

The Gainesville Iguana

*A progressive newsletter
and events calendar*

May/June, 2019
Vol. 33, Issue 5/6

Strong coalition forming around renters' rights

*by Sheila Payne, Jason Fults,
Jesse Cosmee, James Thompson
—ACLC Renters' Rights Committee*

Activists representing a broad informal coalition of renters' rights advocates packed a Gainesville City Commission Rental Housing Subcommittee meeting with about forty people on April 16.

About seven corporate landlord representatives attended. Those who spoke in favor of renters' rights issues were in the same ratio.

The Subcommittee working on this issue – Chair David Arreola and his fellow Commissioners Helen Warren and Adrian Hayes-Santos attended – drew from the energy in that room. Each elected official engaged directly with us.

The biggest development was that the Alachua County Labor Coalition housing recommendations on renters' rights (<https://laborcoalition.org/safehealthy-housing/our-white-paper/>) have been fully owned by a diverse array of “representative” and “elected” bodies, NAACP or Sierra Club being an example of the former,

See RENTERS, p. 19



Representatives of the supporting organizations of the Human Rights Coalition of Alachua County at the Westminster Presbyterian Church press conference on April 24. From left: Sandy Parker, Indivisible; Larry Green, Westminster Presbyterian; Andy Bachmann, United Church of Gainesville; Saoud Al-Ammari; Liz Ibarrola, Human Rights Coalition of Alachua County and Madres Sin Fronteras; Eve McMaster, Mennonite Church; Terry Fleming, Pride Center; Bob Karp, Human Rights Campaign Florida. Photo by Joe Courter.

The case for sanctuary

*by Liz Ibarrola
Director of Immigration Concerns,
Human Rights Coalition, Alachua County*

On Wednesday April 24, Westminster Presbyterian Church welcomed Saoud Al-Ammari into sanctuary. The act, one with deep history and religious significance, is supported by a network of allies, organized under the auspices of the

Human Rights Coalition of Alachua County. Those allies choose to support Saoud and Westminster because they share a fundamental belief that our community should be, and can be, a place where all people enjoy equal rights and are treated with equal dignity.

Saoud entered sanctuary because his life
See SANCTUARY, p. 20

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Adjunct faculty organize at Santa Fe College

by Glynn Hayes

The part-time contingent faculty at Santa Fe College recently filed with the Florida Government for the right to hold an election on forming a union that could democratically represent, bargain for, and protect this group of professors. Indeed, part-time faculty in many of the colleges in Florida have filed for and won elections to form unions (the latest is Miami-Dade College).

The administration of Santa Fe is now seeking to block this right to vote for and decide for ourselves if we wish to form a union. The administration has stated that it is best if there are no entities in between the faculty and themselves. They have blocked us by hiring an OUTSIDE law firm to contest our right to vote.

They have done this without reaching out to adjuncts to have any discussion on their issues, stating instead that they will have this discussion after this union issue is resolved. By blocking the right to even have an election, the administration is in effect saying that the democratic ideal of its majority of faculty having a voice in their governance is not reasonable.

Administrators are also spreading misleading information to faculty and seeking to use fear of even talking about a union as a method of union busting. Yes, faculty have the right to say no thanks, but they also have the right to say tell me more.

We deserve the right to decide for ourselves what method of governance we choose, be it collectively or individually. While we have enlisted the help of the Service Employees International Union, our faculty union would be made up of part-time faculty at Santa Fe College, as other recently won unions are made up of their colleges' part-time faculty.

Part-time faculty members are known as "adjunct" professors. At one time adjuncts were seen as temporary, additional or supplemental, not essential teachers. They were experts hired to share their experience and wisdom from industry or after retirement.

Today "adjuncts" in higher education are neither non-essential nor temporary and do not meet the definition of adjunct. It is not unusual for them to have worked over 10 years for the college; over 50 percent of the courses at Santa Fe College are taught by "adjunct" or contingent faculty

– WE ARE ESSENTIAL to the function of most colleges, here in Florida and throughout the country.

Most students and parents of students are not aware that the majority of classes are taught by "adjuncts." Tuition is not charged on the basis of who is teaching the class. Santa Fe President Dr. Sasser recently stated that once the "door [to a classroom] closes you cannot tell the difference between an 'adjunct' and full-time professor." Yet there are considerable and unfair differences between them.

"Adjuncts" are paid less than half the salary to teach the same class. They are hired on a semester-to-semester basis with no guarantee of working the next semester, or even if the classes they typically teach will not be taken away from them at the beginning of a semester and given to a full-time instructor. They live in a state of insecurity and fear of making mistakes that could result in an arbitrary decision to not have any classes the following semester. They do not have benefits, sick days or vacation, individual office space, and typically have to contribute to retirement different from social security.

Even though they are the majority of faculty, many teaching three or more classes, and sometimes the majority of all of a college's employees, they have no say in shared governance or curriculum decisions.

Administration dangles the prospect that there will be full-time positions available, yet these are few and far apart. In some cases departments go 10 years without a full-time hire. A recent decision by the administration proposed that "adjuncts" can volunteer to serve on committees as a way to increase their employability. This is simply another way to say you are not worth paying an equitable wage and we can get you to do another job for free.

Colleges have and continue to take advantage of those of us who love to teach and have established ties to our communities and families. Many no longer have the luxury or the desire of just standing by for years and applying for what few full-time positions become available somewhere in anywhere USA.

"Adjuncts" are not given respect even though they can be more qualified than the lucky ones that have been able to procure the rare full-time positions.

Given these inequalities and disparities

in pay and benefits, it would be beneficial to higher education and to the colleges themselves to have professors who are not on food stamps, can pay their rent, will not go bankrupt if a health crisis arises, and don't have to leave immediately after teaching to go to another job(s).

A college would have professors who can contribute to long-term projects, innovation, and spend the time with students to listen to them and build important relationships and mentorships.

Other colleges in the country have recognized these benefits and negotiated contracts with adjuncts that increase pay, allow buy-in to benefit packages, offer continuing contracts to those who show they are good teachers, compensation for last minute class cancelation, and other recognition of their essential contribution to the college.

Colleges in Florida are presently working on a document about freedom of expression on campuses. The precarious nature of adjuncts makes a mockery of academic freedom. Many adjunct faculty live in fear that their actions or inactions can result in an arbitrary dismissal. In one case, after working for eight years at St. Petersburg College teaching five to six classes a semester, when a "adjunct" questioned the fairness of department chair's actions, he was simply was told that there were no classes available the following semester and has not been offered any since then.

Our experience in talking to well over 400 adjuncts has given us ample evidence that these professors have fear of retaliation and losing the meager job they have. In fact, recent communications from the colleges are misleading and fear-inducing, such as falsely suggesting that faculty do not have the right to suggest that they can even discuss unionizing while on campus or with each other, or sending out vaguely worded warnings that any union activities on campus are prohibited by statute. 🐢

The only way to grow the economy in a way that benefits the bottom 90 percent is to change the structure of the economy. At the least, this requires stronger unions and a higher minimum wage.

-- Robert Reich

From the publisher ...

Disconnected not divided

There is much talk about this country being so severely divided, and anyone who bothers at all to engage in what used to be the much more fun practice of talking politics with friends and family can get this feeling. Our technology has provided so many options and points of view to draw from that many people are stuck inside their information silo and constrained from finding common ground with others and prioritizing what is important. Misconceptions, bogus belief systems and questions of source credibility muddy the waters of meaningful communication.

Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib, in her talk at the Students for Justice in Palestine fashion show at UF a couple of weekends ago, used the phrase that is the title of this column, crediting a minister in her hometown of Detroit for using it to describe our society. Divided is a term that implies a permanence, dare I say it, like a wall. As if there is an inherent barrier to solution. Disconnected is different. And we are in a society that has become disconnected from others within our shared environs. It is a world of economic segregation, and a world where irresponsible leaders will, whether from the pulpit or the podium, spew moral judgment and fear-mongering against others.

Is it too much to think that we can tear down existing walls, or prevent other walls from being built? Too much to think the harsh divides in our society can be softened and the polarized sides be bridged? Too much to think that we can be connected in at least an understanding that our differences are not permanent divisions, but constructs that can be re-shaped, re-understood, and reconciled?

"This American Life" is one of the best things on public radio, and I usually try to catch it. It had a segment, "The Sudden Departure," on April 21 about the situation in a small town at the Texas/Mexico border. It talked about ICE raiding a plant and taking people into custody, and how the Trump-supporting townspeople were shocked to see families being separated, enough so that they began raising bail money. These townsfolk (77 percent Trump voting) had felt no connection to these immigrants until the harsh reality of deportation round-ups was there in front of them. One woman phrased it as finding she had been "not correct in her thinking ... that it was not so black and white." (Listen to "The Sudden Departure" at: <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/archive?keyword=%22the%20sudden%20departure%22>)

Beliefs in walls, in divides, is a way of not seeing from other perspectives. Intersectionality is a concept which has grown prominent in the last few years, and it is defined as "the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage."

I would broaden it out to larger fields as well. I heard a talk on teaching about climate change, and the teacher being interviewed said climate change brings in all sorts of scientific disciplines. They are, in effect, connected.

