachua.com/My-Registration-Status or by calling our office at 352-374-5252.

Those who plan to vote on Election Day should remember that the ballot is going to be very long, with estimates showing that it will take voters more than 30 minutes to read and fill out each ballot.

You must vote at your assigned polling place on Election Day (not at an early voting site) and polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

As always, I encourage anyone who has questions to reach out to our office. I can always be reached by email at kbarton@alachua-county.us, and our office, located in Gainesville at 515 N. Main St., is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. 🐾



Tues-Saturday: 11am-8pm
Sun: 11am-6pm
Mon: Closed

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Iguana's picks for Alachua County ballot

All ballots are not the same depending on where you live. There are city only items, and East/West races. But this should have most items if you are in Alachua County.

We are straight Democrat on this election.

Senator: Nelson

Congress: Hayes Hinson

Governor: Gillum

Att. Gen.: Shaw

Chief Finan. Officer: Ring

Agriculture: Fried

St. Senator: Enneking

State Rep.: Haeseler

County Comm. 2: Wheeler

Judge retention:

- Vote yes Lawson
- Vote no Jay
- Vote no Ray
- Vote yes Brad Thomas
- Vote no Kemmerly Thomas
- Vote no Winsor

Circuit Court: Walker

Group 2 Judge: Both good, no pick

School Board: Paulson

Soil and Water 3: Hernandez

Amendments:

- 1: No 4: Yes
- 2: No 5-10: No
- 3: Yes 11-13: Yes

County Referenda: Yes and yes

City Referenda: NO and leaning no 🐾



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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 & Pazen Sauti Africa Choir

26-28 The Fest 17 venue

Each Friday a new band brings original and cover tunes to the Plaza concert stage 8-10 pm, May through October

111 E. University Ave. All shows may be subject to change
<http://gnculturalseries.org/free-fridays-concert-series/>

Why women are pissed off

From a Facebook post on Sept. 29 by Drew McKenna, sharing a passage from "The Macho Paradox: Why Some Men Hurt Women and How All Men Can Help" by Jackson Katz.

Men ask why women are so pissed off, even guys with wives and daughters. Jackson Katz, a prominent social researcher, illustrates why. He's done it with hundreds of audiences. He tells about an experiment he does with an audience of men and women:

I draw a line down the middle of a chalkboard, sketching a male symbol on one side and a female symbol on the other. Then I ask just the men: What steps do you guys take, on a daily basis, to prevent yourselves from being sexually assaulted?

At first there is a kind of awkward silence as the men try to figure out if they've been asked a trick question. The silence gives way to a smattering of nervous laughter. Occasionally, a young guy will raise his hand and say, "I stay out of prison." This is typically followed by another moment of laughter, before someone finally raises his hand and soberly states, "Nothing. I don't think about it."

Then I ask the women the same question. What steps do you take on a daily basis to prevent yourselves from being sexually assaulted?

Women throughout the audience immediately start raising their hands. As the men sit in stunned silence, the women recount safety precautions they take as part of their daily routine.

- Hold my keys as a potential weapon.
- Look in the back seat of the car before getting in.
- Carry a cell phone.
- Don't go jogging at night.
- Lock all the windows when I sleep, even on hot summer nights.
- Be careful not to drink too much.
- Don't put my drink down and come back to it; make sure I see it being poured.
- Own a big dog.
- Carry Mace or pepper spray.
- Have an unlisted phone number.
- Have a man's voice on my answering machine.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Don't use parking garages.
- Don't get on elevators with only one man, or with a group of men.
- Vary my route home from work.
- Watch what I wear.
- Don't use highway rest areas.
- Use a home alarm system.
- Don't wear headphones when jogging.
- Avoid forests or wooded areas, even in the daytime.
- Don't take a first-floor apartment.
- Go out in groups.
- Own a firearm.
- Meet men on first dates in public places. Make sure to have a car or cab fare.
- Don't make eye contact with men on the street.
- Make assertive eye contact with men on the street." 🐾

Don't bundle this election, keep home rule

by Gary Gordon

This November the citizens of Gainesville can choose to move our city elections to the fall and to lengthen the terms of city commissioners and the Mayor to four years.

I urge my fellow citizens to choose to vote no.

Do not bundle our election with the others.

I write this as a former City Commissioner and Mayor-Commissioner who served 1983-86, so you can judge what my thoughts are worth.

The stand-alone election of city officials is one of the most valuable assets this city has. It allows citizens to concentrate their focus, at election time in the Spring, on city issues and the candidates who want to serve them. It is, in essence, an element of home rule.

Moving the elections to the fall, every four years when all the other elections take place, from the U. S. presidency on down, would eliminate that singular focus.

It would also make fundraising and volunteer recruitment more difficult as everyone and their dollars would be stretched thin or drawn to the more dramatic presidential, senate and up-ballot campaigns.

