



The Gainesville Iguana

*A progressive newsletter
and events calendar*

March 2020

Vol. 34, Issue 3

WOMEN 2020



Celebrate Women 2020 and 100 years of women voting!

PARADE and RALLY on MARCH 21

Start gathering at **11 am** on Saturday, March 21 at the Supervisor of Elections office, 515 N. Main St., Gainesville.

At **NOON**, March/Parade down Main Street to University Avenue to Bo Diddley Plaza where there will be a **RALLY** with music, food trucks, and **REASONS TO VOTE** — climate change, racial justice, **DEMOCRACY**, voting access/suppression, immigration, social justice, gentrification, gun reform, living wage, reproductive freedom, local control and more.

Join the Parade with your energy and **SIGNS** about **ISSUES**, but not candidates. March/parade with your friends and your organizations. We'll make space for historical time periods, such as the '60s and '70s if you'd like to represent an organization from "back then."

Show Gainesville the issues that matter to **YOU**.

CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF WOMEN VOTING!

Keynote is Byllye Avery

AI S FOR ACTIVISM: THE URGENCY OF NOW

As a part of Celebrate Women 2020, Byllye Avery is coming to Gainesville from March 12-15 to ignite the activism in all of us. She is passionate about bringing together black and white women in order to create new paradigms which include all of us. She believes that it is imperative that we unite now in order to preserve the rights that we have **EARNED**, to recognize our interdependency, and to work together to create a world where compassion, justice, and mutual respect reign. She challenges us with "What will **YOU** do?"

Byllye grew up in Deland, Florida, went to a private black college in Alabama, then came to Gainesville in the '60s to attend graduate

See WOMEN2020, p. 17

For a list of Women 2020 events, see page 16

March 17 election endorsements

by Joe Courter

Those of you within Gainesville city limits will have one or two other races on your ballot March 17 beyond the presidential primary.

These are in regard to the City Commission. Helen Warren is a current at large commissioner, and she is term limited out. Among the people running for her seat, **Reina Saco** stands out. She is an attorney with a history of advocacy on renters' and immigrant rights. Hopefully enough people will vote for her

to avoid a runoff, as there are four candidates in the race (see Jean Chalmer's article on rank choice voting on page 6).

City folks in District 2 and 3 are encouraged to retain their

See ENDORSEMENTS, p. 2

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Trials of the century: Dissent on trial – the 70s

Class offered on The Gainesville 8, The Chicago 8, the takeover of Wounded Knee

In the second half of the 20th century, three trials captured national attention.

Following the riots at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in 1968, “The Chicago 8,” including Abbie Hoffman, Tom Hayden and Bobby Seale, were charged with conspiracy to incite those riots.

“The Gainesville 8,” seven of whom were Vietnam veterans and members of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, were charged with the same thing regarding the Republican Party Convention in Miami Beach in ‘72 before the convention.

Russell Means and Dennis Banks, leaders of the American Indian Movement (AIM), were charged with conspiracy for leading the takeover of Wounded Knee, South Dakota, in ‘73.

Some described the accused as mere publicity seekers and common criminals, and by others as heroes. In Trials of the Century, this class will present information about these trials and the media and cultural response as the court cases made headlines, and the issues may be relevant today.

Course number: HIS0022.1P4
Course date: Tue., 4/7, 6:45- 9:15pm
Instructor: Gary Gordon
Santa Fe – NW CAMPUS
Fee: \$24.00

NOTE: You’re welcome to bring a laptop, smartphone or notepaper and pen for taking notes. For more information or to register, call 352-395-5193 or visit http://bitly.com/CommunityEd_2020.

From ENDORSEMENTS, p. 1

current commissioners, **Harvey Ward** (2) and **David Arreola** (3). Both have good track records and are much more aware and active on issues like housing, transportation, human rights, and the environment than their opponents.

We support Saco, Ward, and Arreola. And of course **Bernie Sanders** for president (with **Elizabeth Warren** as a strong second place).

A 23-year-old prediction

I have a foreboding of an America in my children’s or grandchildren’s time—when the United States is a service and information economy; when nearly all the key manufacturing industries have slipped away to other countries; when awesome technological powers are in the hands of a very few, and no one representing the public interest can even grasp the issues; when the people have lost the ability to set their own agendas or knowledgeably question those in authority; when, clutching our crystals and nervously consulting our horoscopes, our critical faculties in decline, unable to distinguish between what feels good and what’s true, we slide, almost without noticing, back into superstition and darkness. The dumbing down of America is most evident in the slow decay of substantive content in the enormously influential media, the 30-second sound bites (now down to 10 seconds or less), lowest common denominator programming, credulous presentations on pseudoscience and superstition, but especially a kind of celebration of ignorance.

From *Demon Haunted World*, by Carl Sagan, 1997, p. 28

From the publisher ...

Dealing with technology

The FUBAR that was the vote counting in the Iowa caucuses, caused by an untested app, the sole reason for which was to speed up the vote tabulation by a few hours, brought to my mind a bumper sticker which I’d noticed around downtown about a decade ago: “Technology is Making us Stupid.” What occurred to me was that it wasn’t so much we were being made stupid, but we were being led to do stupid things: things that while seeming to be an improvement in our lives actually carried negative consequences, especially when we grow to depend upon them.



Joe Courter

People used to bring maps along when they traveled, plotted their routes and perhaps found other things to do and see along the way. Now their device tells them what to do, plots their route and, yes, it is quite effective. But go out of range, or have your device fail, well there you are ... somewhere. Now our phone remembers most all of our phone numbers, but lose or forget your phone and well, again, there you are.

Well, before you “OK Boomer” me, we need look no further than the looming climate crisis, and the brilliant idea of fracking for natural gas. Yes, it gave us lower energy prices but at what cost? It is an environmental horror of chemicals injected underground (earthquakes in Oklahoma?), pipelines and their risks, let alone building through pristine areas, and perhaps a more hidden but profound effect, making renewable energy seem more expensive and less imperative. The much maligned local biomass plant was made to appear even worse by this effect as the cost of energy dropped, compounding the horrible contract the city signed onto.

And speaking of doing stupid things via technology, the parasitic insurance industry which has a strangle hold on us and our access to healthcare has got to go. There is a meme which floats across my screen occasionally, stating that universal single payer healthcare is so complicated that only 32 of 33 leading nations have it. Yes indeed, the USA is an exceptional nation.

If Bernie Sanders is elected, universal healthcare won’t just appear, it will be a complex transition. But unless we start, we will never get there. The money will be the easier part, the rub is in the many many workers in the health insurance industry and what you do to move them into a more productive role in society. Would they be willing to be teachers or healthcare workers? Can we start another program based on the Civilian Conservation Corps model doing needed societal labor?

Last night (2/19/20) on the Canada-based NPR program Q, they interviewed SF writer William Gibson, and he made an interesting point. When asked about how moving to Canada from the U.S. many years ago affected his outlook on both nations, he first mentioned how the U.S. had changed so much he did not feel at home when visiting, yet Canada was still a bit alien. But then he made this point: That the Canadian healthcare system gave him the freedom to be a writer, to live his life as an artist. How much creativity and artistry, let alone mental health, is lost within our society by the burden of healthcare debt and illnesses untreated, due to fear of the cost?

Our healthcare is strangled by the technology of an insurance industry with excessive and redundant billing and complicated bureaucratic structures. To just accept it as unchangeable and keep going is stupidity on a massive scale. So what can we do? It is so easy to feel overwhelmed and hopeless, but frankly, those that are in power want you to feel that way, and the avalanche of information that our “advances” in technology throw in front of us helps make those feelings happen. TV channels are blatant propaganda. Entertaining little clips mesmerize us. Pratfall videos of crashing skateboarders and such dehumanize our natural feeling of empathy. So we do stupid things ... like nothing.

Not to preach, but focus your information sources better. Find an organization and join up with others and work on building the movement we need to build. Take care of yourself and make room for pleasure. Of course we vote on March 17, but that is one small part of what we need to do. A real democracy requires participation. Come on. And just take 8 minutes and listen to Ferron: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1054>.

