

The Gainesville Iguana

*A progressive newsletter
and events calendar*

**March, 2019
Vol. 33, Issue 3**

Gainesville city elections, March 19

by Joe Courter

Yes, another election, this time for the City of Gainesville Mayor (citywide), District 4 City Commissioner (which is in the south/central area) and a referendum on charter review (also citywide and discussed in a separate article).

The mayoral race pits incumbent Mayor Lauren Poe against three challengers: Marlon Bruce, a 20-year-old Santa Fe College student with a questionable performance record in student government there; Jennifer Reid, a registered Republican and attorney big on public safety issues; and Jenn Powell, who was and is a strong Bernie Sanders supporter, a community activist, and formerly a candidate for City Commission a few years ago. Being a four-way race, it is possible there will be a runoff stretching to April.

The District 4 race is a two-way between incumbent Adrian Hayes-Santos and Robert Mounts, who filed to run at the last minute.

The overriding issue in these races is a challenge to the status quo of a City Commission that has talked about east/west inequities for years but has not produced

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Why should UF Divest?

by Marcela Mulholland

World renowned civil rights activist and writer James Baldwin once said, "The paradox of education is precisely this – that as one begins to become conscious, one begins to examine the society in which he is being educated." Along this same vein, the development of my consciousness has led me to examine the educational institution largely responsible for this development, the University of Florida.

When I first arrived at UF over three years ago I knew little to nothing about climate change, private prisons or any

other social justice issues. I remember sitting in a Facets of Sustainability course during the fall of my freshman year learning about climate change and feeling angry that I had been alive for 18 years without anyone ever telling me that quite literally civilization as we know it is on the brink of collapse.

I remember speaking to a professor after class who recommended that I read "The New Jim Crow," the book responsible for awakening me to the crisis of mass incarceration. I remember feeling confused

See DIVEST, p. 20

It’s broken: Ocasio-Cortez leads lightning round

The following is from a Congressional hearing on Feb. 6. Rep. Ocasio-Cortez is questioning Mrs. Hobert Flynn, the President of Common Cause; Bradley Smith, Chair of the Institute for Free Speech; Rudy Mehrbani, Senior Counsel of the Brennan Center for Justice; and Walter Shaub, Senior Adviser to Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics.

OCASIO-CORTEZ: Thank you, Chair. So, let’s play a game. Let’s play a lightning-round game. I’m gonna be the bad guy, which I’m sure half the room would agree with anyway, and I want to get away with as much bad things as possible ideally to enrich myself and advance my interests even if that means putting my interests ahead of the American people.

So, Mrs. Hobert Flynn – Oh, and by the way, I have enlisted all of you as my co-conspirators. So you’re gonna help me legally get away with all of this. So, Mrs. Hobert Flynn, I want to run. If I want to run a campaign that is entirely funded by corporate political action committees, is there anything that legally prevents me from doing that?

FLYNN: No.

OCASIO-CORTEZ: Okay.

So, there’s nothing stopping me from being entirely funded by corporate PACs, say, from the fossil-fuel industry, the healthcare industry, Big Pharma. I’m entirely 100 percent lobbyist PAC-funded. Okay. So, let’s say I’m a really, really bad guy. And let’s say I have some skeletons in my closet that I need to cover up so that I can get elected.

Mr. Smith, is it true that you wrote this article, this opinion piece for “The Washington Post” entitled “Payments to women were unseemly, that doesn’t mean they were illegal”?

SMITH: Well, I can’t see the piece, but I wrote a piece under that headline in “The Post,” so I assume that’s right.

OCASIO-CORTEZ: Okay. Great.

So, green light for hush money. I can do all sorts of terrible things. It’s totally legal right now for me to pay people off, and that is considered speech. That money is considered speech. So, I use my special-interest, dark-money-funded campaign to pay off folks that I need to pay off and get elected.

So, now I’m elected. Now I’m in. I’ve



Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

got the power to draft, lobby, and shape the laws that govern the United States of America.

Fabulous.

Now, is there any hard limit that I have, perhaps Mrs. Hobert Flynn – is there any hard limit that I have in terms of what legislation I’m allowed to touch? Are there any limits on the laws that I can write or influence, especially if I’m – based on the special-interest funds that I accepted to finance my campaign and get me elected in the first place?

FLYNN: There’s no limit.

OCASIO-CORTEZ: So, there’s none. So I can be totally funded by oil and gas. I can be totally funded by Big Pharma, come in, write Big Pharma laws, and there’s no limits to that whatsoever?

FLYNN: That’s right.

OCASIO-CORTEZ: Okay. So, awesome. Now, Mr. Mehrbani, the last thing I want to do is get rich with as little work possible. That’s really what I’m trying to do as the bad guy, right? So, is there anything preventing me from holding stocks, say, in an oil or gas company and then writing laws to de-regulate that industry and cause – you know, that could potentially cause the stock value to soar and accrue a lot of money in that time?

MEHRBANI: You could do that.

OCASIO-CORTEZ: So, I could do that. I could do that now with the way our current laws are set up?

MEHRBANI: Yes.

OCASIO-CORTEZ: Oh, okay. Great. Okay, so, my last question is – or one of my last questions, I guess I’d say, is, is it possible that any elements of this story apply to our current government and our current public servants right now?

MEHRBANI: Yes.

FLYNN: Yes.

OCASIO-CORTEZ: So, we have a system that is fundamentally broken. We have these influences existing in this body, which means that these influences are here in this committee, shaping the questions that are being asked of you all right now. Would you say that that’s correct, Mr. Mehrbani or Mr. Shaub?

SHAUB: Yes.

OCASIO-CORTEZ: All right. So, one last thing, Mr. Shaub – in relation to congressional oversight that we have, the limits that are placed on me as a congresswoman, compared to the executive branch and compared to, say, the President of the United States, would you say that Congress has the same sort of standard of accountability? Is there more teeth in that regulation in Congress on the president, or would you say it’s about even or more so on the federal?

SHAUB: In terms of laws that apply to the president, yeah, there’s almost no laws at all that apply to the president.

OCASIO-CORTEZ: So, I’m being held and every person in this body’s being held to a higher ethical standard than the President of the United States?

SHAUB: That’s right ‘cause there are some Ethics Committee rules that apply to you.

OCASIO-CORTEZ: And it’s already super legal, as we’ve seen, for me to be a pretty bad guy. So it’s even easier for the President of the United States to be one, I would assume.

SHAUB: That’s right.

OCASIO-CORTEZ: Thank you very much. 🐸

From the publisher ...

On saying no

So here we are two years into the Trump administration. And pretty much every day is another statement, policy, tweet or appointment that has us shaking our heads. Today it’s the appointment of a climate change (i.e., science) denier to head the White House panel on climate change. Two days ago it was the launching (pardon the pun) of an arms race in space with the creation of the “Space Command.” We watch in horror as immigrants fleeing the turmoil in their homelands are mis-characterized and vilified, to the point that families are being separated, and children are being locked up and even lost in the process. The nation is pulled out of international climate and arms control agreements. I won’t go on, you get the picture, you know it all too well.

So at what point is this turned around? Who is going to say no to it? I keep thinking of a future time when we will look back and think “How did we let it get that far?” Getting the U.S. House of Representatives back in Democratic hands, and that those hands are attached to many more women and minorities is good, but damage is continuing unabated with court appointments, weakening of health and safety regulations, and potentially disastrous foreign policy decisions with war hawks like Bolton, Pompeo and Abrams calling the shots.

I try and keep positive in these pieces, but it is getting harder with the rise of authoritarian governments around the globe. There seems to be a toxic similarity to them as well; attacks on the news media, repression and scapegoating of minority groups and outliers, attacks against progressive leaders through the courts or with bullets, and a rolling back of women’s rights. It is likely that technological change has been aiding this in the news manipulation, electoral messaging, and surveillance and tracking of dissidents. Big lies and fear mongering seem to be a winning ticket these days.

There is a lot of talk now about the Mueller report being released soon, and it seems like it is being treated like the silver bullet to save us from Trump. You readers in the future will know how that came out. But looking at it at this moment, there is a lot of other stuff that could be being investigated, especially by the newly blue House ... follow the money, look for the cover-ups. I worry that time is being squandered as some networks seem totally fixated on Russia Russia Russia and the threads Mueller is following. That and the distraction factor as the run up to military confrontation in Venezuela looms. Once soldiers die—that is, American soldiers—the fight becomes about their honor. That’s the way it’s been in the past, but I could be wrong about that now; the U.S. has lost a lot of soldiers without much results since George W. Bush turned loose the dogs of war in 2003. So much death and destruction over lies. Lies the media and Congress went along with. No one in power said no. So it goes.

The *New Yorker* issue from Feb 18 and 25 has a feature by Jeffery Toobin about Roger Stone and Jerome Corsi. <<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2019/02/18/roger-stones-and-jerome-corsis-time-in-the-barrel>> These two are master propagandists, of different styles, but both quite repulsive in their desire to win at all costs. And that is what we, on the left, are up against. It is the reason talk radio works for the Right but not the Left. It is ideology over truth. It is winning over compassion. Stone is a dirty trickster going back to Nixon days. Corsi is willing to create lies to further his cause, most notably the “swiftboating” of John Kerry in 2004. Worth a read, these are the times we are in.