Unfortunately, what we are seeing in this country and elsewhere (Brazil ... yikes) is the triumph of the politics of division. We are, as I have said before, in uncharted waters. But I find hope where I can.

There is a great little seven-and-a-half minute video done by the Intercept with animation by Molly Crabapple, and words by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Avi Lewis, which looks at a future when a Green New deal has been put into action. (Watch the video at: <https://theintercept.com/2019/04/17/green-new-deal-short-film-alexandria-ocasio-cortez/>)

Can we actually stop the incredible money drain on our economy for the insane war machine? Children are asking our leaders "how come there is always money for war but not money for schools and healthcare?" And most leaders do not have an answer. The answer needs to come from all of us, we have the tools to become connected.

A generation of youth are waking up: pay attention and do what you can. 🐢



Joe Courter

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

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Recapturing the lost promise of higher education

Excerpts from the University of North Florida Convocation Address, 2019

by David D. Jaffee

Distinguished Professor

Professor Sociology, Anthropology, and

Social Work

Arts and Sciences

Let me just begin by saying that I consider myself fortunate to have landed in sociology, as it fits perfectly with my “glass half empty” approach to life...

I should first note that most of my career as a sociologist has been devoted to a critical analysis of institutions and socio-economic arrangements. And I feel it is only appropriate to continue that practice here today.

So, in the spirit of that sociological tradition, I would like to direct my critical comments to the institutional setting in which we find ourselves today, and in which I have been fortunate to have a rewarding career – the institution of higher education. While I am personally content with the comfort and privilege that accompanies the position of full professor, this cannot preclude a sober assessment of the current state of the academy...

The university, the academy, stands as a unique institution in its espoused value for intellectual enrichment, free exchange of ideas, and the promotion of public good. These are ideals; and I consider myself an idealist.

Therefore, I must admit that higher education in the United States, especially over the past thirty years, has to a large extent betrayed its noble mission. There are many forces responsible for this betrayal, and I cannot address them all here.

But my hope, in bringing these issues forward, is that we can all reflect on how we, and the larger academic community, might work to achieve greater alignment between the heroic claims of an indispensable institution, and its operational reality.

So, what is it that we want higher education to be and to accomplish?

If we want education to serve as a “great equalizer,” rather than a reinforcer and reproducer of inequality, we must address the increasingly strong correlation between a child’s social class background and the quantity and quality of their educational attainment.

This cannot be done if we are shifting from need-based to merit-based aid, obsessing over US News and World Report Rankings, recruiting wealthier students who are more likely to cover the full cost of their education, using standardized tests such as the SAT and ACT as measures of intellectual or retention potential, or as strategies to demonstrate prestige and selectivity.

All of these practices, and many more, have produced what is now accurately labeled a “hereditary meritocracy” – the markers of merit, that is academic credentials, on which privileged positions are allocated, are now determined largely by family income and wealth. Under these conditions, equal opportunity will continue to remain an elusive aspiration.

If we want higher education to regain its status as a public good, we will need to reject the prevailing view of college as a private human capital investment.

This has resulted in millions of students taking out student loans on the illusory promise that they will inevitably get a so-called “return on their investment,” in high paying employment, but instead they are often left with mounting debt and underemployment.

How is it that millennials, the most highly educated generation, are also the most economically insecure? I fear we may have sold this generation a “bill of goods” regarding why they must have a university education. We must reduce or eliminate the cost, put the public back in public education, while also providing alternative avenues, apart from a college degree, that can provide the opportunity for a socially respected and economically secure livelihood.

If we want our students to have a truly intellectually rewarding transformational educational experience, we should encourage students to follow their passions and interests (which are often in the humanities, social sciences, or education), wherever they may lead, rather than promoting majors on the basis of labor market employer demands, or even economic returns.

What should matter, ideally, is the social use value, rather than the market exchange value, of a degree or area of study. The two should never be confused. I don’t think any of us would want a university to be mistaken for a trade school. Rather, I assume we want, first and foremost, to cultivate critical thinkers and informed citizens, not cheerful robots or obedient sheep.

The future of our democracy, now more than ever, will depend on it.

If we want to prevent the university from becoming just another corporatized bu-

reaucracy, we should not allow ourselves to be driven exclusively by a single-minded focus on externally imposed metrics which generate, inevitably, a “wag the dog” approach to institutional priorities.

While the pursuit of some measurable outcomes associated with student success might make perfect sense, this cannot be the sum and substance of our efforts.

Sociologists, it should now go without saying, have most insightfully identified the pathological bureaucratic tendency known as “goal displacement.” It refers to the danger in all bureaucratic organizations, where instrumental means become ultimate ends, and we eventually lose sight of, or forget, the essential purpose of the academic enterprise.

If we want the university to be socially responsible and, in UNF’s case, to follow our publicly proclaimed and espoused value of “responsibility to the natural environment,” UNF should be on record opposing university endowment investment practices that support and reinforce the actions of fossil fuel corporations, that contribute directly and aggressively to the destruction of the planet.

Divestment should be supported unconditionally – regardless of whether it exacts a financial cost on the value of the endowment. Climate change action should be addressed as a human rights issue, not as a cost-benefit calculation.

If we the faculty truly respect the institution of tenure, we should not be reluctant to aggressively exercise the right that it presumably defends – the right to academic freedom and freedom of speech.

We should not be engaging in self-censorship on controversial and political issues of the day, in or out of the classroom, even if this may raise inconvenient or uncomfortable truths. Intellectual agitation has long been regarded as the sine qua non of the university.

If we the faculty do not want our students to take a purely instrumental approach to education and learning, we might want to stop telling them to “study because there is an exam,” “read this chapter because there will be a quiz,” “do X,Y and Z if you want to receive an ‘A’ in the class.”

These common and seemingly innocuous phrases simply reinforce the very instrumental disposition we bemoan. So much of our efforts at the social control of our students is based on these extrinsic re-

wards and penalties, therefore potentially crowding out intrinsic forms of motivation, based on the pure value of learning and intellectual edification.

I don’t for a moment underestimate the difficulty in breaking out of these hard-wired patterns that have been built into almost every stage of the educational process – I am guilty of using them myself – but the very language we often use, communicates and cultivates an approach to learning that most of us would ideally not subscribe to.

If we as a faculty care about inequality, we should actively support the struggle of, and improvement of conditions for, so-called adjunct or contingent faculty – now part of the growing precariat despite holding doctorate degrees – who are paid poverty level compensation under conditions of economic insecurity and uncertainty.

I count myself among the many who have been silent on this issue for far too long. We should all join their struggle for a living salary.

If we the faculty care about faculty solidarity, we should all be willing to join and financially support the one organizational entity that negotiates on our behalf, for the conditions and terms of our employment through collective bargaining – the United Faculty of Florida.

Inevitably, freeriders will be used as ammunition in the hands of union-busting legislators, now looking to decertify public sector unions on the basis of low membership rates.

If we the faculty are concerned with the economic stress and strain faced by our students, we can stop assigning and requiring, where feasible, grossly overpriced textbooks, that enrich the publishers while ripping off our students.

This is one financial condition we actually have some control over. On this score, I am happy to report that an increasing number of UNF faculty are seeking out alternative and free sources for course material, and that UNF has launched the Open Educational Resource Initiative to assist and support faculty in these efforts. It is having a positive impact.

Since I just used the words “happy” and “positive” I should bring this to a close, legitimately claiming that I am finishing on an upbeat note!

In conclusion, if we the academic community are concerned with any of these

issues, I hope we can individually and collectively reflect upon and take actions to bring the promise of the university, and its espoused values, in greater alignment with its actual operation.

Higher education is not unique. There are many social institutions that suffer from this gap between aspiration and operation, but this is the one we inhabit, and thus where there might be some potential to translate our actions into the public good. 🐊

Fight Toxic Prisons Convergence coming to Gainesville

The 2019 Fight Toxic Prisons Convergence is taking place June 14-17 in Gainesville and will include speakers, panels, workshops, protests and cultural activities exploring the intersections of anti-prison and environmental struggles.

The Convergence is always free, they just ask for a sliding scale donation (\$25 – \$50) to help cover costs, primarily to provide assistance with transportation, food and housing to make the event broadly accessible to people hit hardest by repression, criminalization and toxicity.

For more information, check out fighttoxicprisons.org and <http://www.gainesvilleiguana.org/2019/articles/fight-toxic-prisons-convergence-coming-to-gainesville-in-june/>. 🐊

One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors.

– Plato



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If you are ready to quit, join our next Tools to Quit Tobacco group on Tuesday, May 7 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Newberry Branch Library or Thursday, May 9 from 6 to 8 pm at The Cancer Center of North Florida Regional Medical Center.

This free one time, two-hour group will give you tips on how to deal with triggers, withdrawal symptoms and prevent relapse. You will also receive up to four weeks of free nicotine patches, gum or lozenges.