Subscribe!

The Gainesville Iguana is Alachua County’s independent progressive newsletter and events calendar

Individuals: \$15 (or more if you can)
Low/No income: What you can
Groups: \$20

Gainesville Iguana
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Gainesville, FL 32604

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

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2020 PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY AND CITY OF GAINESVILLE REGULAR ELECTION MARCH 17

EARLY VOTING MARCH 6 TO MARCH 14 9 A.M. TO 6 P.M.

Supervisor of Elections Office
515 North Main Street
Gainesville, FL 32601

Tower Road Branch Library
3020 SW 75th Street
Gainesville, FL 32608

Legacy Park Multipurpose Center
15400 Peggy Road
Alachua, FL 32615

Millhopper Branch Library
3145 NW 43rd Street
Gainesville, FL 32606

Orange Heights Baptist Church
16700 NE SR 26
Hawthorne, FL 32640

J. Wayne Reitz Union
655 Reitz Union Drive
Ground Floor, Career Connections Center
Gainesville, FL 32611

Florida is a closed primary election state. Only voters who are registered members of political parties may vote for respective party candidates or nominees for an office in a primary election, including a presidential preference primary election.



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VoteAlachua.com



SAFEBOR campaign continues with Plan B

by John Moran

The Santa Fe River Bill of Rights campaign is shifting into a new phase as it continues the effort to place a Rights of Nature measure on the 2020 ballot.

The SAFEBOR petition initiative netted more than 4,000 signatures from Alachua County registered voters during the six-month window ending Feb. 21, but was short of the total needed for direct placement on the ballot.

Plan B has ensued with SAFEBOR organizers appealing directly to both the once-a-decade Charter Review Commission and the Board of County Commissioners to allow voters in November to decide whether to amend the Alachua County Charter to include legally enforceable rights for the Santa Fe River to exist, flourish and naturally evolve.

The SAFEBOR campaign is part of a growing movement borne of the recognition that environmental protection laws in Florida have failed spectacularly to protect the waters upon which our health, safety and welfare depend, nearly 50 years after sweeping state and federal clean water standards were adopted.

The State of Florida has laws nominally intended to protect our living natural systems but because of the structure of our legal system, state agencies ordinarily are in the business of handing out permits that *permit* harm to varying degrees.

The results are plain to see in the deteriorating state of our rivers and springs. Many of our world-class springs—once stunning and blue—are now murky, polluted, depleted and green.

In Florida, corporate profits are prioritized over the health of our rivers and springs and SAFEBOR principals say past performance inspires little confidence in future outcomes.

“As long as Nature doesn’t have rights but humans and corporations do, then humans and corporations will always be allowed to significantly injure Nature with impunity,” says SAFEBOR chair David Moritz.

The Florida Rights of Nature Network has taken off in the past year and local initiatives are growing in 14 counties, inspired by the movements that abolished slavery in the 1800s, extended

voting rights to women a century ago, and only in our lifetime has recognized civil rights for all Americans.

At its biannual convention in Orlando in October, the Florida Democratic Party adopted a platform resolution “recognizing and protecting the inherent rights of nature, as we have done for corporations.”

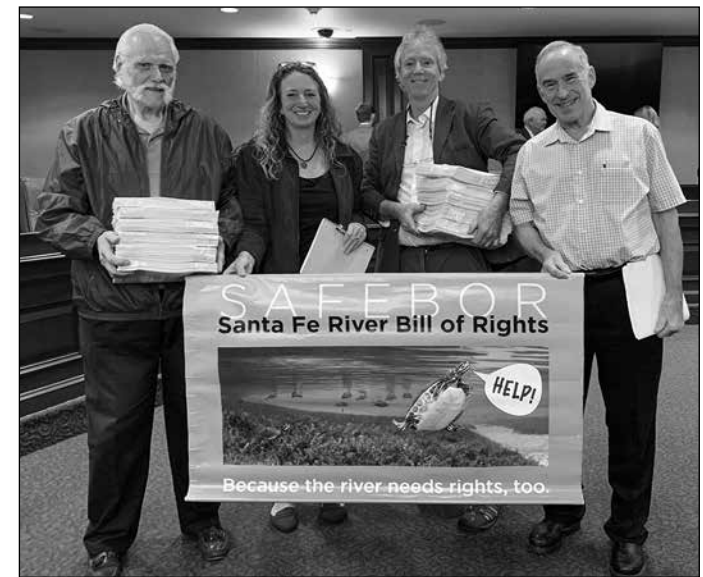
Unsurprisingly, the Florida Legislature has taken notice and a bill ironically titled the Environmental Protection Act of 2020 includes preemption language banning local government from recognizing or granting legal rights to the natural environment.

The bill is likely headed for the governor’s desk despite explicit language in the Florida Constitution sanctifying the right of local, community self-government: “*all political power is inherent in the people.*”

Moritz and others have encouraged both the CRC and BoCC to let the voters decide on rights for the river despite the threat of preemption.


“Yes, we seek to change the law,” Moritz says. “More broadly, we seek a change in consciousness. A Bill of Rights for the River is a Bill of Rights for the Future. It’s the right thing to do.”

County residents are encouraged to comment by email to the Charter Review Commission (CharterReview@AlachuaCounty.US) and the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC@AlachuaCounty.US), and to speak up at public meetings of the two commissions (meeting information can be found online). Contact Gov. Ron DeSantis at Ron.DeSantis@eog.MyFlorida.com. Learn more at SAFEBOR.org.



SAFEBOR team members traveled to the Capitol on Jan. 27 to speak in opposition to a bill that would preempt local Rights of Nature recognition across Florida. From left are David Moritz, Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, John Moran and Mike Roth.

“We didn’t go to Tallahassee to beg,” said John Moran, with some of the thousands of SAFEBOR petitions signed by Alachua County voters. “The Rights of Nature movement in Florida is alive and growing.” Photo by Rock Aboujaoude, Jr.



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MON - THU: 8 AM - 6 PM
FRIDAY: 8 AM - 8 PM
SATURDAY: 7 AM - 4 PM
SUNDAY: CLOSED

Celebrate International Women’s Day



When: Sunday, March 8, 2 to 6pm

Where: Gainesville Vineyard-The Peoples Church
1100 S.E. 17th Drive, Gainesville
(Park in the driveway and behind the church)

Featured Speakers:

- Indigenous People Peace Chant-Georg Suzuki
- STOP White Supremacy Thinking & Actions-Dr. Zoharah Simmons
- STOP Male Supremacy Thinking & Actions-Jessica McLeod (NWL)
- No More Capitalism! No More Classism!-Jenn Powell
- Affordable Housing-Desmon Walker
- UF Students for Justice in Palestine-Laila Fakhoury
- Reproductive Justice-National Women’s Liberation
- Public School Education-Dr. Leanetta McNealy
- Office of Equal Opportunity-Teneeshia Marshall
- LGBTQ Issues-Regina Livingston

Hosted by Gainesville MAMA’s Club (music .art. movement action). For more information, call Faye Williams at 352-226-2623.

- School-to-Prison Pipeline-Latashia Brimm
- Black Voters Matter & AC Dem. Black Caucus-Juanita Hamilton
- The Queen’s Room-Bailey Learning and Arts Collective-Terri Bailey
- Mom’s Demand Action for Gun Sense-Veronica Medina
- STOP the Food Deserts and Food Apartheid-Ty Loudd Edwards
- Feminist Bookstores-Third House Books-Heather Halak
- Medicare for All- Marilyn Eisenberg
- GPD Victim Services-Sex Trafficking-Brittany Cole
- NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice-Nkwanda Jah
- Justice for Farmworkers-Farmworkers Assoc. of Florida
- Spirituality - MCC Unity Church-Catherine Dearlove
- Education for Children Beyond Our Borders-Maria Zelaya
- Black AIDS Services and Education Inc.-Teresa Mercado
- Voter Registration-Florida Immigrant Coalition-Danielle Chanzas
- Organize for Progressive Issues-NCF Indivisible--Jyoti Parmar
- United States Census Bureau-Deborah Johnson


CMC receives award

The Community Excellence Awards events on March 5 will honor the Civic Media Center as recipient of the 2019 Business Arts Award. The CMC is an alternative library, reading room and infoshop in Gainesville whose mission is to provide community access to information and points of view that are under-reported or distorted in mainstream media.