And finally ... yes, Bernie is running and let’s have a fair process this time, although how we whittle this field down worries me. But consider these wise words from Loretta Ross:

“Can’t so-called progressives figure out how to support the candidate they believe represents their views without indulging in stupid call-outs and put-downs about other Democratic candidates? We can’t figure out how to support folks on the same team who have different skills/strengths/weaknesses? Any manager of a sports team figures this out everyday! Teachers do it everyday in classrooms. Good managers do it all the time at job sites. Get over yourself and stop this Cancel Culture masquerading as wise political debate unless your amnesia goes back to 2016. Fighting neo-fascism is our mission, not fighting each other. Just sayin’.” 🐸



Joe Courter

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OVER WOMEN'S WORK

BY JENNY BROWN

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City, County decisions to cut prison labor contracts lands major victory for modern day abolitionists

by Panagioti Tsolkas

You don't have to declare yourself a prison abolitionist to see that the facade of legitimacy in Florida's Department of Corrections is fading fast. Even Republican State Senator Keith Perry noted publicly this month, "When [prisoners] get released, they are worse than when they went in." In February of last year, the Miami Herald's coverage of reform efforts stated that "Florida is afraid of its prison system." So much for *corrections*.

But it never has been about correction. Florida's prison system, born in 1868 (a mere three years after chattel slavery was outlawed), inherited the ugly legacy of pre-Civil War politics. I don't mean that metaphorically. I mean the massive prison economy of rural Florida has literally been providing a social and economic safe haven for the remnants of Neo-Confederate outfits.

Evidence of this occasionally surfaces in news headlines, like the recent KKK plot at RMC Lake Butler or the racially motivated beating at Apalachee CI, both of which resulted in prosecution of guards. In other words, too brutal to effectively cover up. But more so, it is in content that fills the thousands of pages of letters that advocacy groups pour over in the process of developing relationships with incarcerated activists.

It is those letters that provided a catalyst for what happened in Gainesville and Alachua County over the past several months. As a result of community organizing in an inside/outside collaborative effort, as of Jan 24, both the City of Gainesville and Alachua County have officially terminated their contracts with FDOC prison slave labor.

In the process of digging deeper into the contractual relationship and crunching numbers to budget for a transition away from prison slave labor, it also became clear that the work hours FDOC tried to claim it provided were grossly exaggerated. Because the County managed its own staff of overseers, it had clear records indicating that these overseers were anticipated to manage three-to-four times more than the amount of prisoners that FDOC actually showed up with, resulting in significant miscalculations of how much the County would really need to be making up for.

In the City's case, the existing contract had payment go to FDOC for managing their own overseers, leaving very unclear and unreliable documentation of what was actually provided for the hundred-of-thousands in city tax dollars that essentially went toward subsidizing FDOC staff costs.

What's next

1. It's great to have these contracts terminated with swift and decisive action by both City and County Commissions in near-unanimous decisions. We also want to see pro-active language adopted in the form of a binding ordinance that indicates a refusal to tolerate discrimination against someone with criminal convictions by excluding them from basic rights to a fair wage and labor protections.

2. It's time to end prison slave labor contracts between FDOC and the University of Florida. UF coordinates a statewide slave farm work contract producing millions of dollars in food through the office of UF/IFAS based in Gainesville. The UF Board of Trustees can and should follow the examples of Gainesville and Alachua County.

UF/IFAS Extension is a partnership between state, federal, and county governments to provide scientific knowledge and expertise to the public. The University of Florida, together with Florida A&M University, administers the Florida Cooperative Extension Service.

IFAS's main office is located at the University of Florida Extension office, along with the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, and is called UF/IFAS Extension. As farm manager Greg Kimmons at IFAS's West Florida Research and Education Center in Jay says, "I was

just looking for a way to get free labor."

According to The Fine Print magazine: "Through partnerships with the Florida Department of Corrections, at least six IFAS sites — including ones at Jay, Citra, Live Oak, Immokalee and Wimauma — routinely call upon inmates from nearby prisons to do the more tedious, menial tasks associated with agriculture. The practice has become so normalized, directors and farm managers say that without this prison farm worker program, IFAS centers couldn't function."

3. Scale up this model across the state and the region. Most every state agency with an office in Tallahassee uses FDOC labor, as do dozens of cities and counties.

Florida is one of five states in the country that still refuses to pay prisoners any monetary amount for labor, alongside Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama and Texas. The movement we have sparked here in Gainesville could spread, and alter this historic injustice to incarcerated workers, as well as apply pressure on the prison system as a whole by showing a closer-to-accurate cost of incarceration.

If the state had to treat working prisoners with equal respect, the cost could force a reduction in prison populations pretty quickly.

As this February also marks the bicentennial of abolition champion Frederick Douglass, perhaps its a good time to ask, if you are someone who believes there is no justification for slavery: why *not* declare yourself a prison abolitionist?

Panagioti is an organizer with the Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons and the Gainesville Branch of the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee. ✊

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Santa Fe adjunct faculty file for union election

by Glynn Hayes
Santa Fe Adjunct Faculty

In December of 2018, adjunct faculty at Santa Fe College filed for a union election. This is from a speech given by Glynn Hayes, a Natural Sciences adjunct professor, at the Jan. 14 Santa Fe Board of Trustees meeting.

I have worked as an adjunct at Santa Fe College for more than ten years and am proud to work for this exemplary institution. I often have students take several of my different classes and I spend considerable time talking to students outside of class about their hopes, concerns and goals. I also know that for many adjuncts who have to work several jobs, these types of time investments in our students is desired, but just not possible.



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We, as adjuncts, make up more than 50 percent of the faculty. Santa Fe College could not function or maintain its high standards without the service of its adjuncts. Adjunct positions were created as temporary short-term positions, but because of funding cutbacks in education, adjuncting is no longer a temporary thing and full-time positions are few and far in between.

Today, adjuncts carry significant responsibility in the success of institutions but are under-compensated (equally qualified but receiving only half the pay of a full time professor to teach the same class), under-appreciated, and under-represented in decision-making bodies. Adjuncts have no benefits, and many struggle to pay for their basic needs. We have no job security even though many of us have taught the same courses for more than 5 years, and this does not allow for adjuncts to make long-term investments into the college.

We do not believe that the college that many of us have served for more than 10 years, would knowingly support a system that rides on the back of people who live under these conditions. Over time, the general education system has become more exploitive, not less.

Because of these factors, we have decided to form a union to represent the rights of adjunct faculty. As Americans, we all have a right to fair working conditions. We know that together with the administration of Santa Fe College, the adjunct union can develop solutions. Let me say again that we are proud to work for this institution and we commit ourselves to student and institutional success. We are eager to work with you to find solutions that make all of our lives and communities better. ✨

Stop the drift to war on Venezuela

by Joe Courter

The slow motion squeeze being put on Venezuela over the last 10 or 15 years has been so incremental as to not register in people's minds, or in the reporting on affairs in that country. They hit home for me because I spent 10 days in Venezuela in 2008, in Caracas and out in the country as well, both urban and rural. Chavez was still president, and the many programs put in place to help the poor with education and healthcare were elevating the lives of people we met with.

Yes, I am sure, then and more so now as sanctions have done their work, the more wealthy folks were not pleased, but this is understandable when an economy is reorganized to give more to those who have less.

One outstanding person we met with was Eva Golinger, who is still worth reading for a valued perspective. But now as I write (Feb. 22), things are coming to a head and could go through major developments, none of which look good.

In Editors' Picks on page 24, you will find a source which gives information about the biased news coverage and seeming blind acceptance of the U.S.-engineered overthrow of Maduro. I would like to zero in on the most profound example of this whole episode, the appointment of Elliot Abrams as an overseer of instilling democracy in Venezuela.

This man is a human rights horror who first emerged in the Reagan administration, and it was wonderful to see him put on the hot seat, however briefly, by Rep. Ilhan Omar on Feb. 13. (You can find it on CSPAN.) This perspective on Abrams is from an article in Counterpunch by Christopher Fons from Feb. 18:

"With the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980, some in the foreign policy establishment believed that the Nixon and Carter administrations had been too cozy with the communists in China and the Soviet Union, as if killing 3 million people in Vietnam and Laos and allying with the Shah of Iran was humanitarian do gooderism. Elliot Abrams was in this camp.

"For Reagan and Abrams Central America was ground zero for the New Cold War. In 1979, under Jimmy Carter's watch, a popular revolution had occurred in Nicaragua, a country that had been ruled by the Somoza family whose military force, organized, financed and trained by the U.S., for kicks liked to throw peasants and trade unionists into volcanoes from helicopters. After seizing power the leaders of the revolution, the FSLN, held elections – they won clear majorities. Besides establishing democracy the FSLN, initiated a literacy program, implemented universal healthcare with help from Cuba and began a land reform program.