This group more than doubles your chance of quitting for good. Pre-registration is required. Call 866-341-2730 to reserve your spot. 🐾



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- MAY**
- 3** **Heroes and Harmonies**
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 - 10** **A Tribute to Stevie Ray Vaughn & Female Power Singers** by Crooked Counsel
 - 17** **Hot Club de Ville** (Gypsy Jazz)
 - 24** **Bridget Kelly** (Blues)
 - 31** **A Tribute to Stephen Stills** by Mick Marino, Mark Miale, Tony McMahon & Friends
- JUNE**
- 7** **African-American Music Month**
 - 14** **Little Jake & The Soul Searchers** (R&B, Soul)
 - 21** **Fast Lane** (Funk, Soul, R&B)
 - 28** **The Shakedown** (Blues, Rock)
 - 28** **De Lions of Jah** (Reggae)

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

Group aims to reduce the spread of HIV locally



by Jeffrey Solius, WellFlorida Council

The High Impact Prevention (HIP) project by WellFlorida Council aims to decrease the spread of HIV and link HIV-infected individuals to prevention and care services in Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Lake, Marion and Putnam counties. The program is currently offering free HIV testing, condoms and educational materials at local events and participating businesses.

Everyone's Doing It promotes condom use and HIV testing throughout the six

counties. Testing is confidential, and teens do not need parental consent to be tested for HIV. Locate HIV testing sites and events at EveryoneStopAID-SNow.org. WellFlorida provides free HIV testing Monday through Friday by appointment only. WellFlorida is located at 1785 NW 80th Blvd., Gainesville. Call 352-313-6500 ext. 134 for more information.

It's Everyone's Business is a partnership between WellFlorida and local businesses that are interested in sharing HIV prevention messages and materi-

als with their customers, employees and other neighborhood businesses. Some of these businesses provide free condoms and serve as HIV-testing sites. Visit www.wellflorida.org for a complete list of businesses.

ARTAS (Anti-Retroviral Treatment and Access to Services) is the third component of the WellFlorida project. ARTAS links HIV-positive individuals – those who have recently been diagnosed with HIV or who have HIV but have not received medical care in the last six months – to the care and resources they need. For more information, visit ARTAS at EveryoneStopAIDSNow.org or call 352-313-6500 ext. 134.

WellFlorida Council Inc., located in Gainesville, Fla., is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization created in 1969. WellFlorida is the state designated local health council for North Central Florida and specializes in consultancy for health causes. Visit www.wellflorida.org for information. 🐾

Actors' Warehouse

Presents
BEAUTY OF THE FATHER
By Nilo Cruz

Set in Andalusia, Spain, where the restless ghost of the Spanish poet Federico García Lorca still wanders through the streets and converses with the living, "Beauty of the Father" is about a young American girl who travels to this part of the world to meet her estranged father and becomes romantically involved with his Moroccan companion. This passionate triangle explores the conflict between love and sacrifice.

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Actors' Warehouse entertains, inspires and fosters critical thinking through the performing arts while bringing diversity programming, social justice and public health to the forefront.

Beauty of the Father
by Nilo Cruz



One man tugging on the heart strings of his three loves.

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JUNE 15 - MLK CENTER

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WGOT begins streaming, seeks local sponsor relationships

By Fred Sowder
WGOT Station Coordinator

It's been a busy couple of months at your community radio station. WGOT recently had a blast at our most recent benefit concert at Loosey's Downtown. Thanks to Ricky Kendall, Dolce Kings, VOWLS, Leaning Trees, and members of Captive Eddies for loaning their time and talents to our cause; Danny Hughes for offering up his venue; and to everyone who attended. You put community in community radio every day and are the reason we do what we do. We also express gratitude to all who made our first year in "The Amazing Give" a successful one.

We've also moved forward on a leap of faith and have begun streaming worldwide. Visit wgot.org for details or, if you have the TuneIn app on your mobile device, search for WGOT. We're still ironing out technical details, but for the most part, you can now take us with you to hear our great variety of local and national music and talk programs no matter where you are. We're still short about \$1,000 of our streaming GoFundMe campaign goal, so please consider donating to help put us over the top. We've also applied for local grants so we can continue to stream while hoping to hear good news from those efforts.

In the meantime, if you or someone you know owns a small business, did you know that you or they can get your message across on WGOT's stream and airwaves for as little as \$50 per month? Contact us at underwriting@wgot.org for more details. We're also in need of volunteers, not only to provide programming with new shows, but also in the areas of scheduling, marketing, PR, graphic design, underwriting, music, and our website. Please email info@wgot.org for more details about any or all of these opportunities.

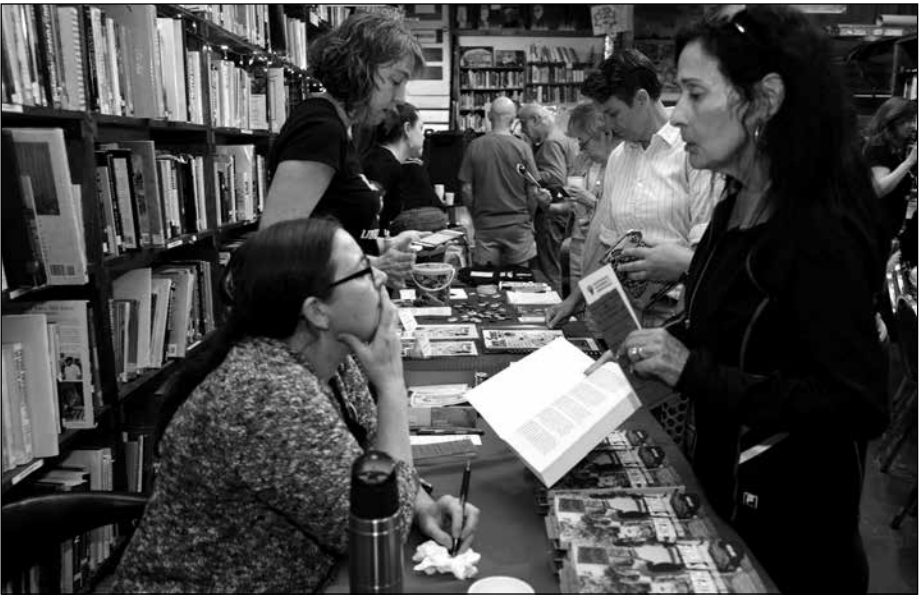
We're welcoming two new local programs to our weekly lineup.



WGOT's Jim McFarlane and Doug Clifford (L-R) at the Repurpose Project for its Earth Day Celebration on April 2.

"My Friend's Place" broadcasts live from the Civic Media Center studio on Thursdays at or around 4:20pm each week. Chris, who also hosts the Cramela Mix Show, will be featuring guests, some involved in other areas at WGOT, to talk about various issues and play tunes. Florida Underground features Brianna, who will play many genres of music from all corners of the Sunshine State on Thursday at 8pm and Saturdays at 3pm. Like most local programs, these will also replay throughout the week.

WGOT is all about community, so we continue to be heavily involved with all kinds of events. We recently had fun talking with people at the Repurpose Project's Earth Day celebration, and look forward to future events. As always, stay tuned! ☘



Jenny Brown (left) of National Women's Liberation talks to Cindy Gordon at a book signing at the Civic Media Center on April 26. The event was to launch her book *Birth Strike: The Hidden Fight over Women's Work*. She'll be speaking at Third House Books, 113 N. Main Street, on Friday, May 3 at 6pm. Photo by Suzy Rodriguez.



Satchel's May ATM fees will go to CMC

Satchel's Pizza, and the adjoining Lightning Salvage, have a special place in Gainesville. After rebuilding from a big fire a couple years ago, they have come roaring back better than ever.

The gift shop, kinda barren when they first reopened, is again chock full of the weird novelty items you never see anywhere else. They are pioneering early evening music, with live music running from 6 to 9 most nights. They treat their employees well, too, setting a high standard for other Gainesville businesses.

They are cash-only, which means their ATM gets a workout, and Satchel donates that fee to one or another nonprofit organizations every month. May's organization is the Civic Media Center, so go get some money out of that machine, get yourself a calzone or pizza, maybe a big salad, and enjoy. ☘

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Students strike worldwide, demand climate change action



Greta Thunberg

The excerpt that follows is from a speech by 16-year-old climate activist Greta Thunberg, of Sweden, before the European Union in April. Greta is known worldwide for having initiated

the school strike for climate movement that formed in November 2018 and surged around the world after the United Nations COP24 conference in Poland in December.

My name is Greta Thunberg, I am a climate activist from Sweden and today in this room there are also—if you can come up – Anuna, Adélaïde, Kyra, Gilles, Dries, Toon and Luisa.

Tens of thousands of children or schools are striking for the climate on the streets of Brussels. Hundreds of thousands are doing the same all over the world. We are school striking because we have done our homework. And some of us are here today.

People always tell us that they are so hopeful. They are hopeful that the young people are going to save the world, but we are not. There is simply not enough time to wait for us to grow up and become the ones in charge. Because by the year 2020 we need to have bended the emissions curve steep downward.

That is next year. We know that most politicians don’t want to talk to us. Good, we don’t want to talk to them either.

We want them to talk to the scientists instead. Listen to them, because we are just repeating what they are saying and have been saying for decades. We want you to follow the Paris agreement and the IPCC reports.

We don’t have any other manifests or demands, you unite behind the science that is our demand. When many politicians talk about the school strike for the climate, they talk about almost anything except for the climate crisis.

Many people are trying to make the school strikes a question of whether we are promoting truancy or whether we should go back to school or not.

They make up all sorts of conspiracies and call us puppets who cannot think for ourselves.

They are desperately trying to remove the focus from the climate crisis and change the subject.