With all the campaigns happening at once coverage of the city campaign would inevitably shrink: there are only so many column-inches, only so much air-time.

The all-candidate, all-campaigns forums would obviously be even more marathon-like.

But the loss of singular focus, although primary, isn't the only reason to oppose this measure.

The poison-pill in this is the lengthening of the terms from three to four years. Adding a fourth year, if you haven't realized this yourself, means adding one more year during which the elected official does not have to stand accountable.

Gainesville has a system now that holds its elected officials accountable every three years. Accountability is of the utmost importance. Granting a fourth year just to align this election with the others is sorry reasoning. So sorry, the argument is made, the elected official needs the first year to learn on the job.

That dog don't hunt.

Jean Chalmers, Mac McEachern, Mark Goldstein, Court Collier, Aaron Green

and others from the era I served did not need a year to learn the job. Why? Because they were paying attention, attending meetings, participating and figuring it out before they got elected.

Giving them a fourth year so they can learn on the job their first year is not the solution.

So the argument is also made that a three-year term means they learn the first year, work the second, and run for re-election the third.

Well, they're always running for re-election.

Another reason to keep the city elections in the spring is to preserve their non-partisan status. Moving the elections to the fall will set in concrete the partisan stamp when it doesn't have to be that way. They weren't partisan when I served and keeping them as nonpartisan as possible will best serve this community. Fixing sidewalks, providing for public safety—basic municipal issues—these were not and should not be Democrat or Republican.

So we come to the final two items: cost and voter turnout.

It will cost what it has always cost. According to the Sun, that's around \$230,000. I can't argue with that. I can't come before you and say no it won't. I can say if I was on the Commission I would do what I did then which is to find the money if it came down to it but I'm not and won't be. So all I can say is I think

it's penny wise and pound foolish to think the cost is too great, with what's at stake.

As for voter turnout, it is obvious more people vote in the fall. But I return to my primary statement: the voter turnout in the spring represents the people who are dedicated to voting on city issues for city candidates to serve them on the city commission. The people who vote in the fall...?

I want people who care about the city to vote in the city election. It's on the candidates and media to accomplish increased turnout—not a sleight-of-hand change in the calendar to take advantage of increased turnout for other elections. Focus on the city is not what will happen in an election that is bundled with every other election; that's not the way to preserve home rule.

Gary Gordon was a City Commissioner (83-86) and Mayor-Commissioner (85-86). 🐾

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The power of Participatory Defense

by Rebecca Pacey

As Say Yes to second chances (Vote Yes on 4) took off last year, it created a renewed focus on people who are currently or have been incarcerated and the plights that they face everyday. These challenges include housing, employment and regaining the right to vote. The question of how to lower the incarceration rate is a continuous social concern. Participatory Defense has offered a solution to this problem.

The Florida Council for Incarcerated and formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls (Florida Council) has brought a new program to Alachua County. Florida is the home to the newest hub of Participatory Defense. Many times public defenders are over worked with limited resources and push defendants toward taking plea bargains. This is where Participatory Defense hubs come into play.

What is Participatory Defense? Participatory Defense (PD) model was developed

by Raj Jayadev, of California, as a grassroots collective that turns community organizing principles towards reforming criminal justice.

In short PD is a way to humanize loved ones in the eyes of the court system and educate families and defendants how to help in their own court cases. It shows both defendants and their families how to work through the complex system of criminal justice system, and assists public defenders assigned to the cases.

Communities are able to accomplish this by assisting in case discovery, review allegations and evidence discovery. PD volunteers work with the families to create bio social descriptions of their loved ones, their part in the family unit, their contributions to the community and their need to provide for their families.

PD measures its success in the amount of time saved, from either cases dismissed or in reduction of the length of time sentenced.

For example, David attended an anti-Trump rally on inauguration day and was arrested. David was thrown to the ground and into mailboxes several times before being dragged into the streets and arrested. His charges were failure to disperse, unlawful assembly, failure to obey a lawful order, and assault and battery on an officer.

The PD hub provided assistance to David's lawyer by collecting contact information of potential witnesses, collecting witness statements of the incident and the times leading to the incident, creating a social biography packet, gathering civilian videos of the incident, having witnesses write down their recollection of the incident, and documenting injuries from officers.

After viewing the video provided by an eye witness, David's charges were dismissed and he was set free. Time saved: one year. Video of David's arrest can be seen at acjusticeproject.org.

To date the PD hubs have saved over a total of 3,350 years of jail time. So far, that is 33 centuries of time saved. That is 33 centuries of parents reunited with children, people returning to work, people being able to strengthen their local communities.

The Florida Council hub of the PD movement is part of a national movement to provide this education to our community, our Gainesville community, our North Central Florida community. Jhody Polk, Executive Director of Florida Council, described the purpose of PD to a room of volunteers as "We are here to empower each person and ensure each person is given a dignified and fair judicial process."