"At the same time in neighboring El Salvador a similar revolutionary movement, the FMLN, was vying for state power. By the late '70s, the Salvadoran military was about to fall but was given a lifeline by the Carter administration. By the early '80s the FMLN was planning a 'final offensive.' In the name of fighting communists the U.S. helped train death squads that not only murdered peasants, trade unionists, socialists, democrats and teachers by the thousands but also nuns and a conservative arch-bishop that could no longer keep silent about the holocaust that was occurring in his country.

"In Guatemala, the fight for democracy and civil rights for the Maya majority had raged since the 1950s, but with the victory of the Nicaraguan revolution the revolutionary forces had united and began a renewed effort to defeat the dictatorship and their U.S. backers.

"The Reagan administration's strategy was quite simple, in all three countries – they would try to defeat all three revolutionary movements by force. Death squads were used in El Salvador. In Guatemala, a 'strategic hamlet' project was established, based on the Phoenix Program in Vietnam in the '60s; it basically cordoned off villages so that complete surveillance could take place over entire communities. Or they razed entire villages and murdered all of its inhabitants. In Nicaragua, a counter-revolutionary army was raised out of the remnants of the Somaza National Guard. They were funded by the U.S. and terrorized and murdered anyone that would ally with the revolution. This included the destruction of hospitals, water treatment programs and the assassination of teachers, health workers and U.S. citizens.

"Elliot Abrams was the point man for U.S. policy in Central America at this time. There was no murder too heinous, or atrocity too large that he would not rationalize in the name of anti-communism. His illegal activity and lying to congress eventually led to a felony conviction, and subsequent pardon by George H W Bush.

"What this week's testimony was about was not just the vileness of Elliot Abrams and his individual crimes but the impunity by which Abrams and his ilk have operated over hundreds of years in Latin America and the world.

"His response was telling.

"He would not even answer the questions because he and his henchmen want this history to be erased."

The full article can be seen at <https://www.counterpunch.org/2019/02/18/the-crimes-of-elliott-abrams/>. ✨

ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST


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For this, our 20th annual Conservation Stewards Awards, we celebrate the diversity of Alachua Conservation Trust's work across counties, landscapes, and communities.

Counties: Since its incorporation in 1988, ACT has helped preserve more than 53,000 acres of land in 16 counties throughout north central Florida, directly participating in the purchase of over 19,700 of those acres, and opening up 11 public preserves.

Landscapes: Thanks to our supporters, ACT has been able to provide access to native landscapes that we restore through annual prescribed fire, longleaf pine planting, and managing for local wildlife.

Communities: ACT also brings connection to wild Florida through our robust natural resource internship program, Women in the Woods, as well as nonprofit operations internships, advocacy and awareness through the Springs Eternal Project, volunteering workdays, Tusawilla Learning Center's environmental education programs, preserve clean ups, and our Springs Ambassadors and Young Leaders for Wild Florida youth camps.



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5th Annual Veterans for Peace Scholarships

Gainesville Veterans for Peace Chapter 14 announces its fifth annual college Peace Scholarships.



SUBMISSION DEADLINE: April 15, 2019

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

The full announcement and instructions for applying may be found on our web site, at <http://www.vfpgainesville.org/>

Gainesville Veterans for Peace Chapter 14 announces its fifth annual college Peace Scholarships for the spring of 2019. We are awarding three higher education scholarships of \$750 each for high school seniors, college students or adults with a commitment and leadership in activities involving: peace & social justice, conflict resolution and/or nonviolent social change.

Florida Free Speech Forum

"Replacing American Exceptionalism:
Towards a New Origin Narrative of American History"
featuring UF professor of history Paul Ortiz

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Global youth climate strike

What: Strike for the New Green Deal
When: Friday, March 15, 4-6 pm
Where: Gainesville City Hall

We, the youth of America, are striking because decades of inaction has left us with just 11 years (or less) to solve the climate crisis.

We are striking because the necessary action to achieve the common-sense and vital goal of fighting climate change is not being prioritized.

We are striking because marginalized communities across our nation — especially indigenous, black, and low income communities — are already disproportionately impacted by climate change, yet, few people in positions of power have acknowledged this reality, and even fewer have begun to confront it appropriately.

We are at a turning point in history. Our futures are at stake. We call for radical legislative action to combat climate change and its countless detrimental effects on the American people.

We are striking for the Green New Deal, a fair and just transition to decarbonize the US economy, and other legislative action that combats the effects of climate change.

We stand in solidarity with Greta Thunberg and all youth strikers worldwide as we demand action on this issue.

We are running out of time, and we won't be silent any longer. We, the youth of America, are striking because our present and future on this planet are at stake. ✊

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Boot the Braids: Farmworkers fight Wendy's

What: March for Fair Food Program
When: Tuesday, March 14, 12:30 pm
Where: Norman Lawn, UF

by Coalition of Immokalee Workers

From March 2-14, farmworkers from Immokalee, Florida, will travel across the nation to four of the country's top public universities — the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Ohio State University in Columbus, and the University of Florida in Gainesville — to join students and community members in calling on these institutions to end their relationships with Wendy's until the fast-food giant joins the award-winning Fair Food Program.

Civic Media Center to hold Springboard annual fundraiser

What: CMC SpringBoard fundraiser
When: Friday, April 5, 6-9 pm
Where: Forage Hall, Working Food

by Joe Courter

The Civic Media Center's SpringBoard fundraiser will be held on Friday evening, April 5, in Forage Hall at Working Food, 240 NW 10th Ave. This is located behind Afternoon Restaurant and near Cypress and Grove. This is also the location where the CMC hosted its anniversary event with Amy Goodman last October.

This annual event is a celebration of spring and a fundraiser to get the CMC ready for the leaner times of summer (when the air conditioning bill goes up).

The speaker for the event is undetermined at press time, but also on tap will be the semi-annual Jack Penrod Award, given in the name of the now deceased former UF professor and veteran of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade (American volunteers who went to Spain along with internationals from many other countries to fight Fascism prior to WWII).

The award is administered by United Faculty of Florida (a union Penrod helped found), the Alachua County Labor Coalition and Veterans for Peace.

Save the date. The event will run from 6 to 9pm and will offer light food and refreshments, all to support the CMC. ✊

Young people, community leaders, and farmworkers are calling for a national boycott of the hamburger chain, demanding that, instead of cheap "4 for \$4" deals, Wendy's puts human rights on the menu.

In cutting into Wendy's ability to operate with impunity while ignoring the plight of farmworkers, the University of Florida could begin to right the wrongs of its own history, building toward a future of not only Florida's agricultural industry, but that of the nation, in which workers' basic dignity is respected.

This year, the 4 for Fair Food Tour will be bringing the full force of the Fair Food movement to UF's doorstep: farmworkers

and their families from Immokalee on the official cross-country tour, fresh off of visits to Chapel Hill, Columbus, and Ann Arbor; caravans from cities across the south; and more farmworkers and their families from Immokalee will be marching on UF Campus on March 14.

We will be gathering at Norman Lawn at 12:30pm and starting at 1pm. We would love to have UF Students, community leaders and any supporters come out to march alongside the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and their families to demand that the University of Florida cut their ties with such a corporation that allows the exploitation of farmworkers. ✊

THE REPURPOSE PROJECT



family dance parties
open ended play
clothing swaps
puppet shows
workshops
craft events
live music
fix-it days
community yard sales
...and much more!

**COMMUNITY CENTER
OPENING MARCH 2019**

Find out more and get involved: www.repurposeproject.org

Despite setbacks, WGOT hopes to stream in 2019

By Debi Martinez, WGOT Financial Director and Fred Sowder, Station Coordinator

It's been a busy 2019 for your community radio station. Our 11th birthday bash was a great party. Thanks to the Atlantic for hosting us every year as well as to the bands for donating their time and talents: Bite-Marks, Palimony, Shark Anatomy, and HaveWeMet. We're looking forward to our 12th next year. Our next benefit show is coming up on Friday, April 26 at Loosey's Downtown. We've also participated in events including International Clash Day, VegFest, Active Streets and the Gainesville Mini Maker Faire. Stay tuned to our Facebook page and wgot.org for more news.

Community radio isn't always about the music and the talk shows. At times, it's about the energy put into the station by the volunteers. If it weren't for those who engage in people-powered endeavors like event participation, social media outreach, and technical maintenance, WGOT would be a shell of what it is.

Please join us in our effort to foster independent media in your community. Our next volunteer and board meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 27 at Public & General Restaurant & Tavern, 1000 NE 16th Ave., at 6pm. We'll be outside, weather permitting.

Perhaps WGOT's biggest long-term goal is to begin streaming online in 2019. Despite receiving bad news regarding a grant to which we had applied, we continue to develop tech and software that will allow this to happen in the coming months. Our GoFundMe crowdfunding effort is less than \$2,000 from our goal. No tax-deductible donation is too small: <http://goo.gl/my3kR3>. We're also soliciting vinyl donations for a future



WGOT volunteers Phil Schrader and Doug Clifford participate in VegFest on February 16 at Depot Park. Photo by Chaya Sharon Heller

record sale event. Tune in to 100.1 FM for details on that.