They don’t want to talk about it because they know they cannot win this fight. Because they know they haven’t done their homework, but we have.

Once you have done your homework you realize that we need new politics, we need new economics where everything is based on a rapidly declining and extremely limited remaining carbon budget.

But that is not enough. We need a whole new way of thinking. The political system that you have created is all about competition. You cheat when you can, because all that matters is to win, to get power. That must come to an end, we must stop competing with each other, we need to cooperate and work together and to share the resources of the planet in a fair way.

We need to start living within the planetary boundaries, focus on equity and take a few steps back for the sake of all living species. We need to protect the biosphere, the air, the oceans, the soil, the forests.

This may sound very naive, but if you have done your homework then you know that we don’t have any other choice. We need to focus every inch of our being on climate change, because if we fail to do so than all our achievements and progress have been for nothing and all that will remain of our political leaders’ legacy will be the greatest

failure of human history. And they will be remembered as the greatest villains of all time, because they have chosen not to listen and not to act.

But this does not have to be. There is still time. According to the IPCC report we are about 11 years away from being in a position where we set off an irreversible chain reaction beyond human control.

To avoid that unprecedented changes in all aspects of society, [actions] need to have taken place within this coming decade, including a reduction of our CO2 emissions by at least 50 percent by the year 2030.

And please note that those numbers do not include the aspect of equity, which is absolutely necessary to make the Paris agreement work on a global scale, nor do they include tipping points or feedback loops like the extremely powerful methane gas released from the thawing Arctic permafrost.

They do, however, include negative emission techniques on a huge planetary scale that is yet to be invented, and that

many scientists fear will never be ready in time and will anyway be impossible to deliver at the scale assumed. We have been told that the EU intends to improve its emission reduction targets.

In the new target, the EU is proposing to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 45 percent below 1990’s level by 2030. Some people say that is good or that is ambitious. But this new target is still not enough to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

This target is not sufficient to protect the future for children growing up today. If the EU is to make its fair contribution to staying within the carbon budget for the two-degree limit, then it means a minimum of 80 percent reduction by 2030 and that includes aviation and shipping.

So [it is] around twice as ambitious as the current proposal. The actions required are beyond manifestos or any party politics. Once again, they sweep their mess under the carpet for our generation to clean up and solve. Some people say that we are fighting for our

future, but that is not true. We are not fighting for our future, we are fighting for everyone’s future. And if you think that we should be in school instead, then we suggest that you take our place in the streets striking from your work. Or better yet, join us so it can speed up the process.

And I am sorry, but saying everything will be alright while continue doing nothing at all is just not hopeful to us. In fact, it’s the opposite of hope. And yet this is exactly what you keep doing.

You can’t just sit around waiting for hope to come, you’re acting like spoiled irresponsible children. You don’t seem to understand that hope is something you have to earn. And if you still say that we are wasting valuable lesson time then let me remind you that our political leaders have wasted decades through denial and inaction.

And since our time is running out we have decided to take action. We have started to clean up your mess and we will not stop until we are done. 🌿

Porters Quarters residents fight land grab

by Olysha Magruder and Tyler Foerst

Porters Quarters is a small but historic community in the center of the Downtown Gainesville area. The residents of Porters are working class people, many of whom are African American and whose families have lived here for generations. Indeed, one neighbor, Olivia said, that the house and land she and her husband own in Porters is their legacy.

Porters has felt the pressure of UF’s ever-expanding campus and the cry for urban density, especially in the past couple of years. The need for student housing and office space is huge for such a large university and the Innovation District of our City.

Many feel that the fate of the Porters Community is sealed with deals hashed out by developers and the powers that be.

What they didn’t count on was that the community of Porters - a community that demonstrated resilience through decades of growth within the City of Gainesville - would band together to fight to protect the area surrounding our historic community.

The story of this attempted land transfer from the City to a developer is mired in legalese, zoning laws and codes, and the “quasi-judicial process.”

It all began when John Fleming, the owner of Trimark Properties, emailed a city employee titled, “Deal of the Day!” and requested that the process to vacate a parcel of land on the southern portion of SW 5th Terrace and an adjacent alley located east of the intersection of SW 6th Street and SW 4th Avenue. The land is approximately .35 acres.

In exchange for the City-owned land, Fleming offered to

enter a memorandum of understanding that his company would provide landscaping to the SW 6th St. roundabout and a small section of land nearby. (The email thread between Fleming and the city employee was obtained through a public records request.) Trimark purchased the adjacent land for a million dollars.

According to the code rules, only a few surrounding houses were required to be notified of the proposed land grab. A meeting was set up at 9 in the morning across town, and only the people living with 400 feet of the proposed vacation of land were sent notification.

Luckily, in Porters, neighbors help each other out and word travels fast. We were able to organize and mobilize within an incredibly short time frame. After the initial meeting, it became clear that we had to petition the City Plan Board to deny the request to vacate this land.

We met at the Porters Community Center and at Shady Grove Primitive Baptist Church to discuss this issue and other community concerns. Our neighbors, most of whom are African American and have lived in Porters for decades, came together on this issue. On April 26, we met at City Hall at 6:15 pm and to our delight, many others within the community joined in the fight.

We were able to apply enough pressure to the city planning board to reject the petition. While we won this fight, it won’t be the last. They are not finished and neither are we. This can provide a model for the future to protect Porters. After all, how can we justify tearing down a neighborhood that is as rich with history as any building at UF or in this city? 🌿





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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 8.

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.

5 Civil Rights Forum led by David & Jean Chalmers, Quaker Meetinghouse (702 NW 38th St), 1 pm.
Zines meeting every Sunday, Civic Media Center, 3 pm.
Internat'l Midwifery Day celebration honoring Dr. George Buchanan, The Woolly (20 N. Main St), 6 pm, \$30.

RAMADAN BEGINS CINCO DE MAYO

12 Operation Catnip feral neuter/spay clinic - see ocgainesville.org.
The Nether final performance at Acrosstown Rep (619 S. Main St), 8 pm.

Sundays at AQ Jones - talks on local history, politics, culture, at AQ Jones Museum (1013 NW 13th Ave), 2nd Suns, 3 pm: rsvp 352-334-2010.

MOTHER'S DAY

19 Sunday Assembly: Eileen Roy on "School Privatization Movement" - SFC Downtown (530 W. Univ. Ave), 11 am, 3rd Suns: see pg 7 & sagainesville.weebly.com.

Kristin Chenoweth at Phillips Ctr (3201 Hull Rd), 7:30 pm, \$10-\$75.
N.Ctl Fla Women in Blues showcase, Cypress & Grove, 2 pm.

26 1907: Marion Michael "John Wayne" Morrison born.

2 1924: Native Americans gain citizenship.

9 Gary Gordon Ensemble, Thomas Ctr, 7 pm, \$10; pg 18.

16 OnaMOVE! talk by Africa family, MLK Ctr (1028 NE 14th St), 6:30-9 pm, free.

FATHER'S DAY BLOOMSDAY

23 1912: Alan M. Turing born.

Monday Lunes

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

Gvl Girls Rock Camp volunteer meet & greet, CMC, 6 pm.

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.

13 Fla Free Speech Forum: Southern Legal Counsel leaders, Wyndham Garden Conference Ctr (2900 SW 13th St), 11:30 am: floridafreespeechforum.org.

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

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

Human 1 movie, CMC 7 pm.

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

Human 2 movie, CMC (433 S. Main St), 7 pm.

Sofar Sounds May show, location & bands secret; see sofarsounds.com/gainesville for tix.

27 Memorial Mile takedown; see pg 24.

Human 3 movie, CMC 7 pm.

3 1539: Hernando de Soto claims Florida for Spain.

10 1922: Frances Ethel "Judy Garland" Gumm born.

17 Grow Gvl - see 5/20.

24 1948: Soviets blockade W Berlin.

Tuesday Martes

30 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; summer break June-Aug.

CMC Volunteers now meet every Tuesday, 5:30 pm.

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

Mellow Soul Open Mic Tuesdays, CMC, 8-12 pm.

7 Quit Tobacco program, Newberry Library (110 S Seaboard Dr), 5:30-7:30 pm.

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.

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

Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee meets, CMC, 6 pm.

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

21 School Board - see 5/7. SFC Adjuncts Rights Rally, SFC NW, Bldg S332, 4 pm; see pg 2.

NAACP Environment & Climate Justice Committee, Wlh. Johnson Ctr (321 NW 10th St), 3rd Tuesdays, 5:30 pm.

28 County Commish - see 5/14. Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee letter-writing, CMC, 6-8 pm.

Alachua Cty Labor Coalition - see 4/30.

4 1989: 250-7000 protesters killed in Tiananmen Sq.

11 IWOC, CMC, 6 pm.

18 1963: MLK arrested in Fla.

25 IWOC meets - see 5/14.

Wednesday Miercoles

May 1 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.

May Day: 5 pm, CMC; 6 pm, workshop at downtown library.

Non-Violent Communication Basics Workshop, CMC, 6 pm.

Vets for Peace meet: call 352-375-2563 for location, 7 pm.

Dream Defenders Meetup, CMC, 7 pm.
MAY DAY
US-INSPIRED HOLIDAY CELEBRATED AROUND WORLD BUT NOT IN US.

