



# The Gainesville Iguana

*A progressive newsletter  
and events calendar*

**April 2020**

**Vol. 34, Issue 4**



## IT'S REAL

**I had no immune system for months after my bone marrow transplant. Here's how I avoided viral illness, and how you can, too. It's easier than you think.**

*This article was originally published on March 22 by Medium.com. Original is at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1062>. Photo (above) of A.M. Carter courtesy of author.*

*by A. M. Carter*

Everyone is scared of COVID-19 (the disease caused by novel coronavirus). I get it. I've been in the hospital a lot in my life, and I definitely don't want to go back. But a lot of the advice that I've seen

lately about how to stay safe is pretty ridiculous. I'll address some specific myths at the end, but first — let me tell you how I know what works and what doesn't.

I have a genetic defect, one that I was born with. Because of it, my immune cells weren't good at combating infection or illness. It meant I got sick a lot more often than most people.

I had a bone marrow transplant in 2017.

Most people don't really know what that is. In the simplest possible terms, it means that my doctors gave me a new immune

*See VIRAL, p. 9*

## Community love in the time of COVID

*by Anna Prizzia*

The recent COVID 19 crisis has highlighted that we have been relying on the most vulnerable — the nurse, the food service worker, the factory worker, the janitor, the teacher, the activist, the undocumented, the social worker, the farmer — to keep our economy moving.

Even though these workers are showing that they are vital to our daily lives, they have often benefited the least, fighting for basic benefits and living wages.

While this pandemic is a time of uncer-

*See COMMUNITY, p. 12*



### REGULAR FEATURES

|                                       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| <i>From the Publisher</i> . . . . .   | 3     |
| <i>And the Good News is</i> . . . . . | 15    |
| <i>Editors' Picks</i> . . . . .       | 15    |
| <i>Oral History</i> . . . . .         | 18-19 |
| <i>Directory</i> . . . . .            | 21-23 |

## Letter to the *Iguana*

Hello:

Hope everyone is well. I am writing to extend my appreciation of being a subscriber to the Gainesville *Iguana*. I haven't written to you in a long while. I thought that it was appropriate that I write you at this time. I have been on your Prison Subscription list since the 1990's. I really love your articles and appreciate your support to people and community.

I have attempted to encourage prisoners throughout the years to subscribe to the Gainesville *Iguana*. However, there seems to be very little activism remaining in prison. The new era of corrections has an entirely new makeover, which includes both prison officials and inmates. Well, I guess a few of us old activists and militants are still around. Just wanted you to know that.

Please continue to send me the Gainesville *Iguana*. Soon, I will be relocating to another facility. When I do, I will send you my change of address.\* Hoping that you will continue to send me the Gainesville *Iguana* news. Take care and keep up the good work.

Truly, Robert Gibson

\*He did. *Iguana* readers can write him at:

Robert L. Gibson - 862383  
Mayo Corr Inst - Annex  
8784 US Hwy 27 West  
Mayo, FL 32066 ☘

# ELECTIONS past and future

by Joe Courter

The recent city commission elections in the city came out as hoped with Arreola and Ward retaining seats and Saco joining the commission. As far as the presidential primary, Bernie lost to Biden, but he came in second with over 40 percent, and that was the highest percentage vote for Sanders in any county in the Florida. So it goes ...

Looking ahead, the primaries for the November election are contested in August. They will be party-based closed primaries for most offices, and wide open primaries for nonpartisan offices such as school board and judges. It is really important to get the best candidates in to challenge the Repubs in the fall, and worthy of working to register people to vote, as well.

Lots more in later issues, but know that getting Trump out is the overriding goal in November, and a big voter turnout is

the means to do that. That ground work begins in the primaries, and in support for the down-the-ticket races.

Here's what's up:

- Representative in Congress (District 3)
- State Representative (Districts 10, 20, 21)
- Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
- Property Appraiser
- Sheriff
- Supervisor of Elections
- Tax Collector
- Alachua County Commission: Districts 1, 3, 5
- Alachua County School Board: District 2, 4
- Alachua County Judge: Group 4
- Eighth Judicial Circuit Court
- Precinct Committeemen and Committeewomen (party contests) ☘

## How social distancing can bring us together

*The piece below was originally recorded as a podcast for The Hightower Lowdown, Jim Hightower's newsletter. Listen to the original at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1073>.*

Suddenly, "social distancing" is our new national etiquette abruptly supplanting handshakes, hugs, gatherings, and other forms of ingrained communal behavior by us humans. Awkward. Disconcerting. Isolating.