Finally, we could use help covering monthly expenses. The easiest way is to become a sustaining member for as little as \$1 per month via Patreon <<http://goo.gl/GjejZA>>. Sustaining patrons receive access to exclusive content and bonus shows by our local show hosts that aren't aired. Plus, if you're a small business owner, hit us up at underwriting@wgot.org to find out about getting the word out about your business or event while supporting community radio for as little as a \$50 tax deductible donation a month. Thanks for helping make WGOT the best community radio station in North Central Florida! 🐢



Upcoming Events at the Hipp Cinema

aya/MIA

ONE NIGHT ONLY: Friday, Mar. 1

She began as Matangi. Daughter of the founder of Sri Lanka's armed Tamil resistance, she hid from the government in the face of a vicious civil war. When her family fled to the UK, she became Maya, a precocious and creative immigrant teenager. Finally, the world met her as M.I.A. when she emerged on the global stage, having created a mashup, cut-and-paste identity that pulled from her journey: a sonic sketchbook that blended Tamil politics, art school punk, hip-hop beats and the unwavering, ultra-confident voice of a burgeoning multicultural youth.

Genesis 2.0

Friday, Mar. 1, 6 pm Thursday, Mar. 7, 8:30 pm
Saturday, Mar. 2, 6:30 pm Friday, Mar. 8, 6 pm
Sunday, Mar. 3, 1 & 6 pm Saturday, Mar. 9, 1 pm

This documentary begins in the remote New Siberian Islands, following mammoth hunters searching for preserved mammoth remains in the newly thawed landscape. What began as a hunt for ancient ivory evolved into a hunt for intact remains to sell to research scientists, who plan to use the preserved DNA to clone and bring the prehistoric creature back into existence.

Blackkkklansman

Thursday, Apr. 4, 8 pm Friday, Apr. 12, 8 pm
Friday, Apr. 5, 5:30 pm Saturday, Apr. 13, 6 pm
Saturday, Apr. 6, 8:30 pm Sunday, Apr. 14, 1 & 6 pm
Sunday, Apr. 7, 1 & 6 pm

Birds of Passage

ONE NIGHT ONLY: Friday, Apr. 5, 8 pm

The origins of the Colombian drug trade, as seen through eyes of an indigenous Wayuu family who becomes involved in selling marijuana to American youth in the 1970's. When greed, passion and honor collide, a fratricidal war breaks out and puts lives, culture and ancestral traditions at stake.

Sorry To Bother You

Thursday, Apr. 18, 6 pm Friday, Apr. 26, 6 pm
Friday, Apr. 19, 6 pm Saturday, Apr. 27, 4 pm
Saturday, Apr. 20, 4 pm Sunday, Apr. 28, 1 & 6 pm
Sunday, Apr. 21, 1 & 6 pm 🐢



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

Recurring events not listed below:

Every Thursday Volunteer meeting, 5:30
Every Thursday Poetry Jam, 8pm
Every Saturday Meditation, 9am
Every Sunday Zine Committee Meeting, 3pm

All dance classes will be held in Stetson Kennedy Annex (SKA)

Mon, Feb 25 SECRET SHOW! 7pm
Tue, Feb 26 Children's West African Dance Class, 5:30pm
Adult West African Dance Class, 6:30pm
Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee 6-8pm
Puerto Rican Independence Party on Failures of Colonialism; Potluck, 7pm
Wed, Feb 27
Thu, Feb 28 Children's West African Dance Class, 5:30pm
Fri, March 1 Open Jam, 8pm-2am
Sat, March 2 Yoga, 10am
Sun, March 3 Catalog Zine Training, 3pm
Tue, March 5 Children's West African Dance Class, 5:30pm
Adult West African Dance Class, 6:30pm
Nonviolent Communications: Basics, 6-8pm
Wed, March 6 Children's West African Dance Class, 5:30pm
Thu, March 7 Tina & Her Pony live acoustic set, 8pm
Fri, March 8 Environmental Group Discussion, 12-2pm
Sat, March 9 Connect the Dots live music, 9pm
Sun, March 10 Connect the Dots live music, 8pm
Mon, March 11 Intimate Partner Violence Workshop, 7pm
Tue, March 12 Rad Rush, Plaza of the Americas, 11am
IWOC, 6-8pm
Children's West African Dance Class, 5:30pm
Adult West African Dance Class, 6:30pm
Wed, March 13 Rad Rush, Plaza of the Americas, 11am
Cell 411 Workshop, 6pm
Thu, March 14 Children's West African Dance Class, 5:30pm
Connect the Dots Live Show, 10pm
Sat, March 16 Yoga, 10am
Free Store, 2-5pm
The Fine Print Benefit Show, 9pm
Sun, March 17 All Diamonds are Blood Diamonds, 4-6pm
Mon, March 18 Movie Monday TBA, 7pm
Tues, March 19 Children's West African Dance Class, 5:30pm
Adult West African Dance Class, 6:30pm
Wed, March 20 Communication Skills: Beyond Basics, 6-8pm
Thu, March 21 Children's West African Dance Class, 5:30pm
Fri, March 22 Students for Justice in Palestine w/Andrew Ross, 7pm
Connect the Dots live music; 10pm
Sat, March 23 Sustaining Wellness Workshop, 12-2pm
Tue, March 26 Children's West African Dance Class, 5:30pm
Adult West African Dance Class, 6:30pm
IWOC, 6-8pm
Connect the Dots live show; doors, 9pm
Thu, March 28 Children's West African Dance Class, 5:30pm
Fri, March 29 Survivors of Violence Art Exhibit, 7pm
Sat, March 30 Southerners on New Ground organizing mtg, 12-2pm
Tue, Feb 19 Children's West African Dance Class, 5:30pm
Adult West African Dance Class, 6:30pm
Fri, April 5 SpringBoard Fundraiser at Forage Hall, Working Food, 6-9pm
Sat, April 6 Connect the Dots live show; doors, 9pm
Mon, April 8 Connect the Dots live show; doors, 9pm

Please support the CMC however you can: volunteering, memberships, donations, ideas, attendance at our events. Grassroots support keeps us going! To get weekly announcement email, contact: coordinators@civicmediacenter.org and request to be added to the list.

INDIE AND OLDER ROCK, ELECTRONIC, PUNK, AMERICANA, JAZZ, etc.
MORNINGS 9-12, AFTERNOONS 2-4, EVENINGS AFTER 6

THOM HARTMANN
MON - FRI
7 AM

DEMOCRACY NOW!
AMY GOODMAN
MON - FRI
8 AM, 1 PM

AMERICANA
TUES AND THURS
9 AM, 2 PM

JAZZVILLE
ROBBIE STEVENS
FRI 6-8 PM
SAT 8-10 AM
SUN 8 AM-NOON



FULL SCHEDULE AT WGOT.ORG
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

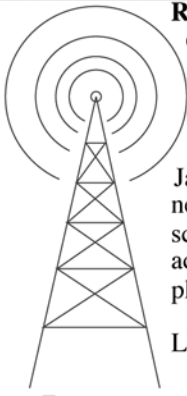
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Radio Notes: Find schedules for WUFT and WGOT, our local non-corporate stations, at www.wuft.org and wgot.org respectively. WGOT is now a full-time over-the-air broadcast at 100.1 FM. More info on local independent radio on pg 10.

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

LISTEN TO AND SUPPORT COMMUNITY RADIO!

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

3 Bulla Cubana (Gvl-Cuba festival) events all over town this month: see bullacubana.org
"Cost of War" panel, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), 2 pm.
The Chieftains at Phillips Ctr (3201 Hull Rd), 2 pm, \$10-50..
Zines meeting every Sunday, Civic Media Center, 3 pm.

10 Pancakes on the Prairie - free breakfast at Tusawilla Preserve (211 SE Tusawilla Rd, Micanopy), 9-11:30 am.
School-Prison Pipeline conversation, A. Q. Jones Ctr (1108 NW 7th Ave), 2 pm, free.
Connect the Dots live show, CMC, 9 pm.
1862: US issues 1st paper money.
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

17 Sunday Assembly, "Florida Water Issues" - SFC Downtown (530 W. Univ. Ave), 11 am, 3rd Suns: see pg 21 & sagainesville.weebly.com.

St Patty's Day in the Park: Irish folk music, James Paul Park in High Springs, 2-4 pm.

Sundays at AQ Jones - talks on local history, politics, culture, at AQ Jones Museum (1013 NW 13th Ave), 3rd Suns, 3 pm: rsvp 352-334-2010.

Amazing Cookoff contest, 1st Mag (1220 SE Veitch St), 5-8 pm.

"All Diamonds Are Blood Diamonds", CMC, 4-6 pm.

ST PATRICK'S DAY

24 Kanapaha Spring Garden Festival: plants, art, entertainment, more. 3700 SW 58th Dr, 3/23 & -24, 9 am-5 pm, \$10 (\$5 for kids 3-13).