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

Cell 411 workshop, Civic Media Ctr (433 S. Main St), 6 pm.

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

15 Non-Violent Comm. Workshop, CMC, 6 pm.
Humanists meet, UUFG (4225 NW 34th St), 6:30 pm.

Florida's Changing Waters author talk, N Fla Spgs Environ Ctr (99 NW 1st Ave, High Springs), 6:30 pm, free.

Dream Defenders Meetup, CMC, 7 pm.

22 MOVE 9 movie hosted by Fight Toxic Prisons, CMC, 7 pm.
1927: Peter Matthiesen born.

29 Medical Marijuana Town Hall, UF HealthStreet (2401 SW Archer Rd), 5:30-7 pm; free tickets at eventbrite.com.

Comm. Workshop, CMC, 6 pm.
Dream Defenders Meetup, CMC, 7 pm.

5 Vets for Peace - see 5/1. Summer Movie series at Em. Menno Church begins, runs through Aug; 7 pm, free.

12 Cell 411 - see 5/8.

19 1963: Medgar Evers killed.

26 1945: 50 nations sign United Nations charter.

Thursday Jueves

2 Sierra Club meeting, LifeSouth (4039 Newberry Rd), 7 pm.

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

Open Poetry every Thursday at CMC, now starting 8 pm.

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

NATIONAL DAY OF REASON

9 Stonewall Democrats meet, Pride Ctr (3131 NW 13th St), 2nd Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 pm.

Quit Tobacco program, Cancer Ctr, N Fla Reg Med Ctr (6500 W Newberry Rd), 6-8 pm; see pg 6.

Momlife benefit show, The Woolly (20 N. Main St), 7 pm, \$16 (\$11 students).

Pearl & the Oysters and The Dewars at the Atlantic, 9 pm.

Whether here or anywhere: please support live music!

16 Disorientation Gvl meeting, Alachua County Labor Coalition office (502 NW 16th Ave), 3 pm.

Wild Shiners at Lightnin' Salvage, 6 pm.

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

1879: Afghanistan created by Russian-British Treaty of Gandamak.

23 Grand Hotel opens at SF College Fine Arts Hall (3000 NW 83rd St), runs thru 6/1, 7:30 pm, \$9/\$15.

30 Rafiki, Black Films Matter at Hipp Cinema, 7:30 pm.

1539: Joan of Arc burned.

6 Gary Gordon Chief Mican reading & signing, Matheson Mus. (513 E. Univ Ave), 7 pm, free.

Frog Drinks hosts fungus lovers at 1st Magnitude, 6 pm.

IGUANA Deadline for July- Aug issue is June 19th; write gainesvilleiguana@cox.net or call 352-378-5655 with events, updates, advertisements & info.

Friday Viernes

3 Gamble Rogers Festival, St. Augustine, 3rd-5th.

Birth Strike Jenny Brown reading, 3rd House Books (113 N Main St), 6 pm.

"Heroes & Harmonies" Everly Bros et al tribute at Free Friday Concert, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), 8 pm.

10 Kathleen Taylor, Lightnin' Salvage, 6 pm.

Stevie Ray Vaughn & female power singers tribute, BD Plaza, 8 pm, free.

Beauty of the Father opens, Actors' Warehouse (619 NW 1st St), 8 pm; through 5/26, \$20 (\$10 Thurs); pg 6.

Connect the Dots music, CMC, 8 pm.

17 Butterfly Conservation fundraiser, 1st Magnitude Brewing (1220 SE Veitch St), 5-8 pm; \$10+.

To Kill a Mockingbird opens, Star Ctr Theater (11 NE 23rd Ave), thru 5/26, 7:30 pm.

Hot Club De Ville plays gypsy jazz, Bo Diddley Plaza, 8 pm, free; see pg 6.

LPT (Afro-Cuban salsa), Heartwood, 8 pm.

24 Bridget Kelly Band sings the blues for Free Friday concert, Bo Diddley Plaza, 8 pm.

Max Helgimo & Ricky Kendall at The Atlantic (15 N Main St), 9 pm.

31 JH Anderson Jr Memorial Park opening (6560 Cty Rd 340, Bell) (w/ swimming & hiking), 10:30 am; free.

Synchronica photo exhibit opens, Thomas Ctr galleries (306 NE 6th Ave), thru 1/4/20; part of Gvl150 celebration.

Pipeline Storytelling, CMC, 7 pm.

Gvl Artwalk, last Fridays, 7 pm - see pg 17 & artwalkgainesville.com.

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

Stephen Stills tribute, BD Plaza, 8 pm.

7 Little Jake & the Soul Searchers, Bo Diddley Plaza, 8 pm; see pg 6.

You Have the Right to Remain Dead opens at Acrosstown Rep (619 S. Main St), runs through 6/23; 8 pm.

14 Fight Toxic Prisons Convergence opens: fighttoxicprisons.org.
No Borders Fest (part of FTP Convergence), CMC, 6 pm; see pg 5.

Fast Lane, BD Plaza, 8 pm; see pg 6.

21 Bluegrass Jam & potluck, CMC, 3rd Fridays, 6-9+ pm.

Satchmo at the Waldorf opens at Actors Warehouse; 8 pm thru 7/7.

The Shakedown, BD Plaza, 8 pm.

SUMMER SOLSTICE

28 De Lions of Jah, BDP, 8 pm.

Saturday Sabado

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

Yoga class 1st/3rd Sats, CMC, 10 am.

Plant Club meets, CMC, 2 pm.

Vets for Peace Poetry Contest winners read, UUFG, 2 pm.

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

Gvl Jazz Festival, Tioga Town Ctr (133 SW 130th Way, Newberry), 7-11 pm, free.

11 Free ice cream, Rockwood Park (2221 NW 2nd St), 1-3 pm.

Journey Down Four Florida Roads author James Williams speaks, Matheson Museum (513 E. Univ Ave), 2 pm, free.

Women of 2000s covers benefiting Girls Rock Camp, Loosey's, 2-6 pm.

Green New Deal town meeting, Cypress & Grove (1001 NW 4th St), 3:30 pm.

18 Lubee Bat Conservancy open house (1309 NW 192nd Ave), 11 am-3 pm, \$5.

Free Store at CMC, 2-5 pm.

Crocs exhibit opens, Fla Mus of Natural Hist (3215 Hull Rd), 10 am.

Casadaga, FL talk by author Gary Monroe, Matheson Mus, 2 pm, free.

Local Food Awards, Working Food Comm Ctr (219 NW 10th Ave), 6 pm, \$65 w/ adv reservation: workingfood.org.

Connect the Dots music, CMC, 8 pm.

FULL MOON

25 Memorial Mile 2019 begins, NW 10th Ave, dawn - see pg 24.

Health Fair, Cotton Club MCC (837 SE 7th St), 10am-3 pm.

Sustaining Wellness, CMC, 1 pm.

Someday Honey, Heartwood, 8 pm.

June 1 Veg for Life: see 5/4. **Zombie Prom** celebrating 10-yr anniversary of Boca Fiesta & Palomino, 8 pm.

HURRICANE SEASON OPENS

8 "Scandalous" adult storytelling, The Woolly, 9 pm, \$15 (\$10 stu).

Black Music Month & Soul Food Fest, Cotton Club MCC, 1-6 pm.

15 Free Store at CMC, 2-5 pm.
Gvl Roller Rebels All-Stars vs Pensacola, MLK Ctr (1028 NE 14th St), 6 pm; see pg 7.

22 1772: England ends slavery.

29 1995: US shuttle Atlantis docks at Russian space station Mir.



Gene Beardsley and Barbara Rotundo, rest in power

Damn it, we have local obits again. Besides Gene Beardsley (below), we also lost Barbara Rotundo on April 10. She taught school for 37 years in Alachua County; so many lives she must have touched! I knew her as a quiet but positive energy person I would see every once in a while, always warm and kind, and as an Iguana subscriber for as long as I remember. Her brief obit in the Gainesville Sun said there would be a celebration of her life in September. Just retired and six months younger than me. Ouch. And then dear and solid Gene. --Joe Courter

Gainesville Sun’s Obituary for Gene Beardsley

Gene Elaine Beardsley of Gainesville, Florida, passed away suddenly on April 8, 2019, due to unforeseen complications during a heart valve replacement surgery. She was 85 years old.

Born on August 14, 1933 in Atlanta, Georgia, Gene was the youngest daughter of the late Stella (Nadeau) and Elwood Stimart. She joined older brother, the late William ‘Bill’ R. Stimart, and older sister, the late Lois G. Bryan, and was named by Lois after the author, Gene Stratton Porter.

Soon after her birth, the family moved to Downers Grove, Illinois, where she graduated with honors from Downers Grove Community High School in 1951. She went on to earn her B.A. from the University of Illinois and then earned her first Master’s Degree in Early Childhood Development from Cornell University.

After teaching at the University of Cincinnati for four years, Gene moved to San Francisco, working as an Associate Social Worker at the Donaldina Cameron House, which serves the needs of low-income and immigrant Asian youth and families in San Francisco. It was here that Gene met her future husband, Richard (Dick) Beardsley.

Gene and Dick were married on February 21, 1965 in San Francisco China Town, moving to Gainesville in 1966. Her first job was at the Millhopper Unitarian Nursery School Cooperative teaching little ones, some who remain in Gainesville today and remember her fondly.