PD hub will be creating pamphlets with detailed information about the first 48 hours after arrest for both families and those arrested. The PD hub is a place of security for families to reach out to and learn how to be of assistance to their loved ones.

The PD hub will have meetings twice a week, one in the evening and one in the daytime to ensure all families can make a meeting despite transportation issues, work schedules and child care needs. The PD hub will be there for anyone who needs help determining how the court process unfolds.

As participatory defense continues to take hold here, the search for committed volunteers to work with families, support defendants' families in court and help with clerical needs grows. There will be a training meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 17 from 6-8 p.m. at GTEC room 108, 2153 SE Hawthorne Rd. in Gainesville. Please contact the Florida PD hub via email to offer any services you wish to provide. Their web page for additional information is: floridacouncilfreeher.org



www.civicmediacenter.org
coordinators@civicmediacenter.org
 352-373-0010
 433 S. Main St., Gainesville 32601
 Park just to the south on SE 5th Ave, or after 7 pm at the courthouse (just north of 4th Ave), or GRU (2 blocks east of CMC).

Civic Media Center Events

- Every Monday** we screen a documentary at 7pm and then follow it with a discussion!
- Every Thursday** we have a Volunteer Mtg at 5:30 and Poetry Jam at 8pm!
- Every Saturday** at 9am we offer FREE Meditation to the community at 9am!

- Oct. 25 QUEER THE FEST 5pm
- Oct. 26-28 FEST
- Oct. 29 Safer Space Training with Shawna Potter from War on Women 4pm
"A Girl Walks Alone at Night" 7pm
- Oct. 31 Halloween Pre-Party 9pm
- Nov. 2 Open Jam and Art Show 8pm-2am
- Nov. 3 FREE Yoga at 10am
Drywall Repair Workshop 3pm
- Nov. 4 WGOT Training 12-2pm
- Nov. 6 Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee 6-8pm
- Nov. 7 Communication Skills Workshop 6-8pm (Annex)
Beyond Amendment 4 6pm (Library)
- Nov. 9 Connect the Dots Live Music Series 7pm
- Nov. 10 Holistic Medicine Cabinet Workshop 2-4pm
The Fine Print Benefit Show 9pm
- Nov. 14 Pre-Screening of "Urban Paradise" 6pm
- Nov. 16 Open Jam and Art Show 8pm-2am
- Nov. 17 FREE Yoga 10am-11am
FREE STORE 2-5pm

Thank you to all who made the CMC 25th anniversary such a success!

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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Palestinian UF graduate Lara Alqasem detained at Israeli airport

On Oct. 2, Lara Alqasem, 22, a former University of Florida graduate was detained at Ben Gurion Airport and ordered deported after Israeli security looked her up on Canary Mission, a right-wing blacklist site.

Alqasem was going to study for an MA at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and had received a visa valid for a year for that purpose. She remains in detention. Her detention and possible deportation raises major concerns about study abroad programs in Israel which might well deny entry to students of Palestinian origin or anyone who does not pass the right-wing litmus test. Unfortunately such tests are also being used to deny entry to people engaged in social justice work. Recently, Professor Katherine Frank who arrived in Israel to lead a delegation of human rights activists, was detained and deported. In light of these concerns, faculty from UF and around the country have signed the statement below for the release of Lara Alqasem.


We the undersigned faculty call for the immediate release from detention at Ben Gurion Airport of Lara Alqasem, a US citizen of Palestinian heritage who was traveling to the region to continue studies in Jeru-

salem. Lara, who graduated from the University of Florida this year with a degree in International Studies and Arabic and had a valid visa, was detained several days ago after being profiled by Israeli immigration officers at Ben Gurion airport and continues to remain in detention. She has been interrogated, threatened with a denial of the right to enter, and according to Cody O'Rourke, Communications Director of the Holy Land Trust in Bethlehem, was at times denied food, water, and access to the bathroom when she was first detained.

This kind of surveillance and treatment of US students by Israel is unacceptable. It is a violation of her human rights, her academic freedom and freedom of movement. The detention unfortunately suggests that Israel discriminates against Arab American students, who because of their cultural and familial connections to Palestine (Lara has Palestinian grandparents) are regularly turned back when they seek to enter Israel.