31 Jest Fest! at Thomas Ctr (306 NE 6th Ave), 5 stages; 11 am-6 pm, free.

Monday
Lunes

4 Witness for Immigrant Justice and Sanctuary, NW 23rd Ave & 43rd St, 5-6 pm every Monday.

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

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

11 "Replacing American Exceptionalism" talk by Paul Ortiz, Fla Free Speech Forum, 11:30 am, pg 8.

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

"No Planet B" climate change talk, Marion County Public Library (2720 E Silver Spgs Blvd, Ocala), 6 pm.

Relationship Violence Prevention Workshop presented by Planned Parenthood, CMC, 6 pm.

Women's March meets 2nd Mondays, United Church of Gainesville, 6:30 pm.

18 CMC Movie Night tba, 7 pm.
GCAT - see 3/4.

Grow Gvl 3rd Mon meet-up, Working Food Community Center (219 NW 10th Ave), 6 pm.

Anoushka Shankar, Phillips Ctr (3201 Hull Rd), 7:30 pm, \$10-45.

25 "G'v'l, Flashpoint of Feminist Revolution" Carol Giardina talk, UF Ustler Hall, 5:30 pm (reception, 4:30 pm).

IGUANA Deadline for April issue is March 26th; write gainesvilleiguana@cox.net or call 352-378-5655 with events, updates, advertisements & info.

Apr 1 CMC documentary tba, 7 pm.

"No More Silence, No More Violence" conference opens, UF Law School Holland Hall 180; thru 4/3.

Tuesday
Martes

26 Veterans Support Group, UF HealthStreet (2401 Archer Rd), 11 am-noon, Tuesdays, free.

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

Alachua County Labor Coalition meets, Emmanuel Mennonite Church (1236 NW 18th Ave), 6 pm.

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

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

Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee letter-writing meeting, CMC, 6 pm.

Candidates Forum, Scorpio Construction (3911 W Newberry Rd), 6:30 pm.

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

Radical Rush, UF Plaza of the Americas, 11 am; see pg 12.

Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee meets, CMC, 6 pm.

Gvl for All meets, MK Rawlings Elementary (3500 NE 15th St), 6:30 pm.

19 Vote! Gvl City Elections - see pp 1, 16, 17.

Opioid Crisis talk, rm 105, UF Fla Gym, 9:30 am.

School Board - see 3/5.

"Why US Doesn't Prosecute Executives" - ProPublica editor Jesse Eisinger at Graham Ctr, UF Pugh Hall, 6 pm.

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

26 County Commish - see 3/12.

IWOC meets - see 3/12.

Connect the Dots live show, CMC, 9 pm.

ACLC - see 2/26.

2 1963: M.L. King begins Birmingham campaign.

Wednesday
Miercoles

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

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

Dismantling Racism: Em. Men. Church (1236 NW 18th Ave), 2nd & 4th Weds, 7 pm.

"Awareness for Puerto Rico" talk & potluck: CMC (433 S. Main St), 7 pm.
1934: Ralph Nader born.
1991: US "liberates" Kuwait.

6 Communication workshop, CMC, 6 pm.

Vets for Peace meet: call 352-375-2563 for location, 7 pm.
If you appreciate this calendar, please consider supporting the Ig with a donation &/or subscription: PO Box 14712, Gainesville FL 32604.

13 Radical Rush, UF Plaza of the Americas, 11 am; pg 12.

Labor Teach-In by UF Campus Coalition, UF Pugh Hall 170, 6 pm; see pg 24.

Dismantling Racism: Em. Men. Church (1236 NW 18th Ave), 2nd & 4th Weds, 7 pm.

Cell 411 workshop, CMC, 6 pm.
1771: William & Caroline Herschel discover Uranus.

20 Communications Workshop, CMC, 6-8 pm.

Humanists topic: "Atheism Schism", UUFG (4225 NW 34th St), 6:30 pm.

"Talk Science with Me", Gvl House of Beer (18 W Univ Ave), 6:30 pm.

Preserving Endangered Species talk, Millhopper Library (3145 NW 43rd St), 7 pm.

FULL MOON
SPRING EQUINOX

27 Dismantling Racism: see 2/27.

Miracle on So. Division St. opens, Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl), 7 pm (bargain night, \$5+: runs thru 3/24).

1512: Ponce de Leon sees Florida.
1924: Sarah Lois Vaughan born.

3 Communication skills workshop, CMC, 6 pm.

Thursday
Jueves

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

A. Quinn Jones Life & Legacy exhibit final day at Cone Park Library (2801 E Univ Ave), 10 am-1 pm.

Vets' Medical Care History talk, Rm 128, Harrell Med Ed Bldg, UF, noon.

West African Dance class, CMC: kids, 5:30 pm, every Tues & Thurs; adults, 6:30 pm, every Tues.

Elected Officials Meeting, School Board (620 E. Univ Ave), 1:30 pm.

Open Poetry every Thursday at CMC, 9 pm.

7 Sierra Club topic: "Mining or Clean Water?" - LifeSouth (4039 Newberry Rd), 7 pm.

Fla Wildlife Care Ctr special at 1st Magnitude, 6-9 pm.

Richard Shindell at Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), 7 pm.

The Conch storytelling (true story, 5 minutes, no notes) at Lightnin' Salvage, 7 pm.

14 Coalition of Immokalee Workers protest, Norman Field; march to Reitz, 12:30 pm; see pg 9.

"Ancient Cosmopolitan Community on Fla Gulf Coast" - Archaeology on Tap talk at 1st Mag (1220 SE Veitch St), 6 pm.

Connect the Dots live show, CMC, 10 pm.

II DAY

21 "From Segregation to Black Lives Matter" symposium opens, UF Smathers Libraries, 9 am; thru 3/23; free; see pg 21.

Grad Assistants United Spring Member Social, Cypress & Grove, 5 pm.

Gvl's Modern Landmarks exhibit opens, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), 5:30 pm, free.

Mercy Killers, Squitieri Studio (Phillips Ctr), 7:30 pm (also 3/22), \$10-30.

28 1979: 3 Mile Island nuke begins meltdown.

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

4 Sea Turtle Conservancy special, 1st Magnitude Brewing (1220 SE Veitch St), 6-9 pm.

Friday
Viernes

Mar 1 1st Friday Social, Working Food Comm. Ctr (219 NW 10th Ave), 5-7 pm.

"Lessons on Cost of War" My Lai exhibit opens at Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), 11 am; **Winter Soldier Vietnam** doc screening & Scott Camil talk, 7 pm.

Nashville Songwriters Showcase, 1st Mag (1220 SE Veitch St), 7 pm.

Land of La Chua Dance Alive ballet, Phillips Ctr (3201 Hull Rd), 7:30 pm, \$15-45.

Complete Shakespeare (Abridged), Acrosstown Rep (619 S Main St), 8 pm (also Sat, 8 pm; Sun, 2 pm), \$13-15.

1991: UN treaty bans land mines; China, Russia & US refuse to sign

8 Nacirema Society opens, Star Ctr Theater (11 ND 23rd Ave), 7:30 pm (also 7:30 pm Sat; 3 pm Sun), \$12-18.

Tina and Her Pony (Asheville, NC) acoustic set at CMC - they are wonderful; don't miss! - 8 pm.

INTERNAT'L WOMEN'S DAY

15 Global Youth Climate Strike rally, Gvl City Hall (200 E Univ Ave), 4 pm; see pg 8.

Pipeline opens, Actors' Warehouse (619 NE 1st St), 8 pm thru 3/31, free Thurs & Fris, \$15-20 Sats & Suns; see pg 19.

Bloody Poetry opens, Acrosstown Rep (619 S. Main St), 8 pm thru 3/31.

1933: J. Ruth Bader (Ginsburg) born.

22 Students for Justice in Palestine meet for Andrew Ross presentation, CMC, 7 pm.

Elements of Style dance at SFC Fine Arts (3000 NW 83rd St), 2 & 7:30 pm. (also Sat, 7:30 pm), \$9/15..

Mistress, The Walkers, & Supergold Connect the Dots at CMC, 10 pm.

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

WORLD WATER DAY

29 Gvl Artwalk, 7 pm - see pg 20 & artwalkgainesville.com.
Survivors of Violence art exhibit, CMC, 7 pm.

1973: Last US troops leave Vietnam.

5 Zora Neale Hurston celebration, UF Smathers Library, 5-8 pm.

CMC Springboard fundraiser, Working Food, 6-9 pm, see pg 9.

Saturday
Sabado

2 Community Meditation, CMC, 9-10 am every Saturday.

Yoga class 1st/3rd Sats, CMC, 10 am.
My Lai panel led by Prof. Paul Ortiz, Matheson Museum, 2 pm.

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

9 Early Voting for Gvl City election opens, 7 am-5 pm; see votealachua.com for 5 locations.

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

Celebrating Women & Girls - health & HIV awareness event w/ music, performances, health screening: Depot Park (874 SE 4th St), 12-3 pm; pg 15.