Four years later she began her employment at the Alachua County Childcare Coalition (A4Cs) as the Coordinator for Teacher Resources. It was during this time, in April of 1970, that she and Dick adopted their beautiful daughter Shanna, who became the light of their lives.

In 1987, Gene returned to school at Florida State University to earn her second Master’s Degree, this time in Social Work with a specialization in gerontology. Her first job after this milestone was working at a local nursing home. She noted that some may find that work depressing, and countered, ‘but I enjoy the elderly because they have so much to offer.’

Soon after she accepted a social work position at the UF UpReach Pavilion, working primarily with stroke survivors as a friend and liaison between the patient/their family, the medical team, and the community. While there, she was honored with the ‘Social Worker of the Year’ award, bestowed by the Florida Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. She remained with UpReach until her retirement in 2001.

Gene enjoyed membership in many different organizations, like the League of Women Voters, the United Nations

Association, and the National Association of Social Workers, but she would perhaps like most to be remembered for her work in social justice.

Gene and Dick worked diligently on the Nuclear Freeze movement in the early 1980s, looking for a way to expand their efforts with Citizens for a Non-Nuclear Future. Alongside the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, the United Church of Gainesville, and the Congregation B’Nai Israel (among many, many others), they created the Community Alliance for Peace Education (CAPE). They were successful in gathering thousands of signatures supporting a national nuclear freeze, and gained both City and County Commission resolutions favoring a freeze.

For their work with CAPE in education and activism, Gene and Dick were recognized with the Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’is of Greater Gainesville’s Annual Human Rights Award in 1982.

Gene and Dick joined the Gainesville Friends Meeting soon after arriving in Gainesville, and have been active members ever since. Gene served as Clerk of the Gainesville meeting, and as Secretary of the South Eastern Yearly meeting, making new friends both near and far. She also worked with a team of community interfaith leaders to create the Beltram Peace Center, a place whose mission is to provide healing and hope through creation care and service.

Gene and Dick devoted much energy to the local sanctuary movement, helping to form the interfaith Gainesville Area Task Force on Sanctuary in 1985, joining a nationwide Sanctuary movement, which was financially supported by a wide array of local activists, students, UF professors, and residents. The Task Force was instrumental in welcoming the first Central American refugee family in Florida through sponsorship by the ecumenical sanctuary movement; they were housed at the Friends Meeting House, eventually welcoming a second baby into the world surrounded by community support and love.

A few years later, Gene and Dick helped coordinate another effort in sponsoring a family of three. Gene felt strongly that the welcoming of refugees should be a central part of becoming a ‘beloved community’, a community she worked on creating every day of her life.

Gene is survived by her husband, Dick, her daughter, Shanna (Beardsley) Johnson (Glenn), her treasured grandchildren, Ella, 16, and Nate, 13, all from Gainesville; her sister in law, Shirley Stimart of Charlotte, NC; sister in law Sharon (Beardsley) and brother in law George Cobb of Bailey’s Harbor, WI; and her numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews, even great-GREAT nieces and nephews, and a community who miss her dearly.

There will be a Meeting for Remembrance to celebrate her life at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, April 24 at the United Church of Gainesville, 1624 NW 5th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32603, followed by a potluck reception.

In lieu of flowers, Gene would appreciate donations to the American Friends Service Committee: <https://www.afsc.org/> “I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again.” - William Penn 🌻

And the good news is ...

Front-yard vegetable gardens no longer illegal

by Katherine Martinko, Treehugger.com

A couple in Miami Shores, Florida, had been cultivating a front-yard vegetable garden for 17 years when, all of a sudden, they were told it was illegal. Apparently vegetable gardens were now only allowed in rear yards, but that wouldn’t work for this couple, as theirs was north-facing and didn’t get enough sun.

Hermine Ricketts and Tom Carroll, indignant at the fact that vegetables were deemed more offensive than boats, RVs, jet skis, statues, fountains, gnomes, pink flamingoes, or Santa in a Speedo in one’s front yard, took their case to the Florida Supreme Court, which ruled in favour of Miami Shores’ right to control design and landscaping standards. In other words, it was a loss for Ricketts and Carroll.

But a few months later, victory was theirs. The front-yard garden ban touched a nerve with enough senators that a new bill just passed in mid-March, stating that Floridians are now able to grow fruit and vegetables in their front yards without fear of local government fines.

The Miami Herald cites Republican senator Rob Bradley, who sponsored the bill and described it as a “vast overreach.” Given how many food deserts exist and how hard it can be for many families to access fresh and affordable food, such bans are an absurd step in the wrong direction. Bradley said,

“The world is changing when it comes to food. There’s a big interest when it comes to locally sourced food or organic products. It is our role, our duty to review decisions that are made in the courts that uphold local government actions that violate property rights in the State of Florida ... When you own a piece of property, you should be able to grow food on that property for your family’s consumption.”

Ari Bargill, the lawyer who represented Ricketts and Carroll, is pleased with the new legislation, saying he “looks forward to the day where no Floridian would worry about crippling fines for the offence of growing cabbage.”

Not everyone supports it. The ironically-named Democrat senator Gary Farmer voted no because he fears front-yard gardens will attract iguanas and rats. (Why this isn’t a concern in rear-yard gardens, I am not sure.)

The bill doesn’t solve the dispute fully. It only preempts local government rules, not restrictions set by homeowners’ associations or other groups. But it’s a great start, and one that will hopefully inspire others to rip up their use-less grass and plant some useful vegetables instead. The more front-yard vegetable gardens there are, the more normalized it will become – and the more secure the food system will be, too. 🌻



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Dr. Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons retires

Friday, April 19 marked a milestone in the life of Dr. Zoharah Simmons, as she was honored with a retirement party at the Keene Faculty Center, co-hosted by African American Studies, Center for Women and Gender Studies, and the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program.

That list alone shows how involved she was at UF, but it doesn't scratch the surface of her life experience as a Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee volunteer in the 1960s, her activities in the broader civil rights and peace movements in the 70's, and later with the American Friends Service Committee and academia.

She traveled widely, lectured widely, and was always, in her heart and actions, a crusader for peace and justice.

At least half of the over 80 people at her retirement party were Gainesville people who knew her from work outside of UF, showing her presence in the broader community.

Dr Paul Ortiz, of the SPOHP, said she may be retiring from the University of Florida, but she is not retiring from Community Organizing – a comment that drew rousing applause. 🌟



Above: Dr. Zoharah Simmons flanked by Community Organizer Faye Williams, and her daughter and film maker Aishah Shahidah Simmons



Left: Dr. Simmons enjoyed the well-deserved words of praise at her retirement party. A video testimonial by the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program was shown – it is listed in the Editors' Picks on page 19.

Keep an eye on state legislature

Florida's state legislative session ended the week we sent the *Iguana* to the printer, so many of the bills below will have been voted on by the time you see this issue. We will do a full roundup in the July/August issue, but there are a number of important bills up for a vote this time around.

We've provided an incomplete list below, but check out Jeremiah Tattersall's article from the April 2019 issue of the *Iguana* (available at <http://www.gainesvilleiguana.org/2019/articles/florida-legislative-update-bills-to-watch/>) for a complete list.

Check with AFL-CIO of Florida, Florida National Organization for Women, American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, and other progressive organizations in the state for up-to-the-minute updates.

- Fetal Heartbeat Abortion Ban, SB 792/HB 235 (**Vote NO**)
- Forced Local Funding for Charter Schools, SB 1028 (**Vote NO**)
- Constitutional Amendments, HB 7111/SPB 7096 (**Vote NO**)
- Law Enforcement's Cooperation with ICE, HB 527/SB 168 (**Vote NO**)
- Voting Rights Restoration, HB 7089 (**Vote NO**)
- School Safety, HB7093/SB7030 (**Vote NO**)
- Health Plans, HB997/SB322 (**Vote YES**)
- Florida First Step Act (criminal justice reform), SB 642 (**Vote YES**)
- Advanced Well Stimulation Treatment (fracking ban), SB 314/SB 146/HB 239 (**Vote YES, but note that PCB/SB 7064/HB 7029 is a fake fracking ban**)
- Expansion of the "Bully Voucher," SB 1410 (**Vote NO**)
- K-12 Education-School Choice, SB 7070/HB 7075 (**Vote NO**) 🌟



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:

- Volunteer meetings now on **TUESDAYS**, 5:30pm
- Mellow Soul Open Mic on Tuesdays, 8-midnight
- Poetry Jam on Thursdays, 8pm
- Meditation on Saturdays, 9am
- CMC Zine Committee Meeting on Sundays, 3pm

Wed, May 1	Nonviolent Communication Workshop Basics in SKA @6pm Dream Defenders Meet Up @7pm
Sat, May 4	Free Yoga @10am Plant Club @2pm
Mon, May 6	Gainesville Girls Rock Camp Volunteer Meet n Greet @6pm
Wed, May 8	Cell 411 Workshop @6pm
Fri, May 10	Connect /the Dots Live Music @8pm
Mon, May 13	Movie Monday: Human 1 @7pm
Tue, May 14	IWOC General Meeting @6pm
Wed, May 15	Nonviolent Communication Workshop Beyond Basics in SKA @6pm Dream Defenders Meet Up @7pm
Sat, May 18	Connect The Dots Live Music @9pm
Mon, May 20	Movie Monday: Human 2 @7pm
Wed, May 22	Film Screening: MOVE 9 @6pm hosted by Fight Toxic Prisons
Sat, May 25	Sustaining Wellness @1pm
Mon, May 27	Movie Monday: Human 3 @7pm
Tue, May 28	IWOC Letter Writing Night @6pm
Wed, May 29	Dream Defenders Meet Up @7pm
Fri, May 31	Pipeline Story Telling @7pm
Fri, June 14	No Borders Fest @6pm
Fri, June 21	3rd Friday Bluegrass Jam! Potluck @6pm, music after until 9pm (or later)

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.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Become a Volunteer Crisis Line Counselor for the Alachua County Crisis Center

Sixty hours of in-depth training are provided in active listening, crisis intervention, and suicide prevention.