The annual Arts Awards, which are part of the evening’s Community Excellence Awards presentations, are given by the Gainesville Cultural Affairs Board and the City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department to recognize those individuals and businesses that have made significant contributions to the advancement of the arts in our community.

The evening will begin at Gainesville City Hall, 200 East University Avenue, at 5:30pm where the evening’s award winners will first be honored with a proclamation by the mayor. The event then moves to the Historic Thomas Center, 302 NE 6th Ave., for the awards ceremony from 6–8pm.

If you can, come out and show your support for the CMC. It has been 26 years of regular music, poetry, art that has gone hand-in-hand with all the other stuff the CMC does.



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Ranked choice voting explained

By Jean Chalmers

There is a serious problem in the way we select people to represent us in government. Often candidates, with less than 50 percent approval, get to sit up there and make decisions that affect our daily life. Often we do not vote for whom we actually support because we know that they will not win. We are confused by “spoiler” candidates who just run to steal votes from another candidate. This may be why so many voters simply stay home from the polls.

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is an election method that allows voters to rank candidates in order of choice. Voters mark their preferred candidate as the first choice and then mark their second choice, third choice and so on. These later choices never affect

the earlier choices, so one can vote for as many or as few as one would like. First-choice votes are tallied, and if no one wins over 50 percent, the candidate in last place is eliminated and those votes are redistributed based on that voters’ second choice. This procedure is repeated until someone gets over 50 percent. Thus RCV avoids costly run-off elections, where voter participation drops off so precipitously.


Our current method discourages voting for third party candidates so we never know how many voters support the Green Party, the Libertarian Party or any of the smaller parties in our nation. We only have to look at the Bush/Gore election to see what would have happened if the Nader votes had been distributed to those voter’s second choice. Obviously Gore would have won and the world would be a different place today.

There are countless examples of where one contestant convinces and financially supports another person, who has no chance of winning, to get into a race just to steal votes away from an opponent.

We know RCV works. The military abroad has used it for years because there is not enough time for run-off ballots. It works well and smoothly within the military. Citizens of Maine, New York City and Sarasota have voted for RCV, and it is being used extensively in this year’s primary elections. Australia, Ireland and many other countries have been using it for years.

We need the Florida Secretary of State to approve it and, with help from the Legislature, we can give our citizens a much better method of selecting our political leaders. 🐾

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- North Central Florida AFL-CIO
- Suwannee - St. Johns Group Sierra Club
- African American Accountability Alliance
- Stonewall Democrats of Alachua County
- Democratic Women's Club of Alachua County
- Gainesville Citizens for Active Transportation
- International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2152

Pd. Pol. Ad. by Harvey Ward for Gainesville City Commission, District 2

How ranked choice voting works

Broadly speaking, the ranked choice voting process (sometimes referred to as *instant runoff voting*) is applicable in races with three or more candidates. It unfolds as follows:

1. Voters rank the candidates for a given office by preference on their ballots.
2. If a candidate wins an outright majority of first-preference votes (i.e., 50 percent plus one), he or she will be declared the winner.
3. If, on the other hand, no candidates win an outright majority of first-preference votes, the candidate with the fewest first-preference votes is eliminated from the totals.
4. With all first-preference votes for the failed candidate eliminated, their second-preference choices indicated on those failed candidate ballots are then added to the totals.
5. A new tally is conducted to determine whether any candidate has won an outright majority with these added votes.
6. The process is repeated until a candidate wins a majority of votes cast.
7. This eliminates the need for a second, runoff election.

An added benefit to this process is that negative, hostile campaigning can make that candidate less well liked, and therefore less likely to be someone’s second or third choice. 🐾

Supporting ICE detainees in the Baker County Jail

by Gregory Mullaley

For the past 10 months I’ve had the privilege of being associated with a group of people who’ve been visiting the ICE detainees in the Baker County Jail located an hour north of Gainesville. ICE, part of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, has contracted with the Baker County Sheriff’s Office to hold people they’ve taken into custody, often for the simple crime of being in the United States without legal status.

Twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, this group travels to Baker on their own time to visit with men and women who are locked away 24 hours a day. These detainees are never allowed to go outside, and the only sunshine they see is from a single large window located in the recreational room some 12 feet above the floor. These men and women are desperate to see anyone from outside the jail as they are not allowed an attorney, unless they or someone else pays for one. And since the jail is located in a remote area, it’s difficult for their families to travel several hours just for a short visit, so we are a welcome sight.

Once our group arrives at the jail, we are given a list of anywhere from 25 to 40 names, and we divide them up among ourselves. Several of us speak Spanish, which is the most commonly spoken, but certainly not the only language spoken by the various detainees. At times, Baker has had detainees who’ve spoken some dozen or so different languages. Many also speak English to varying degrees.

Once we get the list of names of those who wish to speak to one of us, we work quickly as the list is broken up into four 15-minute increments so that we can decide which ones each of us will be speaking with. The list contains the name of the detainee, a booth number, and a dial-in number. We do not get to speak with them face-to-face; we chat over a video-phone and as soon as we dial in, the clock starts ticking at the bottom of the screen. Once the clock gets to zero, the screen cuts off and the visit is over.

Our main purpose is to let the detainees know that they are not forgotten, that there are people who care about their welfare. In those short 15 minutes, we let the detainees tell us their stories however they wish to tell them. We try not to ask too many personal questions, but it’s sometimes difficult when you see another human being worried or afraid. We are neither professional counselors nor legal experts, but we are good listeners, and oftentimes that’s enough.

We offer to contact family members to let them know that they’ve been seen. We find out when their next court date is and if they’ve been able to get legal help. At times, we’ve also sent small amounts of money to the detainee’s account, which allows them to buy extra food or to make phone calls, which are very expensive. At other times we’ve even bought them clothing because when they’re released, which is rare, many times they don’t have adequate clothing or shoes for the journey.

The name of this wonderful group of visitors is the Baker Interfaith Friends, and it’s part of the Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Service. We have folks from all backgrounds, both religious and non-religious. What we provide is a friendly face and a good ear to those who are foreign born and incarcerated in our country. We believe that everyone needs a friend. To learn more or to participate, contact BakerInterfaithFriends@gmail.com or the Gainesville Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice via Richard MacMaster, rkmacmaster@aol.com. 🐾

Flashbacks
Recycled Fashions has moved!
Our new address:
220 NW 8th Ave., Suite 20



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I'm honored to serve you as City Commissioner and proud to have the support of these organizations:

- North Central Florida AFL-CIO
- Suwannee - St. Johns Group Sierra Club
- African American Accountability Alliance
- Stonewall Democrats of Alachua County
- Gainesville Professional Firefighters Union
- Democratic Women's Club of Alachua County
- Gainesville Citizens for Active Transportation
- International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2152

David ARREOLA
for

GAINESVILLE CITY COMMISSION, DISTRICT 3

Pd. Pol. Ad. by David Arreola for Gainesville City Commission District 3

11th Annual Alachua County Peace Poetry Contest 2020

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



SUBMISSION DEADLINE: April 12, 2020

Entries should be emailed to vfpeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com or mailed to:

VFP Peace Poetry Contest
2115 NW 7th Lane
Gainesville, FL 32603

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

Winners will receive a valuable prize and have their poems published in the 2020 Peace Poetry Contest Book. Winning poets will have the opportunity to read their pieces aloud at the public Peace Poetry Reading in May in Gainesville. All poets will be notified, whether their poems place or not.