Yet, as we frantically scramble to deter the health and economic ravages of Covid-19, we might benefit by pondering a self-inflicted cause of the contagion's disastrous spread: Social distancing! For some 40 years, American corporations and governments have imposed economic, political, and social policies to distance the financial fortunes of the wealthy few from the well-being of the workaday majority.

Consider the interrelationship of multimillionaires with the unseen kitchen staff of restaurants where they dine. To further enrich themselves, such multimillionaires have forced low-wage policies on food preparers, denied health coverage for them, and lobbied to kill proposals to provide paid sick leave.

So, a kitchen worker coughs because he or she is infected with coronavirus, but doesn't know it, since the worker has no healthcare coverage for testing. Even though running a fever, the staffer must come to work or lose the job. A few days later, a multimillionaire coughs, because... well, Covid-19 doesn't distinguish between rich and poor.

The very proposals that plutocrats have been blocking for years (Living Wages, Medicare for All, Paid Sick Leave, Family Medical Leave, Free College and Trade School Tuition, Home Healthcare, and others) are exactly what a sane government would adopt to avoid the consequences of inequality that now confronts every American.

The actual disease that's forcing social distancing on our country is not a pathogen, but the widening-separation of rich elites from the rest of us – and the cure is a national push for renewed social cohesiveness.

As commentator Glenn Smith recently puts it: "[COVID19] puts into focus a biological, psychological, economic, and socio-political fact that we too often deny: We are a species of completely interdependent beings." ☘



**DRIVE THRU & CALL-INS**

**407 NW 13th St.**

9am-10pm

Breakfast til 11, 11:30 weekends

**5011 NW 34th St.**

8am-10pm

Breakfast til 11, 11:30 weekends

From the publisher ...

## Publishing in the time of COVID-19

Setting about this task right now is surreal. We are all so off from our life rhythms. The town is so shut down, so a limited press run is in order. You subscribers, and those of you who have picked the *Iguana* up from wherever, I hope you are staying safe and unscathed from this outbreak of our tiny viral adversaries, facilitated by our fellow humans who assist them into our bodies either inadvertently or with careless disregard.

Rapidly closing in on 70, I feel somewhat vulnerable to this virus, a vulnerability I only otherwise felt when I had a motorcycle. But beyond that, it is empathy I feel for those whose lives are being or are about to be turned upside down. So many friends of mine are musicians. Gigs and tours cancelled. Many others work in the service industry, either owning, managing or working in enterprises that are now all but shut down. People with kids ... no school. And then there are the many for whom this situation itself provokes so much stress and fear, sucking the joy out of life.

But there are positives; "Look on the bright side ..." my friend Lexi would say. This is a world problem, and the best minds in the world are looking for cures. We can look around the world and see what systems worked better, get inspired to see what can be made better. Locally we can see people pulling together forming mutual aid networks, and we can know this is happening everywhere.

We can see Italians singing from their balconies. We can see Cuban doctors being welcomed back to Brazil after being told to leave not long ago. We can see that corporations and greed are not the motivators that help humanity, and that science must be paid attention to. We see artists lifting us up, performing informally on Facebook or other platforms, and fundraising as well on these new platforms. Local efforts are reported on in this issue, and we are skipping our calendar of events because for at least the next month, our tasks are: #1) Stay Safe and #2) Help each other out as we can.

What we should also be feeling, though, is an anger that in not only the last two months, but the last decades, decisions have been made that have put the U.S. into this unprepared situation.

Disaster stockpiles have not been kept up. Hospitals have been torn down. Our healthcare system has been made a cash cow of the insurance industry while many suffer without care, and this is before this particularly noxious virus came into being. Big money has taken over our government by funding candidates more beholden to their corporate backers, than to the needs of the citizens whose interests they are supposed to represent.

The news media have become corporate mouthpieces as well. They have openly admitted that covering, and in effect promoting, Donald Trump's campaign 2016 was a big money maker for them. And the biased coverage of Bernie Sanders is there for all to see.

In the fall, job one for us all is a massive voter turnout to not only dump Trump, but win all down the ballot. And that momentum has to continue beyond the November elections.

But that is a long way off. Here and now, and for at least the next month, we get to slow down and stay healthy. But we also need to demand the government do more, way more, to help people survive. The government controls the money. They will bail out banks in a blink of an eye.

That money needs to pass down the chain, and bail out property owners to allow rent and mortgage payments to be forgiven. Living expenses need to be subsidized. Debt payments need to be postponed or forgiven. If they can find the money for war, they can do this too.