Volunteering is an opportunity to impact the lives of fellow community members and gain life-enhancing communication skills.

Training starts May 18th, 2019

For more information, please contact:

Jan Greene at 352-264-6782

jgreene@alachuacounty.us

or check out <http://www.alachuacounty.us/crisis>

If you or a loved one are having thoughts of suicide, call the Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255)



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FRIDAY: 8 AM - 8 PM
SATURDAY: 7 AM - 4 PM
SUNDAY: CLOSED

Our One-Year Anniversary Show!!
The Gary Gordon Ensemble

Featuring Fritz Knaggs, Tony McMahon,
Don Blitch, & Larry Thompson

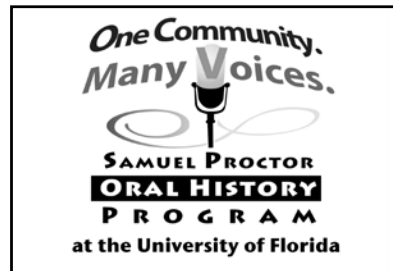
An evening of original songs at the
Thomas Center

SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH

7PM \$10 Light Refreshments

302 NE 6th Ave., Gainesville, 32601

Support provided by the City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation
and Cultural Affairs Department – CAPRA accredited agency



The *Iguana* feature
“History and the
people who make it”
will return next month

Hey, Readers!

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We thank you very much!



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From *RENTERS*, p. 1

UF Student Government and the Alachua County Democratic Party being examples of the latter. These groups directly or by their work represent tens of thousands of residents as non-governmental organizations. No group has amended or modified the ACLC proposal when supporting or endorsing it.

The Subcommittee clearly supports the general thrust of the second wave of staff recommendations for landlord licensing, per-unit fees, and unit inspections – the first stair on the climb for renters’ rights. But they put off until the next meeting a critical issue of energy efficiency grading.

The next Rental Housing Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for May 15 at 2pm in the Roberta Lisle Kline Conference Room (Room 16) of City Hall.

The teasing out of energy efficiency grading to create a transparent marketplace for renters and reduce fuel consumption is vital. We will need environmental experts and advocates to be sure to join us at that next Subcommittee meeting. It will be difficult for Gainesville to meet its multi-decade sustainability goals without a robust energy efficiency component to renters’ rights.

Landlord staff were polite and took the position that renters’ rights was an attack on property rights, had not worked in other towns, or would create negative pressure on affordable housing.

Nothing proposed by renters’ rights advocates infringes on property rights, but rather encourages regulating a for-profit business relationship between landlords and their clients, who are more likely to be working poor and people of color.

The “other town” examples were some outlier ACLU cases where “renters’ rights” was a ruse to invade the privacy of minority and immigrant homes – the ACLC program does just the opposite with anti-discrimination clauses against citizenship status and income source like those recently and unanimously passed by the Alachua County Board of Commissioners.

No evidence was offered for the negative effects on affordable housing. Commissioner Arreola reminded everyone that the subcommittee’s work may overlap with affordable housing but that is not, at any rate, its primary charge.

The elephant in the room for the commercial landlords and all of us is how to work around or be “creative” as one Com-

missioner stated, with the Florida Statute provisions that conserve regulation of large properties (above five units) with the State, not to municipal governments. City staff and attorneys have been instructed to come back with some legal workarounds so the City can influence larger properties.

It was a successful day, but much heavy lifting remains. The two best things we can do now are to show up to argue for the energy efficiency provisions, and keep adding workaday citizens to the speaking roster. The most powerful words came from actual renters, and people who cannot attend these workday meetings are wholeheartedly invited to submit their experiences as renters in this community directly to our City Commissioners (CityComm@cityofgainesville.org).

This issue dovetails community values for economic, racial, environmental, and social justice.

Everyone who cares about affordable housing has given clear instructions to elected officials. The ACLC Renters’ rights program is endorsed or supported by

- the Alachua County NAACP
- UF Student Government
- Indivisible Gainesville
- Pride Community Center

- Alachua County Democratic Party ACEA (K-12 teachers and staff union)
- Greater Duval Neighborhood Association (a historically black working class neighborhood)
- Graduate Assistants United
- League of Women Voters
- National Womens Liberation – Gainesville
- North Central Florida Labor Council (AFL-CIO)
- Suwanee St. Johns Sierra Club
- United Faculty of Florida
- many others

Local activists of long tenure cite this as an exceptionally large, perhaps even the largest, issue-based consensus coalition in our community’s recent political history.

Renters’ rights programs that include landlord licensing, energy efficiency, anti-discrimination rules, and tenant rights education – as the ACLC program does – could improve living conditions and affordability for tens of thousands of our neighbors.

It’s a good struggle, and we should all be proud of our work and that of the elected officials and staff in the subcommittee. Please come to the next meeting, and let’s keep this train rolling. 🐢

Editors’ picks: News that didn’t fit

🐢 **Republicans & Rupert Murdoch Created al-Qaeda when Ilhan Omar’s Somalia upheld Scientific Socialism** by Juan Cole
The dishonest smearing of Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) by the Rupert Murdoch press, including the New York Post and Fox Cable News, contains more ironies than her defenders, for the most part, realize.
<https://www.juancole.com/2019/04/republicans-scientific-socialism.html>

🐢 **Retirement: Point of Departure Point of Entry (video)**
A look back at the incredible life (so far) of Professor Gwendolyn Zoharah Robinson Simmons, as she retires from formal teaching at the University of Florida at the end of Spring 2019 semester.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M97eDoQMU8Y&t=215s&fbclid=IwAR0EzQd8B09ZPC0i4N0xGcCGImyZ6XXjrMH1xbNMtaXOJqF1nEiKM6sAcQwwatch?v=M97eDoQMU8Y&t=215s&fbclid=IwAR0EzQd8B09ZPC0i4N0xGcCGImyZ6XXjrMH1xbNMtaXOJqF1nEiKM6sAcQw>

🐢 **Warren’s Plan to Abolish Student Debt Came From Grassroots Pressure** by Alexis Goldstein, Truthout
Elizabeth Warren has released a new public higher education proposal that makes public college tuition-free, cancels student loan debt for 95 percent of Americans, invests at least \$50 billion in historically black colleges and universities, and stops federal loan money from flowing to for-profit colleges - all paid for by a tax on the ultra-wealthy.
<https://truthout.org/articles/warrens-plan-to-abolish-student-debt-came-from-grassroots-pressure/> 🐢

From SANCTUARY, p.1

is in danger. Having lost his student visa in recent weeks and with an ICE detainer hanging over his head, he knows that he could be removed to his home country, Qatar, at any time. While the Obama administration began the trend of indiscriminate deportations, this policy has been accelerated under the Trump White House, and immigrants without secure legal status are being deported under expedited procedures. The process from arrest to deportation can take place in a few days.

As a young gay man, Saoud knows that his deportation would not simply mean a return to the place where he was born; his return would be a death sentence. Homosexuality is illegal in Qatar and no protections exist for LGBTQ individuals. Little public information exists on the status of LGBTQ+ life there, and just last year, New York Times coverage of gay and transgender rights was censored in the Doha edition of the paper. Nonetheless, Saoud knows the realities. For him, return to Qatar would likely mean mandated “conversion” therapy, possible imprisonment, and living with zero protection from potential violence.

On Wednesday, Westminster Presbyterian received Saoud into sanctuary because they knew that their intervention would give him the time to apply for asylum in the United States. As a religious community, theirs was a decision based in faith. But it was also a decision based in opportunity, because Saoud has a chance to win. Since 1994, US immigration law has recognized persecution on account of sexual orientation as a basis for asylum status. While Qatari law offers no protection, U.S. laws offer him a chance to live, to thrive.

Some have been quick to question why Saoud’s 2017 arrest for driving under the influence was not mentioned in the sanctuary announcement. The reality is sim-

ple: it does not have a bearing on his case. While some may be personally disappointed by the transgression, the incident does not qualify as a “particularly serious crime;” one that would have a detrimental effect on the results of his asylum claim.

Of course, the social reality that produced this question is also clear. American society today places much higher expectations for behavior on immigrants and their children than on those born in this country. This includes, but is not limited to, strict adherence to the law. This is despite the fact that we know, thanks to a 2015 study from the National Academy of Sciences, that immigrants are significantly less likely to commit crimes than natives, and the presence of immigrant communities lowers crime rates.