Adrian Roitberg, Professor, UF
Anastasia Ulanowitz, Associate Professor, UF
Bill V Mullen, Professor, Purdue University
Cynthia Franklin, Professor, University of Hawaii

David Klein, Professor, CSU, Northridge
David Lloyd, Professor, UC, Riverside
David Palumbo-liu, Professor, Stanford University
Dror Abend-David, Professor, UF
John Carlos Rowe, Professor, USC
John David Zuern, Professor, University of Hawaii
John K Schueller, Professor, UF
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Laurel Mei-Singh, Assistant Professor, University of Hawaii
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Michael Leslie, Professor, UF
Monisha Das Gupta, Professor, University of Hawaii
Pamela Gilbert, Professor, UF
Paul Ortiz, Professor, UF
Peter J. Hirschfield, Professor UF
Rajini Srikanth, Professor, University of Massachusetts, Boston
Richard Burt, Professor, UF
Sankar Subramaniam, Professor, University of Hawaii
Saree Makdisi, Professor, UCLA
Sunaina Maira, Professor, UC Davis
Valeria Kleiman, Associate Professor, UF
Zorahah Simmons, Associate Professor, UF



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Sites: George A. Smathers Libraries, Lawton Chiles Legal Information Center, & A. Quinn Jones Museum and Cultural Center
Sponsored by UF Levin College of Law's Center for Race and Race Relations


MONDAY, OCT. 22
A Walk in my Shoes
11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Burlington Plaza

The Racialization of Immigrants in the U.S.: A Brief History
6 p.m., Reitz Union G310

TUESDAY, OCT. 23
Cultural Appropriation vs. Appreciation
7 p.m., MCDA 2201

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 24
"Documenting Hate" Documentary Screening and Discussion
6 p.m., Reitz Union 3320

THURSDAY, OCT. 25
Cultural Exchange Fair
11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Reitz Union Entrance Tabling Area



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- Raised teacher and employee salaries
- Made it a priority of the District Strategic Plan
- to support the reorganization of a countywide PTA
- Increased career-technical course offerings

Hello, my name is Dr. Gunnar Paulson and I am running for **re-election to the Alachua County School Board District 3**. I have served our school district in various capacities since 1970. In 2010, it was my privilege to be elected to our school board. During my tenure on the board, I have served as Vice Chairman in 2013 and 2017. Chairman in 2014 and presently serve as Chairman.

gunnar4schoolboard.org



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Busting myths about the GRU Authority Referendum

Vote NO on Gainesville Municipal Referenda

by Evelyn Foxx and Nkwanda Jah

The Alachua County NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Committee (ECJC) focuses on community issues affecting the quality of life and economic equity for all citizens in Gainesville and Alachua County. Environmental Justice recognizes that environmental benefits and burdens are not shared equally among all residents — consequently, Environmental Justice issues are also civil and human rights issues.

“Gainesville Municipal Referenda 1” is such an issue. If this referendum passes, Gainesville’s citizens would lose control of our utility, GRU. Our Gainesville city charter would be amended to pass control to an unpaid, unelected, governing Authority, operating under a new state law. All of our City Commissioners oppose this measure. Advocates of this assault on home rule speak glowingly of the benefits that would flow to the city’s citizens and businesses if voters turn over power to an Authority that would operate without having to answer to anyone -- even though the city is still the owner of GRU! These benefits are mythical.

Myth #1: Rates would go down if the new GRU Authority is created

FALSE: Nothing in the referendum requires or suggests lowering rates. Once appointed, its members can decide to raise or lower rates, or reduce transfers that currently cover over 30 percent of Gainesville’s general fund budget (paying for fire and police, transportation, social services, parks etc.). Reduced transfers would mean increased taxes or decreased services like programs that help low income residents lower their bills, provide more energy efficient, affordable housing, and support living wages.

Myth #2: The GRU Authority would be an “independent” board

FALSE: The GRU Authority would be controlled by a new state law with NO local checks and balances that we now have when we elect our City Commissioners, who appoint our Utility Advisory Board. Independent boards come in many forms, but leave certain powers for the city commission and require accountability to citizens. This Authority does neither. Currently, we can amend our Charter locally under Home Rule but the referendum would delete our power and transfer that control to state lawmakers instead.

Myth #3: GRU would be better-run by the GRU Authority

FALSE: GRU is the most diversified utility in Florida, providing not just electricity, but high quality, clean water, plus wastewater and natural gas. We have the highest percentage

of renewable fuels including solar and biomass. Our existing Utility Advisory Board includes diverse members with finance, law, conservation, business and engineering experience, who are developing a comprehensive Gainesville Energy Policy to lead GRU into the future. Other communities have stripped citizens of their power, leading to negative consequences. Flint, Michigan is an example of what can happen when unaccountable state mandated authorities take over local water systems.

Myth #4: Gainesville City Commissioners support this referendum

FALSE: Contrary to the claims made by Keith Perry’s campaign advertising, all current City Commissioners are on record OPPOSING this referendum, which would take away local control over the future of our public utility as well as the largest part of our city budget, and leave us at the mercy of the new state law crafted in secret and passed by politicians in Tallahassee. This misleading information illustrates why we don’t want state politicians determining the future for our Gainesville utility.