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



Rallying for UF workers

By Shruthi Reddy
student, YDSA GNV member

On February 21, the Young Democratic Socialists in Gainesville led a rally and demonstration to advocate for the payment of a living wage for all workers and contracted employees at the University of Florida.

The university has chosen to not pay its workers decent wages, endangering these workers' financial security. The worker groups receiving low wages include Other Personnel Services (OPS) workers and contracted employees such as Aramark food service workers.

UF contracts many of these employees temporarily with no guarantee of an employment renewal, making their economic situation even more vulnerable. Over hundreds of workers are fired during the summer by Aramark.

In conversations with labor organizers from the Alachua County Labor Coalition and YDSA GNV, workers have often talked about being victims of wage theft, time-sheet manipulation, and inflexible managers. Most often, these workers rely on Aramark full time for their livelihoods but do not receive the \$15/hr necessary to be able to break out of lower-income brackets. Though they work 30-40 hours per week, these workers do not receive benefits such as health insurance or pension pay.

The demonstration came after the Gainesville chapter of the Young Democratic Socialists of America contacted President Fuchs to arrange a meeting to discuss these issues, and were denied. Fuchs stated that it was "inappropriate" with him to meet with the group to talk about the Fight for \$15 and a union campaign.

This rally was an opportunity for President Fuchs to come and address the UF community directly, but he failed to show his support.

The rally started at noon in the Plaza of the Americas. Attendees then marched to Tigert Hall, where community members

and campus leaders spoke. Speakers at the rally included UFF-UF union member Paul Ortiz and Lucas Mello who spoke about the absolute necessity of a living wage and explained how the university has been taking advantage of not only its direct workers, but the community as a whole.

The speakers also brought to light that

some workers, particularly Aramark employees, have been discouraged from or directly prevented from unionizing, with some reportedly having their employment terminated due to attempting to unionize.

This is illegal, showing the weight of these accusations against the university for what it has allowed.

Around 45 students attended the rally along with the Alachua County Labor Coalition.

President Fuchs was invited to speak on the behalf of the university but failed to show.

UF administration and the Board of Trustees now must face the consequences of failing to support their community.

Veterans for Peace announces college scholarships

Gainesville Veterans for Peace Chapter 14 announces its sixth annual Peace Scholarship Program for the spring of 2020. We are awarding three college scholarships of \$750 each for Alachua County high school seniors, college students or adults with a commitment to activities including: social justice and peace, equal justice, conflict resolution and/or nonviolent social change.



Veterans for Peace created these scholarships to give financial support to students in Alachua County, Florida who are planning careers in pursuit of a world of social justice and equity.

The majority of Veterans for Peace scholarships awarded thus far have gone to first-generation college students, as well as to community college students.

2016 Santa Fe College scholarship recipient Doug Bernal is an Iraq War veteran who explains the economic challenges facing student veterans: "Like many newly separated veterans, I struggled financially for quite some time after leaving the service. Unsure of where I wanted to go in life and lacking the confidence to pursue higher education, I found myself taking on more debt as time went on. When I finally decided to pursue school, it was difficult to purchase books and pay bills while waiting for my GI Bill benefits to come through. I didn't initially have the grades for financial aid, so the VFP scholarship was instrumental in getting me the books I so desperately needed and putting me on a path to a successful college experience."

By creating this scholarship, Veterans for Peace is attempting to follow the example of Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai who has urged the U.S. to end wars and to refocus on education as a tool of economic justice.

Please help Gainesville Veterans for Peace spread the word about this scholarship program!

To be eligible to apply for the Peace Scholarship, the applicant must be (1) a resident of Alachua County, (2) a high school senior planning to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school in the United States for the 2019-20 academic year, or (2) a college student currently enrolled and in good standing, or (3) an adult student enrolling in higher education who needs financial assistance.

Peace Scholarship applicants will also be asked to provide a brief personal statement and evidence of leadership and/or personal initiative in activities in an organization (including volunteer or paid work) relating to peace and social justice, conflict resolution and/or nonviolent social change. Applicants will also need to provide two letters of recommendation.

PEACE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

The application (PDF file) must be downloaded from the Gainesville Veterans for Peace website, printed out, completed and postal mailed to:

Paul Ortiz
C/O Veterans for Peace Scholarship Program
2115 NW 7th Lane
Gainesville, Florida 32603

The postmarked deadline for the application is April 24.

Peace Scholarship recipients will be announced at the Gainesville VFP Peace Poetry Awards Ceremony in May.

For questions, contact Paul Ortiz at: ortizprof@gmail.com or 831-334-0131.

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

Local groups advocate for better police policies to protect immigrant victims, witnesses of crime

by Veronica Robleto

For almost two years, members of the North Central Florida Social Service/Hispanic Alliance (NCFSS/HA), specifically members of the Human Rights Coalition of Alachua County (HRCAC), Florida Legal Services (FLS) and the Rural Women's Health Project (RWHP), have attempted to address the repercussions of an incident that occurred Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018, impacting the immigrant community.

That night, the Gainesville Police Department (GPD) blundered in its response to a domestic violence case. A call was received from a non-English speaker, explaining her fear of abuse at the hands of her companion. Appropriate translation was not obtained by GPD, which led to a misinterpretation of the level of danger the abuser posed.

The misinterpretation caused an inappropriate and unnecessary use of force by SWAT and the closing down of a residential street where the domestic violence incident occurred. Contrary to protocol, the victim was not provided a victim's advocate and was brought into the police station for an interview.

News media reported on the immigration status of the individuals involved, based on statements made by GPD. GPD spokesperson Ben Tobias was quoted in the Gainesville Sun saying that investigators were "working to verify the status of the Guatemalan nationals involved in the incident. We will forward all pertinent information we discover to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement."

His statements jeopardized the safety of the victim and witnesses who fled the area out of fear of reprisals by ICE and anti-immigrant sympathizers. As a result, the trust of the entire immigrant community was damaged and the accused perpetrator was released back into the community.

Both the chief of police and the mayor vowed to correct the situation by rewriting and updating police policy to protect victims and witnesses of crime who are not English-speaking and/or who are not U.S. citizens.

In March of 2019, nearly a year after the incident, talks with immigrant advocates had reached a standstill as representatives of GPD and the city attorney ceased to communicate with representatives from HRCAC, FLS and RWHP for more than four months. The group then presented a petition to the City

Commission. While the Commission cannot vote on specific language (it is ultimately the decision of the police chief), they can certainly influence the charter officers, specifically the city manager who oversees the police chief.

The commissioners were given a copy of the petition, the old "Policy on Foreign Nationals" as well as a copy of the edits and suggestions the group had previously sent to the chief and assistant chief. Commissioner Arreola moved to put the issue, GPD's policies that affect the immigrant community, on the agenda of a future General Policy Meeting to be discussed further.

Since then, GPD has written and put into effect a Limited English Proficiency policy, something that did not previously exist, which sets guidelines for serving individuals who do not speak English including ensuring proper interpretation services.

GPD has also added some of the advocates' suggested language to the most recent draft of the Policy on Foreign Nationals 40.3 stating "Officers should refrain from asking questions about citizenship status of victims/witnesses unless the investigation warrants it."

While these improvements are significant, more needs to be done. Advocates appeared at a City Commission meeting on February 6 this year requesting to add language to the Policy on Foreign Nationals 40.3 explicitly stating "GPD will not proactively provide information regarding the citizenship or immigration status, of any victim or witness of an investigated crime to federal government agencies without a specific request from them."

At the meeting on Feb. 6 and after many moving public comments including legal arguments in support of the additional language, the mayor said publicly that he wanted to meet with the "many strong legal minds in the room" to further discuss the argument for adding the suggested language.

The city attorney's and the city manager's positions are that the suggested language cannot be added because they believe it violates federal law 8 USC § 1373, which states "[I]n General Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal, State, or local law, a Federal, State, or local government entity or official may not prohibit, or in any way restrict, any government entity or official from sending to, or receiving from, the Federal entities detailed in Title 8, United States Code §1551 information regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual."