Enviro Discussion, CMC, noon.

Connect the Dots show, CMC, 9 pm.

16 Yoga class, CMC, 10 am.

Indivisible Gvl meets: Fred Cone Park (2841 E. Univ Ave), 10 am.

Grow Hub Spring Fair, seeds, art &c, 2900 NE 8th Ave, 11 am-3 pm, free.

Free Store at CMC, 2-5 pm.

From Colored to Black - 80 years of north central Fla oral history, Squitieri Studio (3201 Hull Rd), 2:30 & 7 pm (also Sun, 2 pm), free with reservations at 352-392-2787.

India Fest, BD Plaza, time tba.

Women's Page Journalism talk, Matheson Museum, 2 pm, free.

Conservation Stewards Awards, Prairie Creek Lodge (204 SE County Rd 234) 5:30 pm, \$75; see pg 6.

The Fine Print benefit show, CMC, 9 pm.

23 Interfaith Dialog - see 3/9.
Solar Gator sun-powered race car on show & explained at SG Garage (2610 SW 23rd Terr), 10 am.

Hogtown Craft Beer Festival, Cty Fairgrounds (3100 NE 39th Ave), 11:30 am-5 pm, adv tix only (\$45 via alachuaconservationtrust.org).

Wellness workshop, CMC, 12-2 pm.

30 Gvl Roller Rebels yard sale, 2224 NE 7th St, 8 am-2 pm.

Southerners on New Ground organizing meeting, CMC, 12-2 pm.

6 Great American Cleanup, Westside Park, 8 am-noon.

Zora Neale Hurston celebration & music, Porter's Quarters, 12-6 pm.

Swallowtail Farm Springfest, live music & workshops, noon-10 pm

Sloan Wainwright, PC Lodge, 7:30 pm, \$20.



L.A. teachers win big, beat back privatizers

by Barbara Madeloni

Teacher Unions are leading the way in showing the country how it's done, LA was a huge win, but West Virginia not only won gains last year, but STAYED organized and went out again statewide on short notice to force the withdrawal of a bill that would have opened the state up to charter schools. This article originally appeared in LaborNotes.org on Jan. 24. A version of this article appeared in the February Labor Notes #479.

In a joyful, rain-drenched strike, 34,000 Los Angeles teachers won things no union has ever won.

They forced Superintendent Austin Beutner, a former investment banker, to accept concessions even on topics he had previously refused even to bargain over.

L.A. will reinstate limits on class size—and for most classes, reduce those limits by four students by 2022.

Despite a pro-charter school board majority, the nation's second-largest school district agreed to move a board resolution to support a statewide moratorium on new charter schools.

It will hire more nurses, librarians, and counselors; reduce standardized testing and random police searches of students; create an immigrant defense fund; and hand budget control of 30 schools over to local communities.

It's a very different vision from what Beutner had in mind. In November the L.A. Times and Capital & Main had leaked his plan to carve up the district into clusters of schools run like competing stock portfolios. Any school judged to be an underperformer would be sold off like a weak stock.

Teachers were weeping at the mass rally outside City Hall January 22 as United Teachers Los Angeles Secretary and Bargaining Chair Arlene Inouye reviewed the high points of the tentative agreement.

President Alex Caputo-Pearl told the crowd that this strike was "one of the most magnificent demonstrations of collective action that the United States has seen in decades.

"We did not win because of a single leader," he said. "We did not win because of a small group of leaders. We won because you—at 900 schools across the entire city, with parents, with students, with community organizations—you walked the line."

Members returned to their school sites that afternoon to review the tentative agreement—which was published online in full—to discuss it with their co-workers, and vote on whether to accept the deal and return to work the next morning.

Some teachers around the city were frustrated at a process they felt was rushed. But members voted a resounding 81 percent yes on the agreement, and returned to their classrooms Jan. 23.

In the face of the union's demands, the district had cried poverty—it said it was running a deficit. But that didn't appear to be true, since its reserves were growing each year.

The teachers set out to force the district to put its stockpiled cash into creating the "schools Los Angeles students deserve."

How they did it

From day one of the strike, huge majorities of teachers showed up at their schools every morning to hold the picket lines, together with parents and students. Then strikers and their supporters headed downtown for rallies that topped 50,000 the first day and kept growing.

The streets were full of joy. All week, everywhere we turned there was singing, dancing, spoken word, brass bands, mariachis. Teachers didn't let the drenching rain daunt them; they suited up in ponchos, and laminated their song sheets and picket signs.

All across the city, people were talking about the strike and its demands—in coffee shops, on the bus, in stores, at the airport car rental.

In an effort to keep schools open for 600,000 L.A. students, the district brought in scab substitutes from private contractors. It offered current subs more than double their regular wage to work during the strike.

But in L.A., the subs are part of the union. Very few chose to cross the picket lines.

Read more about how L.A. teachers overhauled their union and got organized at every school, as they built towards this strike.

Go on offense

L.A. is the biggest U.S. school district with an elected school board. (The biggest district, New York City, and third-biggest, Chicago, are both governed by mayoral appointees.)

Year after year, its school board elections have broken spending records. Corporate education reformers spent \$13 million in the last election, most of it coming from the foundations of the Walton family (the owners of Walmart) and Eli Broad, two of the biggest spenders nationally in support of charter schools, vouchers and privatization.

That money was enough to win them a majority of the seats on the school board. And after the previous superintendent resigned early last year for health reasons, that majority handpicked a superintendent, Beutner.

But as it turned out, a bought and paid for board and superintendent weren't as powerful as a good old-fashioned strike.

Readers who work in education or the public sector will be familiar with the claim that "the money just isn't there." UTLA refused to buy into it, and named the privatization schemes behind it. Rather than retreat or get cautious in the face of corporate attacks, the union went on offense, demanded fully funded public schools, and did the organizing to back up its demands with action.

The teachers won big—and provided us all a model for how to fight back. The victory, said Caputo-Pearl, renewed "the strike not only as the last resort, but as something you do to build a social movement." 🐢



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10th Annual Alachua County Peace Poetry Contest 2019

The Gainesville Chapter of Veterans for Peace invites all students, K-12, in Alachua County to create and submit one original poem on the subject of *peace and social justice*.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 22

Entries should be emailed to:
vfppeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com

or mailed to:
VFP Peace Poetry Contest
2115 NW 7th Lane
Gainesville, FL 32603

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION: Please include

- (1) the poet's name, grade level, school, parent/guardian and/or teacher's name, and
- (2) two preferred methods of contact (e-mail, phone number and/or mailing address).

Winners will receive a valuable prize and have their poems published in the 2019 Peace Poetry Contest Book. Winning poets will have the opportunity to read their pieces aloud at the public Peace Poetry Reading in May in Gainesville. All poets will be notified, whether their poems place or not.

For additional information, email:
vfppeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com or call Sheila Payne at 831-334-0117. 🐢

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www.gainesvillequakers.org
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Celebrating Women & Girls
With love and empathy we can
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A National Women and Girls HIV Awareness Day Community Event

Depot Park

March 9th

Saturday

12pm-3pm

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- ★ Activities
- ★ Performances
- ★ Free health screenings, HIV testing & vaccinations



FREE EVENT
Bring your daughters, nieces and family.

Information: (352) 372-1095



Let's Talk About It is a support and advocacy program of the Rural Women's Health Project. Supported by a grant from the Southern AIDS Coalition through the Gilead COMPASS Initiative. Gilead Sciences, Inc. has had no input into the development or content of these materials.




the results many would like to see, and the rampant and rapid development projects in the City. The past two Iguanas have highlighted this tendency to push for development over the concerns and character of the existing neighborhoods.

To me, it seems that we have a well-meaning, progressive Commission who have brought many great and lasting benefits to the City: bike lanes, roundabouts, parks, culture and arts funding; but they also seem to be infatuated with more and more ... well, doing, as in the quite justifiably maligned “Department of Doing.” Commissioners should not be partners with developers; they should be selective and yes, sometimes say no, demand higher standards, and guide development to fix actual needs, because our City has major needs that must be addressed with more than concerns and promises.

We support Jenn Powell as a hard worker, committed to refocusing the Commission to see poverty, to see actual needs, and because of her life experience of living hard times in challenging situations, to be a leader in moving the Commission to address issues that persons of more comfortable lives have not known. Plus her background as an accountant is a real plus.

In the other race as much as we like Adrian Hayes-Santos as a person, he totally bought into the whole “Department of Doing” thing, and perhaps the City needs to recalibrate its priorities, slow down and think more of others and of gentrification, and do a little more to help those who have been left out, not just giving developers a free pass. Vote Mounts, and set a new tone.

By all means, do your own research, check the candidate websites, and go to forums if you can. The Supervisor of Elections can steer you to a lot of information. Early voting begins March 9 and runs through March 16. Election day is Tuesday, March 19. ☘



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Vote NO on the Charter Review Commission

by Gary Gordon

I am suspicious of government.

Trump is not the first to lie or to be devious.