Our community needs to stop scapegoating GRU, and address current economic inequalities that are linked to unequal energy burdens. Compared to the average Alachua County household that spends 5.5 percent of income on home energy costs, low-income families spend an average of 14 percent of their annual income on utility expenditures, primarily because their homes are older and less efficient, and they do not make living wages. City commissioners have a responsibility for the well-being of the city, including GRU’s obligations to the community, and must listen to citizen input or risk being voted out of office. Maintaining local control is the best way to guarantee government’s responsiveness to the quality of life and equality issues affecting our community, including the availability of affordable, more efficient homes, and living wages for all members of our community.

Evelyn Foxx is the President of NAACP Alachua County Branch. Nkwanda Jah is Chair of the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Committee.

For more information, and to read the full text of the referendum: <http://www.gru.com/AboutGRU/DidYouKnow.aspx>.

The NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Committee meets every third Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm at the Wilhelmina Johnson Center. For more information, or to learn more about our activities, contact us at: naacpecjcnv@gmail.com.

The City of Gainesville had their attorney look at HB 759, which was rammed through the Legislature and forced on to the ballot for this election. Below is a summation of the attorney’s review of what the proposed GRU Authority’s impact would be, as presented by Susan Bottcher in a recent forum on the issue. It was a slide in her Powerpoint presentation.

City Attorney’s Impact Statement & Analysis of HB759

- Language is vague
- Grants the Authority broad powers with little accountability
- There will be labor & employment problems
- Grants power of eminent domain to an unelected board
- Unpredictable financial impacts to ratepayers, GRU and the city
- Certain provisions are illegal or unconstitutional

United Nations Day 2018

The Gainesville Chapter of the United Nations Association invites you to the 40th annual UN Day Meeting on Thursday, Oct 25 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Gainesville Woman’s Club at 2809 West University Ave.

The theme is “Peace Matters: Why?” Keynote Speaker, William R. Phillips, serves in the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support of the United Nations. The title of his talk is “Preventing Conflict and Keeping Peace: Changing How the UN Does Business.” This year is also the 70th Anniversary of UN Peacekeeping.

Please contact Lisa Renner at ejrenner@hotmail.com for more information.

The United Nations Association – Gainesville Chapter has a vision for a peaceful, secure, just, and sustainable local and global community. Its mission is to educate, inspire and mobilize our community to support the principles and vital work of the United Nations.

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History and the people who make it: Joseph W. Welch: Part 2

Joseph Welch [W], WWII vet, Gainesville area civil rights worker and schoolteacher, was interviewed by Ryan Morini [M] in April, 2013; the first part of this interview ran in the September Iguana.

This is the 50th 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; raw language kept for historical accuracy.

Transcript edited by Pierce Butler.

M: What was it like back in Gainesville {after WWII}?

W: Glad to be out [laughs]. I was college-bound. Government's gonna pay all of our expense? Yes, I'm going. I don't want any of the schools in Florida. So, I applied to Lincoln University in Missouri, Tom Coward and I.

I had been a cook at College Inn, the largest restaurant in Gainesville. During that time, the law school was in that area.

M: A white establishment.

W: Yeah. [laughs] The place was operated by a guy named Jean Ahrano. At the time I was a high school student; he put me to short-order cooking and to serve.

Joseph, he said, if you {have} any spare time, get my textbook and study. On the job. Guess what. When I became a civil rights activist, his is one of the first places I picketed. [laughs]

He recognized me. But he couldn't do anything, because, prior to picketing, you had to get a parade permit. This gave you legal rights to the sidewalks in front of their places. We got some real light-skinned mulatto people. We would send them in the College Inn to get served.

They couldn't tell whether they were white or black. And have them leave a note, to let them know they had been served there. We did that to a number of places. [laughs]

Another strategy that I used as chairman of Direct Action was that places that had curb service – I believe it was Humpty Dumpty on 13th Street – I got together a dozen or more automobiles. I would send three or four to be served {and} three or four inside. If ordered to leave, those four, I told them, you leave. Send four different ones. You couldn't be charged because you weren't the one originally told to leave.

M: How'd you get involved with Civil Rights?

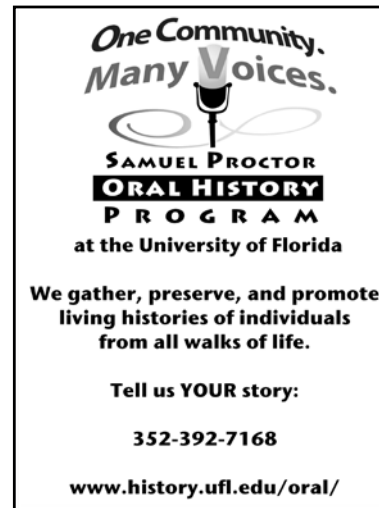
W: I trace it back to being in the service. I was so like this guy – what's his name? That fought for years to get in the University of Florida.

M: Virgil Hawkins. [Virgil D. Hawkins (1907-1988) applied to UF Law School. He was denied because of race and went on to fight for nine years, ultimately achieving victory at the US Supreme Court.]