Instead, public opinion decides whether you deserve to remain in this country based on what you have done for it. Of course, many deported veterans will tell you that not even years of military service seem to matter for immigrants convicted of minor misdemeanors like marijuana possession.

Asylum is not about picking and choosing those “good” immigrants who we want in our communities, it is about protecting those whose right to safety is in danger. What’s more, sanctuary, and Saoud’s case, is not about hiding a person’s past mistakes, or even forgiving them – it is about the right of all people to a fair legal process.

The sanctuary movement in the United States today is built on the centuries old recognition of church property as politically neutral ground, but grows directly out of the U.S. movement that emerged in the 1980s. In particular, the sense of social consciousness and moral responsibility that emerged during that period continues to shape the practice today.

In the 1980s, church and state were put in conflict over the fate of Central Ameri-

cans fleeing civil war in their home countries. Ronald Reagan was no more eager to welcome El Salvadoran and Guatemalan migrants then, than Donald Trump is today. What’s more, Reagan had supported the military governments in those countries and when their rampant human rights abuses surfaced, his administration was quick to dismiss them. Those that fled were labeled “economic migrants” rather than asylum seekers and the Immigration and Naturalization Service detained and deported the migrants as quickly as possible, without proper observation of their right to petition for asylum.

Realizing the deleterious effects of this combination of dangerous home country conditions and the governmental unwillingness to protect asylum seekers, church communities from Tucson to Chicago began sheltering as many of the refugees as possible and organized legal services to assist in the asylum process.

Despite the help that was provided to many individuals and families, these actions did little to change immigration policies or practices.

The Sanctuary Movement of the 1980s created a sense of shared commitment and politicized moral activity, but did not engender change in the system. This truth holds constant today.

What’s more, in the last two decades we have seen the responsibility for immigration policy shift from Immigration and Naturalization Services, under the Department of Justice, to the newly created Department of Homeland Security, and the invention of a law-enforcement force dedicated specifically to the pursuit of undocumented individuals, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE.)

According to the Detention Watch network, the average daily population of

legalized. It is my job, as Commissioner of Agriculture and an elected official, to defend the rights of those who keep our agriculture and economy thriving and everyone else who calls Florida home.

Thank you for standing with me as I continue to fight for the rights of ALL Floridians.

Thank you,
Commissioner Nikki Fried
Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Florida Consumers First 🐢

SB 168 goes against fundamental American values

A new anti-immigrant bill is making its way through the Florida legislature and aims to outlaw sanctuary cities in this state. While there are no sanctuary cities in Florida, SB 168 sends a harmful message to immigrants.

Immigrants are not a threat to this country’s safety or economy. That divisive rhetoric is spin pushed by the president. SB 168 goes against every fundamental American value. It would create lasting damage to businesses and industries in this

state and make law enforcement more difficult and demanding.

Immigrants are an integral and necessary part of Florida’s past, present and future. Twenty percent of Floridians are immigrants who pay \$17 billion in federal and \$6 billion in state taxes annually. Did you know that 54 percent of Florida’s immigrants work in farming, fishing, or forestry, making up nearly half of the workforce in those industries?

I cannot sit by silently as injustice is being

detained immigrants has exploded, from about 5,000 in 1994, to 19,000 in 2001, and over 39,000 in 2017.

While the flow of migrants was increasing during this time, these numbers also reflect an increased focus on the perceived crimes of individual migrants rather than the root causes of immigration. We have seen the effects of this change in the recent family separation policy, which tore parents from children in an effort to discourage immigration, and in recent attempts to refuse Central American migrants entry into the country, denying them their right to claim asylum. National immigration policy is focused on enforcement and imprisonment rather than opportunity and justice.

It is important to remember that by providing Saoud shelter, meals, and company we do not correct our country’s damaged and violent immigration system. Our work must be accompanied by political progress.

In Gainesville and the surrounding area there is some hope for that progress, but we are a long way from achieving it. Gainesville is a “Welcoming City,” but while that title reflects the wealth of positive sentiments towards immigrants in Gainesville, it does not guarantee that city or county policies won’t create harm for immigrant communities.

What’s more, with Trump’s more and more aggressive approach to immigration, local police and sheriff’s deputies are being cajoled into cooperation. At the state level, SB 168 threatens to restrict funding

to any law enforcement agency that places community safety above immigration enforcement by banning sanctuary policies, a shift that would directly affect our local law enforcement agencies and which the American Civil Liberties Union warns would “put immigrants at risk of violence, potentially forcing victims and witnesses to stay silent for fear of deportation.”

While GPD and the Alachua County Sheriff’s office do not go out of the way to cooperate with ICE, a stance which has a dramatic and positive effect on the success of immigration cases, there is still plenty of ground to cover when it comes to creating policies that protect immigrants equally. This includes having access to translation services, limiting unnecessary data collection, and supporting programs that improve access to community resources. Our community must continue to push local law enforcement and political leadership in the right direction.

As allies of the immigrant community in Gainesville, the Human Rights Coalition hopes that by supporting Saoud we can ultimately achieve two goals.

We first aim to provide him with the time and protection necessary for his asylum application. Although his case is strong, it will not be an easy process, and our community must continue to support him over the coming weeks and months. However, we also hope that by supporting Saoud we can improve the status of all immigrants in our community.

Our work did not begin when Saoud entered sanctuary. Although we could not anticipate the details of his case, our community has prepared for this moment. Affected immigrants and allies have joined together to build a sanctuary, but also to build sanctuary in the streets of our community.

We have prepared parents and children for the possibility of family separation, we have held “know your rights” trainings, we have raised money for legal expenses, we have distributed community IDs to increase safety within our city and county, and we have connected individuals and families with the many dedicated organizations and individuals who seek to serve immigrants in our community. Still, there is more to do.

Sanctuary means that our community takes one step closer to being a place where all immigrants are safe and welcome.

I implore you to take a second step. Lobby Governor DeSantis to reverse his position on SB 168, on the grounds that it decreases community safety. Ask Ted Yoho to renew his promises to Dreamers and sponsor legislation that offers them a path to citizenship. Call on Sheriff Sadie Darnell to formally endorse the Human Rights Coalition Community ID. Attend city council meetings and demand progress on the review of GPD policy concerning foreign nationals and translation access.

These steps mean the difference between life and death, whole families and dispersed ones, justice and injustice. 🐢

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Fine Print Quarterly magazine founded in 2008 with political, social and arts coverage, thefineprintmag.org

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

midwiferyschool.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gainesville Roller Rebels - a womens' Flat Track roller derby team needs skaters and volunteer assistance, join@gainesvillrollerrebels.com

Graduate Assistants United Union represents UF grad assistants by fighting for improved working conditions, community involvement and academic freedom. 352-575-0366, officers@ufgau.org, www.ufgau.org

Grow Radio Non-profit provides opportunities for community members to create and manage engaging, educational, locally-generated programming to promote musical/visual arts and humanities for enrichment of the community. www.growradio.org. PO Box 13891, Gainesville, 32604, 352-219-0145 (v), 352-872-5085 (studio hotline)

Humanist Society of Gainesville meets at 7 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of most months at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4225 NW 34th St to discuss and promote secular, humanist, atheist & agnostic social influences-www.gainesvillehumanists.org or facebook.com/humanistsocietyofgainesville; 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

Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery promotes natural burial practices that conserve land and reunite people with the environment. info@prairiecreekconservationcemetery.org, 352-317-7307

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 🐸



Memorial Mile:

Veterans display tombstones of fallen service members from Afghanistan and Iraq wars

The Alachua County Veterans For Peace sets up tombstones on 8th Avenue in Gainesville during Memorial Day weekend each year to remember soldiers who have died in Afghanistan and Iraq wars. Photo from Veterans for Peace, 2014.

Veterans for Peace will display more than 6,959 tombstones on 8th Avenue just east of 31st Street from dawn on Saturday, May 25 through dusk on Memorial Day, May 27. The display is part of their Memorial Day Weekend event to remember soldiers who have died in the wars in Afghanistan since 2001 and in Iraq since 2003.

The tombstones will line the street where the Solar System Walk is located. This is the eleventh year VFP has set up the display. In 2008 they crossed over to the north side of 8th Avenue due to the continuing number of deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Veterans for Peace feels that these losses of life cannot be adequately understood

with facts and figures alone – that the visual impact of the tombstones more clearly conveys the reality.

Each tombstone includes a soldier's name, date of death, age, branch of service, rank and hometown. They are arranged by date of death and theater of operation.

Veterans for Peace places American flags on tombstones of local service members and on those visited by the public. A directory at each end of the display helps visitors locate the tombstones they have come to view.

Each year, visitors place flowers and other expressions of remembrance at the tombstones. Veterans for Peace

cleans and cares for the tombstones year round and, if possible, preserves any messages that have been written on them. Posters depicting the costs of war will also be displayed.

During two years, Veterans for Peace wasn't able to set up the display: in 2016, 8th Ave was under renovation; in 2018 it was rained out. This year, if the weather calls for rain on Memorial Day, the display won't be set up, since wet tombstones can't be put in storage as the cloth labels will mold.

Learn more at the Gainesville Veterans for Peace website at: <http://www.vfpgainesville.org/>



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Comments, suggestions, contributions (written or financial) are welcome.

To list your event or group, contact us at:

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