8 USC § 1373 has been controversial and is currently facing legal challenges in several district courts. The proposed additional language does not, however, require a challenge or change to the federal law. Advocates do not believe what they are asking for violates the law. The request is not for GPD to withhold information if ICE asks for it (although it would be wonderful if our city was willing to challenge 8 USC § 1373 by doing so).

The advocates are simply asking for GPD to assert that they will not proactively share the information of non-US citizen victims or witnesses of crime with ICE without a specific request. Advocates will be meeting with Mayor Poe and with Chief Jones in the next few weeks to continue to push for the added language protecting non-US citizen victims and witnesses of crime.

If you are interested in supporting this effort, send the suggested email below (or something similar in your own words) to Chief Jones (jonestr@cityofgainesville.org), the city manager Lee Feldman (feldmanlr@cityofgainesville.org) and the city commissioners (citycomm@cityofgainesville.org):

I am writing in support of adding "GPD will not proactively provide information regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any of any victim or witness of an investigated crime to Federal government agencies without a specific request from them" to Gainesville Police Department's Policy on Foreign Nationals 40.3 as suggested by advocates from Florida Legal Services, the Rural Women's Health Project and the Human Rights Coalition of Alachua County. Without this added clarification there is no place in GPD policy we as advocates can point to, to show the immigrant community it is truly not the policy of GPD to forward all information of non-US citizens to ICE if they are part of a police report. We have already seen the chilling effects of Florida Senate Bill 168. More than ever, victims are fearful that calling local law enforcement for help will result in them being handed over to ICE. If we are aiming at the goal of being accredited as a Welcoming City this is an essential piece to building trust and community safety.

Reina Saco

FOR GAINESVILLE CITY COMMISSION, AT-LARGE SEAT 2

Lawyer ★ Activist
Immigrant

I'm proud to be endorsed by:

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North Central Florida AFL-CIO

Suwannee-St. Johns Group Sierra Club

Stonewall Democrats of Alachua County

Human Right's Council of North Central Florida

International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2152

"As a civil rights attorney, Reina's work on housing issues, immigrant rights, and equity has made an impact in our community already. With her tenacity and courage, I'm excited to see what she will do. I believe that Reina is who this city needs to face our current and future challenges."

- Commissioner Gail Johnson

Pd. Pol. Ad. by Reina Saco for Gainesville City Commission At Large Seat 2



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

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And the good news is ...

Greta Thunberg has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize

If she earns the honor, Thunberg would join Malala Yousafzhi as the youngest Nobel laureate ever at 17

by Matthew Rozsa, Salon.com

Greta Thunberg, the Swedish teenager who emerged in 2019 as an internationally-recognized voice for climate change activism, was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by two Swedish lawmakers.

The members of Sweden's Left Party, Jens Holm and Hakan Svenneling, said in a statement on Monday that Thunberg "has worked hard to make politicians open their eyes to the climate crisis" and "action for reducing our emissions and complying with the Paris Agreement is therefore also an act of making peace." The Nobel Committee itself, which is in Norway, did not publicly comment on Thunberg's nomination. If chosen, she would join Malala Yousafzhi, a Pakistani women's education activist who won the award when she was 17 years old, as the youngest Nobel laureate.

Thunberg has emerged as a controversial figure among conservatives. President Donald Trump took aim at the teenager last month during an address at the World Economic Forum in Davos, saying: "To embrace the possibilities of tomorrow, we must reject the perennial prophets of doom and their predictions of the apocalypse. They are the errors of yesterday's fortune tellers,

and we have them and I have them. And they want to see us do badly, but we don't let that happen."

He later added, "This is not a time for pessimism. This is a time for optimism. Fear and doubt is not a good thought process, because this is a time for tremendous hope and joy and optimism and action."

Trump's treasury secretary, Steven Mnuchin, also jabbed Thunberg during the Davos summit.

"Is she the chief economist? Or who is she? I'm confused," Mnuchin told reporters when asked about Thunberg's views on divesting from fossil fuels. After saying that his remarks were "a joke" intended to be "funny," Mnuchin added: "After she goes and studies economics in college, she can come back and explain that to us."

Thunberg was chosen in December as Time Magazine's Person of the Year, the youngest person to ever receive that honor. In his essay explaining the choice, Time's editor-in-chief Edward Felsenthal wrote that Thunberg's climate change could be connected to "the student-led protests on the streets of Santiago, Chile, to the young democracy activists fighting for rights and representation in Hong Kong to the high schoolers from Parkland, Fla., whose march against gun violence Thunberg cites as an inspiration for her climate strikes."

Kevin Trenberth, a distinguished senior scientist in the climate

analysis section at the National Center for Atmospheric Research at the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, told Salon earlier this month that he is "impressed" by Thunberg's knowledge of climate science.

"I have been enormously impressed by Greta Thunberg as to how well-informed and widely read she is," Trenberth told Salon. Ken Caldeira, an atmospheric scientist at the Carnegie Institution for Science's Department of Global Ecology, also told Salon that "Greta Thunberg's remarks on climate science have been accurate."

Today, women made history: A Women's History Museum

*by NOW President Toni Van Pelt
Feb. 11, 2020*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, the House of Representatives passed legislation to establish the Smithsonian Women's History Museum in the nation's capital. This victory has been a priority for female lawmakers in Congress like Rep. Carolyn Maloney, the author of the legislation.

In 2014, Rep. Maloney's bill passed overwhelmingly, with just 33 Republicans voting against it. Now today, the bill once again passed with bipartisan support.

"With each step we take forward, the steps behind us disappear," Rep. Maloney then said. And we must continue taking these steps forward and pressure Mitch McConnell to bring this legislation to a vote in the Senate.

We look toward the day when young women visiting the nation's capital can visit a museum that inspires them to follow in the footsteps of the women whose achievements have shaped our history. NOW salutes Carolyn Maloney and her colleagues for their tireless leadership to advance this historic step forward.

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ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST

GROWING UP FLORIDA WILD

For this, our 21st annual Conservation Stewards Awards, our theme celebrates the deep connection we all have to Florida's natural places and ACT's mission to protect the lands that mean so much to our community. The wild spaces we grew up in continue to follow us and are an integral part of who we are. They impact us. They teach us. We are rooted in these spaces and they continue to inspire us to do the important work needed to protect them. "Growing Up Florida Wild" is about the experiences and places that have shaped us all and cultivated our passion for saving these lands for future generations. Each and every one of our conservation properties has a story and people behind it that make it special. Our theme works to emphasize the personal story that comes with each place and how our combined efforts will ensure that everyone has a chance to grow up Florida wild.

YOU ARE INVITED!
MARCH 14TH 2020
FROM 5:30-9:30PM

Tickets available online at: www.AlachuaConservationTrust.org
OR call ACT @ 352.373.1078

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ANN
By Holland Taylor
A no-holds-barred portrait of Ann Richards, the legendary Governor of Texas.

March 13 – 22, 2020

Celebrate Women 2020 events in Gainesville



Jan. 14 - March 14: Pictures of Resistance

Hours vary - Gainesville Fine Arts Association Gallery, The UF Center for European Studies and the Gainesville Fine Arts Association

Feb. 25 - March 21: She FRI 2/28, 6pm. Reception during Art Walk
GFAA exhibit: artists respond to the many dimensions of WOMEN in 2020

Feb. 26 - March 22: Marchie and Rosetta

Dates and times vary - Hippodrome Theatre, A story of letting loose, finding your voice, and freeing your soul

Feb. 28: Women in urban art - Meet & greet with panel discussion FRI 7:30pm - Thomas Center, Presented by 352walls

March 1: Storyteller Susan Klein

Sunday Brunch, Crone's Cradle Conserve

March 3: Lecture by Barbara Oberlander and reception honoring current and past women elected officials
Tue 4pm - ILR Oak Hammock

March 5: ROAR—Stories of Women Finding Their Power
Presented by Guts and Glory, Thurs 7PM - Cypress and Grove Brewery

March 7: Brunch & Keynote with Anna Roosevelt Fierst
Sat 9:30am - Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Democratic Women's Club, Admission \$35

March 7: Workshop With Storyteller Susan Klein
Sat 10-3PM - \$35, Crone's Cradle Conserve

March 7-8: Celebrate Women 2020
Half price for women who mention CW2020, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

March 8: International Women's Day Celebration
SUN 2pm - Speakers, Dancers, Poets; Gainesville Vineyard, 1100 SE 17th Dr. Presented by MAMAs Club.