Please keep your social distance practices firm and spend time in the great outdoors. But the tools and time are there to fight for each other, support each other, and limit the impact this pandemic will have on our future. We'll get through this. 🐾



Joe Courter

### 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  
P.O. Box 14712  
Gainesville, FL 32604

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

352-378-5655  
GainesvilleIguana@cox.net  
www.gainesvilleiguana.org  
facebook.com/gainesvilleiguana

The Iguana has been published monthly or bimonthly by volunteers for over 30 years. Circulation for this issue is 2,500.

### Publisher:

Joe Courter

### Editors Emeritus:

Jenny Brown  
Mark Piotrowski

### Editorial Board:

Pierce Butler  
Joe Courter  
Beth Grobman  
Jessica Newman

### Production work and assistance:

Joye Barnes  
Barbara Dupont  
Ariela Grodner  
Kaithleen Hernandez  
Jojo Sacks

### Distribution:

Joe Courter  
Kate Ellison  
Bill Gilbert  
Anita Sundaram

Contact us if you can help with distribution in outlying areas.

Authors and photographers have sole credit, responsibility for, and rights to their work.

Cover drawing of iguana by Daryl Harrison.

Printed on recycled paper.

# Economist Jeffrey Sachs: Trump ‘understands nothing, listens to nothing’ as pandemic surges in U.S.

*This interview originally aired on Democracy Now! on March 24. Watch the full show and learn more at [www.democracynow.org](http://www.democracynow.org). As of print time, the stimulus package had passed the Senate and was moving to the House for a final vote.*

As #NotDying4WallStreet trends on Twitter, President Trump defies his top scientists and soaring infection rate, saying he will ease restrictions soon to jumpstart the economy. We speak with economist Jeffrey Sachs about the stimulus package that failed to pass again Monday, as Democrats called the measure a slush fund for corporations. Sachs also led the WHO's Commission on Macroeconomics and Health from 2000 to 2001 and played a key role in conceiving and establishing the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which helped distribute new medicines to fight infectious diseases.

**AMY GOODMAN:** ...we're joined by Jeffrey Sachs, leading economist, director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University. Interestingly, he also led the World Health Organization's Commission on Macroeconomics and Health from 2000 to 2001, playing a key role in conceiving and establishing the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which helped distribute new medicines to fight infectious diseases. He's the author of a number of books, including "A New Foreign Policy: Beyond American Exceptionalism." His forthcoming book, "The Ages of Globalization," joining us by Democracy Now! stream. And, of course, Juan González co-hosting from his home in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Jeffrey Sachs, thanks so much for joining us.

**JEFFREY SACHS:** Good morning, Amy.

**AMY GOODMAN:** You work in New York, the epicenter of the pandemic in the United States. Talk about what's happening in Washington and then around the world, and President Trump switching once again yesterday, reversing course, his top scientific adviser not standing at his side noticeably, Dr. Fauci, saying the U.S. is going to be open for business soon, as the pandemic rates soar in this country.

**JEFFREY SACHS:** Amy, thank you for your comprehensive coverage. Thanks, Juan. It's terrifying, this pandemic, which is spreading all over the world, as you've so comprehensively reported. And it's doubly

terrifying that we have a complete nitwit as president, who understands nothing, listens to nothing, judges nothing, except by the stock market, and is endangering the American people. So, it's just hard to believe what a colossal mess our country is in, not only a virus to which the world population is immunologically naive — in other words, one that can spread wild and rapidly everywhere because there isn't acquired immunity, there isn't experience with this virus — but a president who is certainly the most incompetent president in the history of our country, who not only has personal incompetence but is completely unable to bring together and listen to qualified people, like Dr. Fauci and others, who should be helping to control this pandemic. Instead, we have one ignoramus after another, without guidance, without strategy, so every mayor and governor in this country is on the frontlines without federal support. And Congress, it's just bewildering. There should have been money available immediately to the states and cities for every emergency step to actually fight the pandemic. Instead, they're talking about the airline industry. They're talking about which bailouts of which sectors, instead of fighting the spread of the virus.

You noted at the top of the show a remarkable fact, which is probably the most pertinent fact for all of us to focus on. In China, at the very epicenter of this crisis at the start, Hubei province, China battled this virus under control and is now lifting the lockdown measures after about two months. That is the result of rigorous containment policies, tough but also comprehensive testing, contact tracing, isolation of people with symptoms, and they've tracked hundreds and hundreds of thousands of cases. They have been able to stop the spread of the pandemic. And China is not alone in that. It is a kind of East Asian model. Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, to a large extent, have all used public health means to bring the spread of the virus under control.