So when a ballot measure appears without fanfare I am inclined to wonder why.

On March 19, Gainesville citizens will be asked to vote on whether or not to create a Charter Review Commission: an 11-person citizen committee, appointed by the City Commission to review the Charter and make recommendations. The City Commission can veto the recommendations, called amendments, by a 2/3 vote, otherwise the amendments become proposed changes to be voted on by the public in a November election.

Sounds harmless. And maybe we could even move city elections to Indigenous Peoples' Day and everyone would have the day off, but, not so fast ...

The City Commission created and passed the ordinance for this ballot measure last summer, after a City Commission ballot measure changing the Charter to move city elections to the fall and lengthening Commission terms from 3 to 4 years was already scheduled to appear on the November 2018 ballot.

That November, the measure passed, so there goes election day on Indigenous People's Day, and many other creative ideas as the voting schedule is now locked into the national election schedule.

Why didn't the City Commission wait on changing the election date and terms of office until a Citizen Charter Review Commission could be created to consider that idea along with other ideas? Why is this sequence backwards: change the Charter in 2018 then create a Review Commission afterwards?

Two things gnaw:

1) there was no outcry for a Charter Review Commission. I recall no candidate in 2018 and no current city candidate calling for one; nor can I recall or know of any interest group — labor, environment, social justice — calling for this.

It seems to have just emanated, as some things do, from City Hall. So,

2) what is the hidden agenda? (I told you I was suspicious.)

I suspect the hidden agenda is to use this Review Commission to move to a Strong-Mayor form of government.

We have what is known as a Commission-Manager form of government. The City Commission, with a “weak” Mayor, makes the policy, the City Manager implements it. Power is diffused with all Commissioners and the Mayor having equal power. Large cities like Jacksonville, Miami, L.A. and Chicago have a Strong Mayor who is also the CEO. Power is concentrated.

There are forces in this town — you've read about them in this publication — who aspire to a New Gainesville, a Greater Gainesville. Out-of-town developer money. More high-rises. A Strong-Mayor form of government fits well with those plans. A Commission-Manager form of government, less so.

On paper it sounds fine, but there is a realpolitik here. Vote NO on this ballot item. ☘

2019 CITY OF GAINESVILLE REGULAR ELECTION

MARCH 19, 2019

The voter registration deadline for this election was February 19

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 March 13**. 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 City of Gainesville voters may cast a ballot at any of the early voting locations. Early voting locations for the 2019 City of Gainesville Regular Election are open **March 9 to March 16 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Tuesday and Thursday, when hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.** For a list of early voting 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.



office: 352-374-5252
fax: 352-374-5264
Josiah T. Walls Building
515 N. Main Street, Suite 300
Gainesville, FL 32601-3348
VoteAlachua.com



History and the people who make it: Mildred A. Hill-Lubin, pt. 2

Mildred Hill-Lubin [H], UF literature professor, was interviewed by James Myers [M] in June, 2009; the first part of this interview ran in the Jan-Feb Iguana.

This is the 52nd 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.

M: Your son, from what I understand, integrated schools in Augusta.

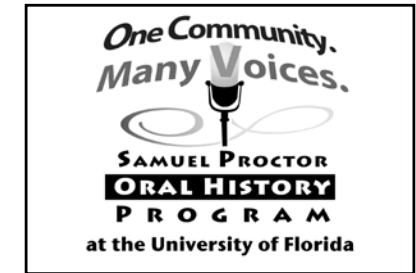
H: He did, he did. That was one of the most unbelievable experiences. I felt it was necessary. He was in first grade, and President Kennedy was assassinated just about the time he started school, in [19]63. When Whites in the community discovered he was going to integrate schools, they started calling me on the telephone telling me that they were going to kill him as they shot Kennedy. That was a bad feeling. I wrote a letter to myself, and I said, “If he were old enough to go to the Army, he would be drafted to fight for his country to give us freedom.” I felt that enrolling him to help integrate schools was equally important. So, he did integrate the schools.

Two young men at Paine College, students, agreed to come every morning, walk him to the school, and every afternoon walk him back. I’m trying to teach at the same time as looking out the window to see them walk across the campus to bring him home safely. So, it was miserable. And, to *add* to it, I was selected that year to go to Minnesota on an exchange program. I was selected to go to Hamline College to teach, and also to study at University of Minnesota. I took both of my sons and went out there for, well, little over a year. During that period, my first husband wanted us to get back together. So he came to Minnesota, and we drove from Minnesota back to Augusta for me to start teaching again.

Not very much African American literature was in print at that time, and nobody knew very much about it. We felt it should have been a part of the curriculum. I started reading and reading about African American literature. One of the directors who had started this program decided to go back and get her PhD, and she asked me to be director of the EPDA {Educational Professional Development Act} program. I also was becoming very

competent in African American literature, so people were asking me to consult with them on teaching African American literature.

We would have an institute in the summer, and then during the school year, it was the director’s duty to go visit schools that were desegregating. It would be such a *terrible* experience, seeing the Black children—most times, they were in the back of the room. Nobody was paying any attention to them. The classes were awful. One time I came out of this school, and it was such a *horrible* experience that I just closed the window of my car and screamed as loud as I could! [Laughter]



But, we did do a great deal with desegregation. We had programs on Saturday, and many, many teachers would come. Because everybody wanted information about how to improve their teaching.

At the same time, when I carried my son to integrate the school, I did ask one of the professors, the dean of students there, to go with me. The three of us went to this school, and we had to walk through Whites on both sides. That was rather scary. But we did do that. It was so funny that evening; everybody wanted to know what happened. Bob was so cool. “Momma, I had to help those children. They couldn’t even write their names!” And their parents would have had a fit to even think he was looking at them. [Laughter]

The next year, I took him to Minnesota in the second grade, and no *Blacks* were in that school. He did a lot of breaking down barriers, too. I didn’t have to go do anything but just enroll him in Minnesota. They didn’t have any problem.

M: You came to the University of Florida in 1974?

H: Right. In [19]71, the students had had an uprising, requesting more Black faculty, and more African American Studies classes and so forth. When they went to the president, he would not receive them.

So, they sat-in at the door, and he called the police and had many of them arrested. Many of the Black students left. In reaction to that, many of them did not come back. Well, they *couldn’t* come back.

They did begin the Institute of Black Culture. Two other Black professors came: Carlton Davis, at IFAS, and Dr. Ronald Foreman in the English Department, and also the director of Afro-American Studies. In [19]72 or [19]73, Dr. Harris Shaw came. At that time, Dr. Ward Hellstrom was the chair of the English Department. They came to Illinois—all of us were from University of Illinois—and asked me about coming to Florida to teach.

My older son by that time was in college, going to Morehouse. I only had my younger son, who had just been named to the basketball team in middle school in Augusta. So I had to convince him. I said, “Oh if you’re good, you’ll get to be on the team in Illinois.” So, he went with me, and he did play on the team in Illinois. There were two Blacks on the team, and the coach couldn’t play both of them together. He had to play one at one time, and one at another. The parents would have had a fit, you know, if there were two Blacks. That’s part of the experience at Illinois. But I really enjoyed Illinois. Because I was then studying African American literature.

While I was in Augusta, Martin Luther King was killed in 1968. For me, the world changed. All of my life I had believed that if you did the right thing, and worked hard, everything would work out all right. When he was killed, that made me change my mind, and it said to me, you have to start questioning. That was the beginning of my—well, people would say “militancy.”

I guess the worst example of it was not too long ago, just about the same year I was retiring. My sister did sewing, and ended up becoming the supervisor of the tailor shop at the {US} Naval Academy. They were having a party for her retirement, and all the family were there. I looked to take a picture and I saw the flag, and I said, “Unh-uh! I’m not taking a picture under this flag!”

The irony of this is that, my sister’s husband had been a soldier, and they had traveled all over the world; children were born, some of them, in Germany, and the nephew had been in the Army. They

thought the flag was just heaven, and here I’m saying, “I am *not* taking a picture under that flag!” He just could not get over that.

When Obama became president, I said, “Now I can begin to say the pledge of allegiance, and I’ll be willing to take a picture under the flag.” Obama’s presidency became another change in my life. The major thing I like about him is his inclusiveness. I would like to see a world that is inclusive of all people. We can make it so. And I do go to church very much, and I give credit to God for everything I have received, or done, or whatever. I still do that. To God be the glory for everything.

M: Is there anything else that you’d like to mention?

H: I did get married a second time. I married a professor whom I met at an African Literature conference. He taught Francophone African literature because he was from Haiti, and he worked a great deal in Haitian Literature. He *collected* the first book of poetry of Haitian writers, and his name was Dr. Maurice A. Lubin.

I met him at an African Literature conference, in Boone, North Carolina, of all places. [Laughter] The next thing I knew, he had come to Gainesville, and I was treating him as a colleague. We went the next year to that African Literature Association conference, as husband and wife. [Laughter] We lived together for almost twenty years. He was teaching at Howard University in Washington D.C., and I was teaching here. So, we commuted for one year. Then I had sabbatical and went up there to stay with him. The next year he took the sabbatical and came down here. And the next year I think he retired, and then he came down to stay here.