W: My plan when I met Carlie and graduated {was} to teach for a few years, then go back and finish law school. But I got into teaching and I liked it so well, I never go back to law school.

M: When did you start working with NAACP?

W: Around [19]58.



M: What about CORE? [Congress of Racial Equality participated in Freedom Rides, desegregating Chicago's schools, March on Washington, and Freedom Summer.]

W: Same time, both of them. We had professors from {UF} who belonged to CORE and worked along with us. Several lost their jobs as a result. Dr. Marshall Jones, he was very instrumental. Megan Webb, a white teacher. A guy – what's his name? [laughs] He was very wild. He wanted me to go to Madison. Madison? You didn't go around places like Madison and Quincy – those were the worst, racist places in Florida!

He had a nice Chevrolet, went up there. Man, they shot that thing with bullet holes. Just happened they didn't hit him. One

time, he ran for governor of Florida. He favored legalization of marijuana. I would never be with that. He be on Channel 4, I can't figure that name.

M: You said teachers would give you money, but didn't want their names on the lists.

W: They would not participate. Not actively. The little contribution they gave – maybe for buying refreshments for those who did participate. Or to test a place, to pay for service in a restaurant.

I would call ministers of white churches – we would like to worship with you. The pastor of a Presbyterian church, he welcomed us, says come right on! {One} of the persons that went with me on that is now a federal judge.

M: Stephan Mickle. [Stephan P. Mickle (born 1944), the first black student to graduate from {UF} and the second to graduate from {UF} Law School, was nominated by Bill Clinton to a district court.]

W: We went there, had a nice time. First Baptist Church downtown, they were very friendly. Gainesville wasn't all that bad, not like some other places.

When I went to have a conference with the city manager about hiring policies, he asked me [imitates city manager] "What the hell are you talkin' bout? You ever heard of the 99th Pursuit Squadron?"

He said they flew planes worth millions of dollars and they were lost, {every} single one. [The 99th Flying Training Squadron was the first flying unit for African-Americans, formed in 1941. Though able, despite all odds, to serve honorably, the unit received little guidance from other pilots, was accused by their white commander {of} being less effective than other squadrons, and was used by many as evidence of African-Americans' incompetence.]

Then I listed demands. You know what? The guy came through and put every one of them into effect. For example, I said, you will hire first come, first serve. Promotion – seniority. You take the public works in Gainesville, most of the supervisors were black as a result of that. I only met with him one time.

M: When you were growing up, was it tough to go downtown?

W: You had no accommodations downtown other than a black-owned restaurant, a

barbershop, that's all. But, when we began working on restaurants – Minute Drugstore and Woolworth, we didn't have any problems. They readily served us. They were waiting for us to come in. For those who resented our presence, to embarrass them, we would leave sizeable tips. [laughs]

We were sworn to do things peacefully. At one of our churches, we set up a lunch counter and duplicated the real situation. They give you a bottle of ketchup, shake it, and actually poured the ketchup on the person. [laughs] You gettin' angrier by the minute. But you settin' up to be peaceful. So you didn't respond to those things.

M: You were a teacher at the time – where?

W: Mebane in Alachua [A.L. Mebane Middle School, then a high school], from 1956 to 1970. Then I was assigned to Newberry High. I really enjoyed working there. I was the only black male that taught at that school for twelve years or more, so I was really known.

When I first went there I spent two days orientating the kids to what I expected. I'm not your black teacher. Or your white teacher. I'm your teacher. I didn't have any problems.

One of the white students at Newberry asked the principal, Mister, have you hired any nigger teachers to come to this school? He said, no, I have not any niggers, but I talked to blacks to come here. He said, I better quit school here because my daddy told me a black man can't teach a white man nothin'. So he dropped out. [laughs].

I was chairman of my department, and teaching all the senior courses so he had to come by me if he wanted to remain. He had no choice.

M: You were doing a lot of activist work while you were at Mebane. Did you teach that in the classroom?

W: At the black school, I was guilty of that, yes, because I wanted these kids to develop values. In the white school, I did not do that. I enjoyed teaching at Newberry, despite its history. They had an area there called Lynch Hammock.

[Lynch Hammock, now known as "the Hammocks," was where five blacks were hanged by a lynch mob. Another was shot to death. They are known today as the "Newberry Six". See: www.gainesville.com/article/20050904/DAYBREAK/50904013?p=1&tc=pg]

M: Did people ever talk about Lynch Hammock?

W: Oh no. The principal, I had his ear. If I saw racial friction, I'd say, Bo, we oughta summon the Inter Club Council, all the student leaders. We talked to them, then had them go talk to students. When they would have racial incidents at other schools, we weren't having them at Newberry.

We had an activity program of practically every field that you can think of, medicine, teaching, carpentry, anything.

I had a group of students come to me in the pre-med club: "Our science lab, we do not have a single microscope. What can we do?"