This is what our focus should be in the United States right now — stop the spread of the virus, protect the frontline health workers, contain the pandemic, help people who are in a desperate situation to get by. There's not a lot of consumption to do right now other than our food and our

basic provisioning. And, of course, nobody being evicted or losing shelter or otherwise losing the means for their survival right now. We're not out partying. We don't need large money for entertainment. We don't need large money for travel, to say the least. We need survival mode.

But what the East Asian experience shows is that if you are aggressive in the public health response, the lockdown isn't for months and years; the lockdown is 60 or 90 days, depending on how well things are done. And then it's possible to start going back to some kind of normalcy, with care, but then with a greatly expanded public health effort in place, which the U.S. didn't have at the start of this epidemic, which Trump, in his idiocy, disdained. The man knows nothing. We should understand this. We need expertise right now. We lost the vital weeks. Now we need to build that capacity, so that after 60 or 90 days, we can start to lift the siege. And there's plenty of experience now of how to do this, if we would only look, learn and act.

**JUAN GONZÁLEZ:** Jeffrey Sachs, I wanted to ask you — in terms of the actions in Congress right now, you mentioned you were critical of the failure of Congress to act. But isn't part of the problem here that rather than, as you say, deal with appropriations that would help people stay in place and not fall further and further behind financially, the Senate has tried this huge package, which obviously involves so much negotiations back and forth between the Democrats and the House and the Senate, that it makes it far more difficult than, for instance, just to pass 90 days of full-pay unemployment benefits for workers right now, while they figure out the other aspects of what to do with businesses? This attempt to create the largest spending bill ever conceived in Congress all in one fell swoop like this, is this going to just bog things down further?

**JEFFREY SACHS:** Juan, you're completely right. The focus should be seriously on stopping the spread of the disease, keeping people protected, helping the health workers, and especially helping the mayors and the governors around this country who are on the frontline. There should have been immediately an emergency \$100 billion, \$200 billion for the governors and the mayors to quickly be able to get financial flows so that they

can hire emergency social support, they can take whatever measures are available given the supply constraints for the hospitals, for requisitioning safe space, for enabling there to be a viable and civilized shutdown so that people who are in isolation can survive this period. That's the first order of priority. It should have been one day to recognize this. It should be supervised, if we had a functioning CDC, the Centers for Disease Control, by CDC, by NIH, by the National Academies of Science, National Academy of Medicine. We could have improvised a kind of supervision, not the dolt of a president who says, "I am the one responsible." My god, it's shocking, with all the expertise in this country. But Congress went off on some kind of a mind-boggling economic excursion of \$2 trillion rather than focusing on the epidemic. They just don't understand what's actually happening.

They should be listening to the mayors and the governors, because those are the political leaders truly dealing on the frontlines. And they should be helping those on the frontlines to keep the health workers alive, to get the social support and to help people to stay home, to shelter in place, and to break the transmission and to stay safe personally. Those are the points of the shelter in place — stay safe individually and end this transmission — because this transmission, if everybody that now has symptoms and is infected could be kept sheltered in place in some kind of isolation, given, of course, hospitalization as needed, the epidemic then goes away. Most people recover normally. Some are hospitalized. Tragically, some will die. But the epidemic does not spread then. This should be the order of business for the U.S. And if it is a bit abstract, all one has to look to, the countries that are actually succeeding in doing this, to get some lessons, because there are several, as I've mentioned.

**JUAN GONZÁLEZ:** Well, I wanted to ask you a broader question, a more systemic question, about the U.S. response compared to other countries. We're in a time when capitalism really has devolved into this question of constant — the bean counters constantly modeling economic projections for the future in terms of profit and loss, in terms of just-in-time production, so that there are never any goods piled up in warehouses. And what they never model are precisely these periods of complete qualitative change in society, when something completely unexpected happens. And the system is not prepared to deal with it, so now you have

all of these companies going to the White House demanding help, because they never planned for possible crises of this type in their modelings and in their plans for the future. I'm wondering if this — similarly, the health system is more concentrated on curing disease rather than preventing or public health portions of the health system. So I'm wondering if there aren't systemic issues that this crisis has now unbarred.

**JEFFREY SACHS:** Juan, absolutely right. Our health system is focused not even first and foremost on curing disease; it's focused first and foremost on making money. We have drugs that could stop many other epidemics now, like hepatitis C, that don't do so, because they are priced hundreds of times more than their production costs because of the unbelievably broken system we have to give monopoly power to powerful companies, who then use their unbelievable profits, in part, to buy the Congress. So, the corruption of our political system has driven so much attention to the wrong things, away from our well-being and now even away from our survival.