March 11: The Women Codebreakers of Bletchley Park
UF, Keene-Flint 005, WED 5:30pm - Jonathan Byrne, Oral Historian, Bletchley Park

March 12: The Collaboratory Presents: Seeing is Believing: Women Direct
Thu 7pm - Hippodrome Theatre Documentary film - female storytellers

March 12: Florida's Female Pioneers
Thu 7pm - Matheson History Museum presented by Florida historian Dr. Peggy Macdonald

March 12: Louise Nevelson's Palace - Julia Bryan Wilson
THU 6pm - Chandler Auditorium, Harn Museum of Art

March 13: Byllye Avery talk on Health Disparities Between Black and White Women
FRI 11am - UF Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Ustler Hall

March 13: An Evening for Young Women and Girls to talk with Byllye Avery
FRI 6pm - Cotton Club Presented by BLAAC2BASICS

March 13-22:

ANN by Holland Taylor
Times vary - Actors' Warehouse, Inc., ANN is a hilarious, no-holds-barred portrait

March 14: KEYNOTE Speech - Byllye Avery "A is for Activism"
SAT 10am - United Church of Gainesville. Reception to follow. Free

March 14: 70's Feminist Reunion
SAT 2-4pm - Pride Center Come join us as we remember and celebrate.

March 14: Melrose Celebration to honor Women and Mother Earth SAT 6pm - Mossman Hall, 301 FL-26, Melrose, Fl.Stories, Visual & Performing Arts.

March 15: Grandmothers: Gainesville Women's Stories (performance)
SUN 4pm - Cotton Club Highlights race and class relations

March 16: Potluck and Film - Ferron: Girl on a Road.
MON - Potluck 6pm and Film Civic Media Center. This 1989 film is part biography and part concert.

March 17: Tuesday VOTE VOTE VOTE!!!

March 19: Current Trends in Women in Politics
THUR 11:00am - Pride Center Presented by Sunday Assembly Gainesville Dr. Lynn Leverty

March 19: An evening with Zoharah Simmons
THUR 6pm - A. Quinn Jones Auditorium Come celebrate and learn more about this civil rights icon

March 19: Woman's Work: Conserving Wild Florida Talk with Hannah Brown
THUR 6:30pm - Prairie Creek Lodge · 7204 SE County Road 234

March 20: Paula Poundstone at the Phillips Center
Fri 7:30pm - University of Florida Performing Arts

March 21: Celebrate Women 2020 Parade
11AM - Gather at Supervisor of Elections, 515 N. Main St. 12PM - Parade to Bo Diddley Plaza

March 21: Celebrate Women 2020 Rally
SAT 1pm - Bo Diddley Plaza - Celebrate G'ville's women's movement; Voters Shoutout on current issues; Music and food trucks

March 22: Releasing our CelebrateWomen Ale
SUN 2PM - First Magnitude Brewing Company Come share a pint with friends, old and new!

March 23: Gendering Abolition in the Eighteenth Century or How Black Female Figures Embodied Freedom
MON 6PM - Chandler Auditorium, Harn Museum of Art

March 27: Lesbian Eyes on Florida's Second Wave
FRI 7pm - Thomas Center Presented by Lesbian Home Movie Projects

March 29: Full Circle: Music Sung by Women, Composed by Women
SUN 4pm - Abiding Savior Lutheran Church Presented by Capella Nova

March 31: Triumphant Women: A Celebration of Women's Empowerment
TUES 7:30pm - Gainesville Community Playhouse



Byllye Avery

From WOMEN2020, p. 1

school at UF. She is one of the founders of the Gainesville Women's Health Center (1974) and of BirthPlace (1978). In the '80s she founded what has become the Black Women's Health Imperative. In 1989, she received the MacArthur Foundation's "Genius Award," the first of over 50 awards she has received over the years (most recently, one from the United Nations). She was featured on PBS's "Women Who Make America."

Byllye is participating in five Celebrate Women 2020 events. She'll do two talks at the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies, one on **Thursday, March 12**, and one on **Friday, March 13**. The **Thursday** talk will be in Ustler Hall at **11 am** to a class on Black Feminism. The **Friday** talk will be at **11 am** at Ustler Hall and will be on Health Disparities between Black and White Women. This talk will be followed by a reception. The public is invited to attend these talks. On **Friday evening at 6 pm**, she will meet with young women and girls and their families at the Cotton Club to lead a discussion about forming positive attitudes toward menstruation. This is being organized by Terri Cook Bailey, of BLAAC2BASICS.

On **Saturday morning at 10 am**, Byllye will give our Celebrate Women 2020 **Keynote Speech** at the United Church of Gainesville, 1624 NW 5th Ave. This talk will be about Byllye's journey as a Women's Health activist and the Urgency of Now. A reception will follow the talk, which is free and open to the public. Saturday night will be a reunion of women who worked at the Gainesville Women's Health Center in the 1970's. Write to Pam Smith at acupam@bellsouth.net for more details.

And finally, on **Sunday, March 15, at 4 pm** at the Cotton Club, 837 SE 7th Ave., Byllye will participate in "The Grandmother's Play - a look back at the experiences of black and white women of Gainesville during the Jim Crow days. It is based on the oral histories of local women talking about race relationships during that time. 🌸



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Park just to the south on SE 5th Ave, or after 7 pm at the courthouse (just north of 4th Ave), or GRU (2 blocks east of CMC).

Civic Media Center Events

Every week at the CMC:

TUESDAYS: Free Grocery Store @2:30-4:30pm
THURSDAYS: Volunteer Meeting @5:30-6:30pm
Poetry Jam @8pm
SATURDAYS: Free Yoga @10-11am
SUNDAYS: CMC Gardening Day @10:30am

March/April:

TUE MAR 10: Music with Camp Counselor, Please Be Kind, Tanna and Buggin @8pm
WED MAR 11: Music with LEYA, Uxvie and Juntos @9pm
FRI MAR 13: Music with Bangz, Themme and Sleepless @9pm
MON MAR 16: Potluck and film: Ferron; Girl on a Road @6pm, profiles great singer/songwriter
FRI MAR 20: Pot luck, Blue Grass and Old Time music jam, Come to listen, come to play @6-9 (or later)
SAT APR 4: SPRINGBOARD FUNDRAISER at Working Food with Zoharah Simmons @6-9 pm

Other events sure to be added; the CMC's Facebook page is the best place to find listings until the website is operational.

Contact coordinators@civicmediacenter.org to get on our once a week email notification.

Please support the CMC however you can:

- volunteering & ideas
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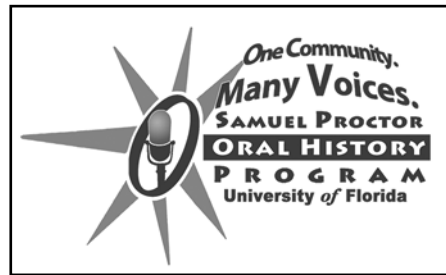
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History and the people who make it: Byllye Avery - Part 1



Byllye Avery [BA], feminist health activist, and her son Wesley [WA] were interviewed by Deidre Houchen [H] in May, 2012.

This is the 57th in a series of transcript excerpts from the UF Samuel Proctor Oral History Program collection.

Transcript edited by Pierce Butler.

BA: I was born in Waynesville, Georgia. I was born at home. My cousin, Ella, was the midwife.

H: What year were you born?