I said, get your parents, and go to the school board and tell them you want to transfer to Gainesville High School. If they wanna know why? You gettin' an inferior education because of lack of equipment. They went down and as a result, trucks began running over each other to deliver microscopes and all other scientific equipment that you need.

The old Lincoln High School, and the old Gainesville High School, both opened in 1923. Gainesville High has 56 critical ed classes, a library, unlimited scientific equipment. At Lincoln, we had one microscope. We had no cafeteria; sets of encyclopedias, but no library. Separate, but always unequal. [laughs] In high school, I never attended school for nine months. White kids attended school nine months. I attended school eight months. I was expected to work during harvest for the farmers, which I refused to do.

M: Did you keep a garden when you were growing up?

W: Yeah. We raised all kinds of things in my backyard. I had also flying jennies and swings and merry-go-round I built myself. I kept a backyard full of white kids, they could play croquet, merry-go-round and swings, up in the trees. I grew up every day interacting with white kids. I lived within a block and a half of Gainesville High School and I couldn't attend Gainesville High School. [laughs] But, we associated with 'em.

M: There used to be some jukes in Porters. Do you remember much about that?

W: Yes, there were quite a number. The persons who owned those – the letter carriers – {were} "big shots" among the blacks because they had higher income. Those places were out {on} north Main Street, called the Pistol and the Rainforest and things of that sort. Big jukes, where blacks congregated and even white police officers were afraid

to go after dark, where Gainesville Shopping Center is, back towards 39th. All of that was black-owned.

M: What happened to it since then?

W: These shopping centers came into being. Down 23rd there – a group of blacks which, I won't give names, but a group you probably would know. They bought up a bunch of land because whites were building in that area. They were afraid that blacks were gonna build residences in that area. Those guys bought that to get money out of it, and they did. Whites were willing to pay any kind of money to make sure no blacks built {there}.

M: The Klan had a presence in Gainesville. Did that ever come up?

W: I've seen them parade down University Avenue but we never had contact with them that I can recall. Because – I can't think of the guy's name – he was very arrogant, he didn't give a damn whether you were green, white, purple or red. People feared him, too, on the other side. There was several like that. I probably mentioned to you before, a policy that if a black man was able to disarm a white police officer, take his pistol and whip him, they would not arrest him. Johnny Johnson, he did just that. They didn't even arrest him.

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. ✨



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In memory of Harriet Ludwig: CMC co-founder



by Carol Gordon

Retired journalist Harriet Ludwig, co-founder of the Civic Media Center and a frequent columnist and letter-writer to The Gainesville Sun, died June 28, 2018. She was 93.

Ludwig was a long-time resident of Gainesville, newspaper reporter, advocate for civil rights, women, education, housing and health care. She wrote extensively and was actively involved in local politics to promote policy change for these issues.

Ludwig was also a founding member of the Civic Media Center and served on the local NAACP education committee and

HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Pre-school Youngsters.) N'Kwanda Jah, director of the Cultural Arts Coalition in Gainesville, said she began working with Ludwig on community issues in the late 1980s. Jah said Ludwig was committed to improving residents' lives.

"She has always been a champion, especially in education and housing in the African-American community. She wrote about it, she worked on it," Jah said. "She worked really hard to get the Unitarians to become aware of issues in the African-American community and to be allies."

Ludwig continued writing for weekly alternative newspapers and was a frequent contributor to The Sun. Her most recent column in The Sun was in January 2015 and was about the 1965 civil rights marches in Alabama. Ludwig and her husband went there to attend the funeral of a Unitarian minister, Rev. James Reeb, who was killed by police during one of the marches. Rev. Martin Luther King gave the eulogy.

She was the recipient of many awards including 1997 Child Advocate Award for Intergenerational Leadership, Center for Children and Youth, FL; 2000 National Public Citizen of the Year, National Association of Social Workers; 2000 Women of Distinction Award, Alachua/Bradford

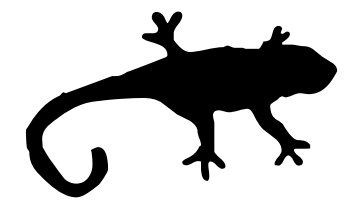
County; 2001 Friends of Susan B. Anthony Award, Gainesville, FL; and 2004 Hall of Fame Award, Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Florida.

The Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County proclaimed December 12, 2000 as 'Harriet M. Ludwig Day' in tribute to her community service.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, October 27 from 2 to 4 pm at the Thomas Center. Music provided by Sidney Bertisch and Kali Blount.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Cultural Arts Coalition, 321 NW 10th Street, Gainesville, 32601 (culturalartscoalition.org) are welcome.

The Gainesville Sun archives contain about 125 articles and columns that Harriet wrote over a span of more than 15 years. You can access them online at <https://www.gainesville.com/search?text=archives>.