I haven’t said very much about my stay here in University of Florida. It was a bittersweet relationship. I was very pleased to be here teaching. I came in just at the time when the women at Florida were beginning to say “We need more women! And more Women’s Studies programs!” I was one of the first Black professors, and a *woman*. Many men would ask, “where’s the professor?” I’d say, “I’m the professor.” These women were trying to organize, and I said, “Well, I’m going to join you, because I want the Black woman’s voice heard, too.”

That meant I was in on the starting of the Women’s Studies program. We also created what is called Association of Women Faculty. I started the first course in Anglophone African Literature at the University. I had to write it in such a way that the English Department would accept African Literature in English. Many of the people in my department thought I was going to be teaching in translation. I had to tell them, “No, there are writers in Africa who write in English.”

I’m very proud of having introduced a number of things at the University of Florida. I was one of the first women, and the first African American woman, to be a dean in graduate school. But it was also a lonely kind of existence. I didn’t have another person in my area to give me feedback about my research.

I did do research on the Black Grandmother, another area I liked, because I had a very good relationship with my grandmother. My grandmother saved me when I was born. I was almost dead. The midwife, my grandmother asked her whether she was going to do anything. She said, “I ain’t God.” She walked off and left.

My grandmother bounced me, and blew on me and everything, and finally I cried; I came to life. I always say that God left me here for some purpose. I enjoy teaching, although I did have trouble with many students. I would get this feedback on my evaluation, “She’s not teaching American Literature. She’s teaching women and Black literature!” [Laughter]

I did serve as a trustee on the Santa Fe Community Board. I also worked in Washington D.C. in the American Council on Education for the Advancement of Women in Administration. But now, I am *enjoying* my retirement! I just look back over it and say, “I taught forty-two years. I think that’s enough!”

Search for “Hill-Lubin” at <http://oral.history.ufl.edu> “Quick Links” for the recording of this interview and another, on African literature, in 2014.

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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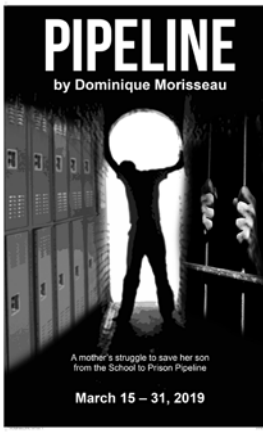
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PIPELINE
by Dominique Morisseau

A mother's struggle to save her son from the School to Prison Pipeline

March 15 – 31, 2019

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From DIVEST, p. 1

when I first saw "Boycott Wendy's" buttons and later learning about Wendy's exploitative labor practices.

My collegiate experience is littered with moments like these that slowly, but surely, radically expanded my moral, environmental, and global awareness. I have my professors, peers, and the Gainesville community at large to thank for this awakening. This is to say, I have UF, and the opportunities it has afforded me, to thank. But, as Baldwin predicted, the time has come when the education I have been provided has led me to critique the very institution responsible for educating me in the first place.

Here's the problem: Though UF publicly presents itself as an institution solely dedicated to excellence in education, research, and football, UF is a corporation; and an unethical one at that.

Specifically, UF chooses to manage its \$2 billion-dollar endowment through the University of Florida Investment Corporation, a private body based out of Delaware, to avoid public interest and transparency laws.

To make matters worse, UF invests this endowment in the fossil fuel and private prison industries.

It's clear that UF's mission of "shaping a better future for Florida, the nation and the world" is inherently in conflict with financially supporting prison slave labor and fossil fuel companies

The egregious moral discrepancy between UF's stated values and UF's actual behavior has prompted students, including myself, to mobilize and create Divest UF. We are a loose collective of Gators committed to financially disentangling UF from any and all toxic industries and human rights violations. We are supported by the thousands of other college students across the country who have incited the national divestment movement to make academic institutions put their money where their mission is. Our two current campaigns are:

- (1) pushing UF to divest its endowment from all fossil fuels, and
- (2) demanding that the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences cut its prison labor contracts.

UF administrators want to have it both ways: they want to brag about being an R1 institution on the cutting edge of the latest scientific research, while also readily ignoring the radical implications of said science by investing in fossil fuels.

They want to brag about diversity initiatives while also perpetuating the prison industrial complex which disproportionately harms people of color.

Frankly, UF administrators care more about UF's ranking as a top 10 public university than they do about coastal Florida's very existence and basic human rights.

My time at UF has taught me to value science, to relentlessly interrogate the status quo, and to never shy away from calling power into question when it is at odds with my values. It is in this spirit that Divest UF is calling on UF to cut ties with prison labor and completely divest its endowment from fossil fuels.

Will you join us?

Stay up to date with our movement and opportunities for involvement by following:

Facebook- @DivestUF
Twitter- @DivestUF
Instagram- @divest_uf

African American Oral History Symposium:

March 21-23

From Segregation to Black Lives Matter:

*A Symposium and Celebration of the
opening of the Joel Buchanan Archive
of African American Oral History at the
University of Florida*

This three-day symposium marks the formal opening of the Joel Buchanan African American Oral History Archive at the University of Florida to scholars, students and researchers.

The event will bring together scholars, educators, and community leaders to discuss the latest trends in African American history from K-12 to higher education. Participants will have the opportunity to view and listen to films, podcasts and panelists. The event will also feature book-signings of noted authors.

This conference is FREE and open to the public.

If you plan to join us at our wonderful symposium please RSVP via the link on our Eventbrite page:
<https://tinyurl.com/yblnpayx>



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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 bstandly@aclufl.org

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

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

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 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

Continued on next page

Continued from preceding page

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@famf.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 (IALJ) 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; 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.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"

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

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 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.

Zine Committee meets Sundays at 3pm at the CMC to preserve and promote Travis Fristoe Zine Library at the CMC, cmzinecommittee@gmail.com or on Facebook 🐸

Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

♣ **Elliott Abrams, Trump's Pick to bring "democracy" to Venezuela, has spent his life crushing democracy** by Jon Schwarz in *The Intercept*
Important read to understand US foreign policy.
<https://theintercept.com/2019/01/30/elliott-abrams-venezuela-coup/>

♣ **Remembering Reagan** by Benjamin T. Greenberg
The newly recognized by UF student government "Young Americans for Freedom" chapter idolizes Ronald Reagan. Here is another view.
<http://hungryblues.net/2004/06/11/remembering-reagan/>

♣ **Time for peace in Afghanistan and an end to the lies** by Matthew Hoh in *Counterpunch*

A long detailed article on US's longest war from someone on the inside.
https://www.counterpunch.org/2019/02/15/time-for-peace-in-afghanistan-and-an-end-to-the-lies/?fbclid=IwAR3dOBdBGtncwjy4ASyqRZ0acA-gHsOK-kY_CQ74Jr4IzbT2gk7LPpJnJc ♣



Rush to the Rad Scene

What: Radical Rush

When: March 12 & 13, 11am

Where: Plaza of the Americas

By: Kaithleen Hernandez

Cities like Gainesville are able to keep moving forward in a progressive direction because of the organizations that mobilize and work to keep movements alive.

This world teaches us that there is always work to be done, this is why Rad Rush has continued on since 1998 and will continue to bring a radical presence to campus to get the youth involved in local activism.

Rad Rush happens every year, sometimes twice a year, during the beginning of the semester to present students with the option to volunteer and organize with local groups that are actually radical.

Radical is defined as addressing issues at the root, and Rush is a play on Greek life. Come out and learn about all the ways you can get involved on March 12 and 13 at 11am at Plaza of the Americas. ♣

UF Campus Coalition teach-in

By Ashley Ngyuen, Courtesy Alachua County Labor Coalition

On Feb. 6, the UF Campus Coalition held its first in a series of teach-ins to educate members of the UF community about environmentalism, labor and race relations. Over 50 members of the community attended the Teach-In, including speaker Dr. Wendell Porter and speakers from Divest UF, Graduate Assistants United, and UF Students.

Presenters spoke about the necessity for UF to buy its energy from local source GRU, the inadequate funding for mental health resources provided by the university's administration, and the demands for UF to divest its endowment from the fossil fuel industry, as well as the prison labor industry. The audience was able to ask presenters questions about how to go about organizing for each issue, sparking discussion that connected organizing groups.

The UF Campus Coalition, initiated by

ACLC and formed during UF's fall 2018 semester, composed of core members of an array of progressive organizing groups in Alachua County.

Leaders of the Coalition include members from the Alachua County Labor Coalition, Graduate Assistants United, and United Faculty of Florida at UF. Its goal is to form a formalized channel of mutual support for students, faculty, and other members of the UF community who feel unjustly alienated by administration.

The Campus Coalition hopes to serve as a springboard for collaboration between groups who organize to improve the quality of the UF experience.

The next Campus Coalition Teach-In will be on March 13, focusing on labor, featuring the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, Graduate Assistants United and Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee with continuing discussion about OPS workers at UF. ♣



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