BA: 1937. October 20, 1937. I grew up in DeLand, Florida. I went to Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama. That's where I met the children's father. I have two children: Wesley and Sonya. Met him the first day I was there. And I didn't date him for that whole year, he was always bothering me, and I gave him a hard time. Someone told me not too long ago that's always a sign, you know? So he and I dated and got married and lived in Jacksonville for about ten years, which we hated living there every single day. Our escape from Jacksonville was when we got to come to the University of Florida. I was teaching special education. I got a fellowship from the University to get my Master's. Wesley said, "Girl, I never found out how White people could go to college and be married."

We were having a hard time being married and working, and we couldn't imagine going to school and being married. I said, "I'm going to go down there and figure out how they do it." I stayed over in northeast Gainesville with a family. They charged me \$25 a month, room. I got my Master's and the next thing you knew we were living in Corry Village. Wesley, I found ways that he could get a fellowship in educational research, and that's what he was doing.

H: What part of town were you renting that room in?

BA: Over in the northeast side —

WA: Lincoln Estates. Let me tell you a little story. Before we completely transitioned out here, they used to come down—y'all heard of Animar [sp?]? They used to come down here, a couple that lived here in Smokey Bear Park. We'd come down here for meetings, you know, to get products and stuff like that. Come to find out, after we would leave, these people would have their house egged, tomatoed every night. Because a Black man came down here.

H: Wow.

WA: Now, I think that neighborhood is all Black. It's just how much Gainesville has changed.

H: What was your experiences like in DeLand for elementary and middle school?

BA: And high school. There's no such thing as middle school.

H: Ah. [Laughter] Tells you when I was born.

BA: It was elementary and there was high school. [Laughter]

We went to segregated schools. Our school name was Yukon[sp?] High School, and all our books came from DeLand High School. They'd make the White kids use them before we did. Sometimes the pages would be torn out and stuff like that.

But, we certainly didn't have the higher illiteracy rates that we seem to have now. Our teachers cared about us, and we got our lesson. And we behaved. If you misbehaved in school, no one questioned the teacher — your butt got whipped when you got home because you acted out. So we got the best education that you can get in that kind of situation. It was grossly inadequate. But it still was the best you could get.

H: How did you know your teachers cared about you?

BA: Oh, they took time with us. They made sure we understood what we were doing. And they did it with love. Teachers, and doctors, and lawyers in the Black community were very high esteemed.

H: So you came back to UF, lived in Corry Village, your husband passes —

BA: When Wesley died, I had just started working at Shands in the Children's Mental Health Unit. I was the head teacher, I ran the unit. Those were the early days of dealing with childhood autism.

More importantly, the [19]70s were a time of really big change in the country. Our unit was headed up by a Quaker named Paul Adams. He really propelled us into the future. He gave me and Judy Levy an assignment to do a lecture on what was happening with women's health around reproduction. This was before Roe v. Wade. So we — me, Judy, and Margaret — became known as women who could help other women get abortions.

We really didn't know how to do it, we were only talking. But when women started coming to us, we had to figure out how to do this. There was a group called Clergy Consultation, Catholic priests who helped women get one — once she get to New York.

We'd give women a telephone number. Clergy Consultation would tell them where to go to get a safe, legal abortion.

So it worked for White women who had money and could get to New York, but when Black women came, she'd say, "I don't need no phone number, I don't know nobody in New York, and I don't have any money to get to New York."

We realized that wasn't really access.

After abortion became legal, we were literally taking women to Jacksonville every weekend to get abortions, and going back for post-op and all of that.

There was a need for abortion services in Gainesville, so four of us came together, and in 1974 we opened up the Gainesville Women's Health [Center]: first trimester abortion clinic with a GYN clinic.

I was really excited by it. It was exhilarating, wonderful work. Women all over the country were doing things, and opening up facilities and doing stuff. We wanted to do an abortion clinic and a birth facility.

Things started changing at Shands. Paul left, and they didn't like our whole division because it was very radical. People were chanting and smoking pot; I mean we were way out there. The University did not like that, so they hired a psychiatrist who became the head of the unit. He started systematically getting rid of everybody.

Judy passed the division, and at the department level, they denied her tenure because we opened up that clinic. See, the doctors did not want uppity women opening up facilities.

I figured we would make it, and we did.

The only thing I regret now is that I didn't keep my retirement plan, now that I'm seventy-four years old. So hold on to your retirement, no matter what you do. Idealism is one thing, money works.

H: You said you got a master's degree.

BA: In Special education. I finished in [19]69. We were about thirty [Black] students here, among 30,000 White students. It was a bit intimidating.

Understanding the culture, and when people didn't speak to you, you know? There were like five or six White women who all bonded together and I became a part of that group. I was just amazed at some of the things — that they had apartments, and money. Credit cards had just started coming out. They had credit cards.

I was shocked when the first class I attended was in a big auditorium with about three hundred people. Most of my college, there was seven or eight people in my classes. Over in the School of Education, especially in special ed, we had smaller classes and I was able to feel some of that bonding that I need to learn effectively.

I started working at Shands in September, and [my husband] died in November. I had a 10 year mourning period actually — but before he died, he was a ferocious reader. He'd say, "Byllye, I want you to read this book."

He and I would have a little back and forth because he loved to read all the time, and I needed him to help with the children, there was clothes to be washed. So sometimes when he'd want me to read things, to spite him, I wouldn't. He had been dead not quite a year. And I say, "Let me see about this one book he talked about." It was Betty Friedan's *Feminine Mystique*. I read that book, and it really

started to change my whole life. The second wave of feminism was happening, Gainesville NOW was just developing.

At this time, I wasn't really connected to Black people in Gainesville 'cause I was just on campus. After we opened the Gainesville Women's Health Center, we made special efforts to go out and meet people. What I learned is that Black women and their husbands came to the Center for abortion services — but they were not coming for the well woman GYN services. It all became an alternative for the students at the university, but we were not getting those Black women in, except for the crisis services. That was a real lesson. Sort of a disappointment, but also very instructive as to how we take care of ourselves, and how we don't have the luxury sometimes of doing the preventive stuff.

We're so busy trying to keep our lips above water, that we bypass the prevention and end up doing most of the crisis. So that was very instructive, but it really propelled me to understand why. It put me on a quest.

Then we opened BirthPlace in [19]78, and we found out that a lot of Black women couldn't come. We only charged fifteen hundred dollars for a birth, and the hospital were charging three thousand.

But the women didn't have the cash. That became a barrier. However, we had many families who came. I spent a lot of time talking with them, helping them understand the whole birthing process, and learning that what works for White women doesn't necessarily work for Black women, a lot of approaches need to be different.

I assisted in probably a hundred births. But I knew that I needed to do work with

Black women. I'd done a lot of work with my White sisters, and it was time for me to take what I'd learned and see if I could apply it to the lives of Black women. That's when I moved to Atlanta and started the Black Women's Health Project.

H: You were at some point here teaching Black young girls at P.K. Yonge.

BA: Before Sonya got her period, I started preparing her. So, I ended up creating a workshop. I did the workshop with the kids, boys and girls, and talked to them about menstruation, and they were squirming all over the place. But I knew they were hearing me.

That workshop ended up being a film, *On Becoming a Woman: Mothers & Daughters Talking Together*. It's not a video, it's a film, because we wanted it to last forever. It was the first Black film done talking about menstruation between mothers and daughters. When I got established in Atlanta, I changed it all up from what I learned. When Sonya got her period, I got this big cake that said "Happy Birthday" and "Happy Menstruation."

More excerpts from the SPOHP Byllye Avery transcript will appear in the April Iguana. A recording and full transcript of this interview can be found by entering "Byllye Avery" at <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/oral>.

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

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WGOT springs into seasonal fundraising, volunteer search

By Fred Sowder
WGOT Sponsorship Coordinator

As winter turns to spring, WGOT continues to strive to be your source for alternative music and talk programming from Gainesville and around the nation. From producing and airing local music to national news coverage from Democracy Now! and everything in between, WGOT has monthly expenses that can only be funded with your help. For this to continue, we need your help on any and all fronts.