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, 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 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. centralfidsa@gmail.com, www.fb.com/centralfidsa

Citizens Climate Lobby builds awareness and lobbies for sensible climate policies, btancig@gmail.com, 352-214-1778

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

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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

Divest Gainesville advocates divesting City financial assets from fossil fuel industries and educating on racial justice and climate change, youngersn@outlook.com

Divest UF is a student-run organization and a loose collective of Gators seeking to divest the university from fossil fuels, the prison industry, and arms & surveillance companies. <http://www.divestuf.org>, Facebook @Divest UF

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 Quarterly magazine founded

in 2008 with political, social and arts coverage, thefineprintmag.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 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 Roller Rebels - a womens' Flat Track roller derby team needs skaters and volunteer assistance. join@gainesvillrollerrebels.com

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)

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/](https://www.facebook.com/humanistsocietyofgainesville/); gainesvillehumanists@gmail.com.

Humanists on Campus UF organization provides

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

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, projectmanagement@indivisiblegnv.org

Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC), branch of IWW, GainesvilleIWOC@gmail.com

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

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

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

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, 352-575-0495, nwl@womensliberation.org

NCF AWIS - an advocacy organization championing the interest of women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) across all disciplines and employment sectors. Meetings are usually the first Monday of the month (except holidays) from 5:30 -7:30pm, 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 Revolution North-Central Florida, inspired by Bernie Sanders, bringing progressive voices into the Democratic party, contact@ourrevncfl.com

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.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 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"

Students for Justice in Palestine, a cultural and political organization, sjpuflorida@gmail.com

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

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 Marxist 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>.

Zine Committee meets Thursdays at 6:30 at CMC to preserve and promote Travis Fristoe Zine Library at the CMC, cmzinecommittee@gmail.com or on Facebook 🇺🇸



Fest 17 at the CMC October 26-28

by Joe Courter

The CMC will be quite a busy place during the Fest weekend. I hope some of you will come down and share in the fun. The informal kick-off will be Thursday, Oct. 25, with Queer the Fest, featuring touring and local musicians of the LGBTQ persuasion, as well as workshops earlier in the evening starting at 5 p.m.

The regular Fest stuff at the CMC runs Friday through Sunday evenings, Oct. 26-28, with a donation of \$10 each night, and with six to eight performers each night.

The CMC is the only acoustic venue in the Fest, so those that think of Fest as only loud punk rock -- which may not be their cup of tea -- need to come down to 433 S. Main. These are performers from across the nation, and even international, all playing short sets. So you will also meet great people from all over. Each year I am stunned by how few locals I see that take advantage of this great event.

Want samples of the music? Go to the amazing website www.thefestfl.com for all venue schedules along with a listing of each band or musician. Click on the artist and you will hear a song.

This is not to say the rest of Fest, all the other bands and venues, are not worthy of attention. There are entire worlds of music out there, ignored by the mainstream, but dear to the rock and roll hearts of those who love them. It is beyond cool that our Bo Diddley Plaza is a venue. Just come down and be part of it. 🐿

Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

🐿 **Complicating the Narrative on Nicaragua** by James Phillips

An in depth analysis to the situation in Nicaragua, on which the reporting has been, as a whole, pretty terrible.

<https://nacla.org/news/2018/09/24/complicating-narrative-nicaragua>

🐿 **Letter from Amy Zubaly, Interim Executive Director of the Florida Municipal Electric Association (FMEA) to Gov. Scott**

Zubaly asks Scott to veto HB 759, as it would expand government while limiting home rule, and raise electric rates and taxes.

<http://www.gainesvilleiguana.org/2018/articles/fmea-letter-to-gov-scott/>

🐿 **The Scandal of Democracy: Seven Theses for the Socialist Left** by Corey Robin

It's not just the Supreme Court - we have to take on the undemocratic scandal of the Court, the Senate, and the Electoral College. Only the Left can do it, because Democrats won't.

<https://jacobinmag.com/2018/10/supreme-court-senate-electoral-college-undemocratic> 🐿



14th Annual Florida Bat Festival

Saturday, Oct. 20, 10am-5pm

Lubee Bat Conservancy

1309 N.W. 192nd Ave.

Children 4 and under: FREE, Ages 5-12: \$5 Adults: \$8

Beer Garden at Bat Fest (includes entry): \$25 online, \$28 at gate

- Visit with the "Winged Crusaders, Superhero Bats"
- Find out how bats from around the world are superheroes
- View the world's largest bats
- Enjoy activities, games, live music, and educational exhibits
- Enter raffle prize drawings featuring zoo and theme park tickets
- Enjoy bat-themed crafts and games
- Check out the Kids Zone area with Bounce Houses provided by Space Walk of Gainesville and face painting by Fabulous Faces.
- For more information, email batfest@lubee.org
- Like us on Facebook for festival updates 🐿

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