Do you own or know of a small business that can be helped by getting its message out on WGOT? If so, please contact us at info@wgot.org. Consider joining the ranks of fine local businesses such as Daily Green, Buckhalter Heating & Air, and Thompson Painting by becoming a WGOT underwriting sponsor. Our listeners can also be a huge financial help to us by contributing to our nearly-funded GoFundMe campaign or by becoming a sustaining member via Patreon. We also plan on participating in The Amazing Give this year on April 22 and 23, so please consider saving room for community media when it comes to your annual giving during this important event.

We've also recently updated our program schedule to accommodate new programs. Each week, Stuart brings you weekly news and musical interludes about all things marijuana, medicinal and other-

wise, on the 30-minute CannabiNation program. Debi also recently debuted her new music program On the Rail, featuring new and classic alternative music, often with a weekly theme. For the full schedule and listing of programs, visit us online at wgot.org. You can tune us in 24/7 either on 100.1 FM or on our worldwide internet stream on our website or via the TuneIn mobile app.

Also, after nearly four years of serving as station coordinator, I will be largely vacating those duties to concentrate more fully on WGOT's fundraising and sponsorship efforts. Coordinator duties are now being handled by Debi Martinez, who has done excellent work on financial, marketing, and design fronts to take WGOT to the next level. Her meticulous attention to detail on everything from music reporting to schedule coordination ensures WGOT's future will be bright and left in capable, competent hands.

Doug Clifford continues to handle much of WGOT's program coordination and his years of radio experience are valued. We also welcome longtime volunteer Gargs Allard aboard as our music director.

We recently participated once again in Gainesville's 3rd Annual VegFest. Look for us out and about at local events so you can help us and the environment by grabbing one of our canvas shopping bags. T-shirt and sticker purchases help a great deal. Jan-



Stuart Appleton and Doug Clifford represent WGOT at the 3rd Annual VegFest in Bo Diddley Plaza on Saturday, Feb. 15. Photo by DJ Ka\$hmira.

uary also saw us celebrate our 12th year on the air with our annual birthday party benefit at The Atlantic. Thanks to them as well as this year's crop of incredible local bands: Arrows in Action, In Bed By Ten, Articles, and the Rick Randlett Band.

Finally, stay tuned on Facebook for information on our next volunteer meeting. Everything from web design to data entry to show-hosting is needed and we'd be happy to welcome you aboard. Technical skills are also a huge need right now. Thank you. ☘

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THOM HARTMANN

MON - FRI: 7 AM

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AMY GOODMAN
MON - FRI: 8 AM and 1 PM

JAZZ

ROBBIE STEVENS
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BRIANNA
MARKUS ALEXANDER
CHUCK D.
(and others!)

We're back online!

As you probably noticed, www.gainesvilleiguana.org was down for a few months due to a malware hack that attacked our entire website. But thanks to the hard work of editor emeritus Mark Piotrowski, we're now back online and up-to-date. So be sure to check us out online! ☘

Labor Notes

The voice of activists who are "Putting the movement back in the Labor Movement"



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Hey, Readers!

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

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

We thank you very much! ☘

Iguana Directory

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

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

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

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

Alachua County Labor Coalition meets monthly and organizes to support local labor and advance the national campaigns for Medicare for All and a living wage. Contact: <http://laborcoalition.org/>, info@laborcoalition.org, 352-375-2832, PO Box 12051, 502 NW 16th Ave., 2B, Gainesville, 32601

Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs (ACORN) Clinic is a not-for-profit (501C3) organization that provides low-cost, high-quality medical and dental care, and social services for people with and without health insurance. The clinic primarily serves residents of Alachua, Bradford and Union Counties. The Clinic fulfills its mission with the help of a broad-based core of volunteer physicians, nurses, dentists, hygienists, pharmacists and counselors. Located at 23320 N. State Rd 235 Brooker, Florida 32622 352-485-1133 Note: unfortunately they are closing their medical clinic Oct 31 due to Tallahassee budget cuts. The dental clinic will remain open.

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

American Promise Association A cross-partisan, citizen-powered endeavor to amend the US Constitution to ensure We The People - not big money, corporations, unions, or wealthy special interests - govern the United States of America. To learn more, come visit us at the Downtown Festival and Art Show on Nov. 16 & 17. Community Booth #C35 in front of the Sun Center on SE 2nd Place. americanpromise.net, sandy.WeThePeople@gmail.com

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

Black Graduate Student Organization. aims to build fellowship at UF. bgsoatuf@gmail.com, facebook [bfgso](https://www.facebook.com/bfgso)

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

The Coalition for Racial Justice gnv4all@gmail.com

The Coalition of Hispanics Integrating Spanish Speakers through Advocacy and Service (CHISPAS) Student-run group focusing on immigrant rights and immigrant advocacy. www.chispasuf.org, chispasuf@gmail.com, facebook: [chispasUF](https://www.facebook.com/chispasUF)

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 are held the second Wednesday of each month at 6pm. in the Alachua County School Board Meeting Room at 620 E University Ave. Office is at 901 NW 8th Ave., 352-373-1730, alachuadems.org

Continued on next page

Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

- ✈ **A veteran's case for canceling student debt and making higher education tuition-free** by Will Fischer, *Nation of Change*
The G.I. Bill helped millions realize a future they otherwise may not have ever known. We can do the same again—on an even larger scale.
See: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1056>
- ✈ **Federal judge reverses conviction of border volunteers, challenging government's "gruesome logic"** by Ryan Devereaux, *The Intercept*
A Tucson judge reversed the conviction of four humanitarian aid volunteers who had been fined and given probation for leaving food, water and other humanitarian aid supplies for migrants who were passing through Arizona in the summer heat.
See: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1057>
- ✈ **Hear the Bern: Why Bernie Sanders Strikes a Chord With Musicians** by Matt Cohen, *Mother Jones*
For Evan Weiss, a member of an emo trio from Chicago called Pet Symmetry, it makes perfect sense that Sanders' campaign is resonating across various music scenes. "He's definitely the most punk-adjacent of the candidates. His messaging is all about community," Weiss says. "It feels like he's one of us."
See: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1058>
- ✈ **Wall Street is savaging local journalism** by Jim Hightower, *The Hightower Lowdown*
The Monster that Ate the Gainesville Sun: The Hightower Lowdown analyzes the conglomerate(s), including a Wall St. hedge fund, a fracking billionaire, and a Japanese tech giant, which now own – and milk every nickel out of – hundreds of local newspapers across the U.S.
See: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1059>
- ✈ **We Talk About One U.S.-Backed Coup. Hondurans Talk About Three.** by Meghan Krausch, *In These Times*
A little over 10 years ago, the United States government had the opppoutunity to stop much of the misery and human rihts abuses occurring regularly today in Honduras ... but it decided not to.
See: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1060>
- ✈ On Facebook, Professor Heather Cox Richardson writes a near daily analysis of Washington politics that is insightful, in depth and very well written.
- ✈ For progressive articles and opinion pieces, www.commondreams.org is a good go-to place. The site features both original pieces and stories from other sources. ✈

SAVE THE DATE



Saturday, April 4, will be the Civic Media Center's annual SpringBoard event.

Guest speaker: Dr. Zoharah Simmons

Topic: The Radical Martin Luther King

As an organizer with SNCC in Mississippi in the mid 1960s, Dr. Simmons saw, first hand, the evolution of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as world events and his interactions with others in the Civic Rights Movement changed and expanded his political thinking and actions.

Location: Forage Hall at Working Food, 219 NW 10th Ave.

Socializing and dinner: 6-9pm

Donation requested (it's a fundraiser, folks): sliding scale of \$25-\$50 (but no one turned away for less)

Advance tickets at CMC (cash or check) or Third House Books (cash only). You may also obtain tickets through Eventbrite at:

<https://cmcspringboard2020.eventbrite.com>

Or by mail ... and if you can't come, donations are obviously welcome anyway at the Civic Media Center, 433 S. Main St., Gainesville, FL 32601 ✈

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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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