And it is amazing to listen — maybe it's not — it shouldn't be amazing to me, but it is amazing to listen to conservative commentators say, "Yeah, we should go back to work quickly." The president, of course, said this inanity yesterday, but others in the conservative movement saying, "We need to save the economy. Of course some people will die, but why are we wasting so much money on lives?"

This is a corruption of the most basic human spirit. It's a kind of sickness that has infiltrated our public life, of now literally money before lives, money before survival. And it leads to a kind of blindness, because it's not only cruelty that we're seeing. We're seeing profound ignorance. Of course, the president is the ignoramus-in-chief. He knows nothing, understands nothing. He's a vulgar narcissist. But we have so many people in this country that know something, but where are they when Congress is spending \$2 trillion? Where are the experts being listened to? Our system is broken because the greed has supplanted the basic values, and the greed has supplanted people who know what to do.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Jeffrey, this is —

**JEFFREY SACHS:** We're not — yes, sorry.

**AMY GOODMAN:** This is Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, who rejects the idea of social distancing, urging

a swift return to work, saying older people, who are much more vulnerable to the virus, should "sacrifice" for the country's economy. Patrick spoke Monday on Fox News with Tucker Carlson.

**LT. GOV. DAN PATRICK:** No one reached out to me and said, "As a senior citizen, are you willing to take a chance on your survival in exchange for keeping the America that all America loves for your children and grandchildren?" And if that's the exchange, I'm all in. And that doesn't make me noble or brave or anything like that. I just think there are lots of grandparents out there in this country like me.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Death panels right now that the Republicans are suggesting? As goes Texas, so goes the nation. This is on Fox. Of course, we know what Trump watches and gets his advice from. You look at the panel yesterday at the news conference. As others are calling for only scientists to speak and doctors to speak to the country, Trump is increasingly just surrounded by — yesterday it was William Barr, it was Vice President Pence. Dr. Fauci wasn't there. And Trump, like Texas, has said he's questioning all of this scientific advice. If the doctors had it their way, he said, we'd be closed for years. Can you respond to what the lieutenant [governor] of Texas has just suggested?

**JEFFREY SACHS:** I am speechless. The ignorance and the cruelty displayed by that is beyond almost anything that I can recall in American life by elected officials. Of course, we have a lot of sickness in this country of venomous type, but the expressions of this sort, that it's time for the older people to sacrifice for the economy, is not only despicable, it's so stupid. It's so ignorant. It is so completely bereft of the most basic ideas of public health.

If people would understand, this is a controllable epidemic. Many countries are controlling it. The United States is not. The United States is not, because it is not implementing, because of our broken system, because of our incredibly incompetent and psychopathic president — we're not implementing basic public health measures. But countries that are, are not sacrificing their old for the economy. They're controlling the epidemic. And so, we need some education in this country quickly. We need to hear Dr. Fauci. We need to hear other experts. It's not hard to find them. Our country is filled with knowledgeable people. ❄️

# ‘All of this panic could have been prevented’: Author Max Brooks on COVID-19

*The following is a summary of an interview by Terry Gross with author Max Brooks on Fresh Air, which aired on March 24. To listen to the full interview, visit <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1075>*

Apocalyptic novelist Max Brooks is something of an expert on planning for pandemics and other disasters. The author, whose books include *World War Z*, *Germ Warfare* and the forthcoming *Devolution*, has toured the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and has reviewed government response plans related to various emergency situations — all in the course of research.

“We have a network in place that we as taxpayers have been funding to get us ready for something just like this,” Brooks says of the U.S. response to the COVID-19 pandemic. But, he adds, “we have been disastrously slow and disorganized from Day 1.”

Brooks says the notion that the U.S. government was blindsided by the pandemic is “an onion of layered lies.”

“What could have happened when this virus exploded — even when Wuhan was locked down — is we could have put the word out,” he says. “The government could have put the word out to ramp up emergency supplies to get them ready and then have an information strategy in place.”

Instead, Brooks says, President Trump was slow to acknowledge the virus as a real threat. And thus far, the president has resisted using the Defense Production Act to force private companies to manufacture masks, gloves and other essential supplies in the fight against the coronavirus. Many government task forces that plan for disasters have yet to be activated in this crisis.

“One of the biggest problems we’re facing now is panic. You see it in the stock market. You see it in panic buying,” he says. “All of this panic could have been prevented. ... If the president had been working since January to get the organs of government ready for this, we as citizens could have been calmed down knowing that the people that we trust to protect us are doing that.”

## **Interview highlights**

### **On the task forces that plan for situations like this**

I can tell you that the federal government has multiple layers of disaster preparedness who are always training, always planning, always preparing, regardless of how much their budget gets cut. I have toured the CDC, and I’ve seen all their plans. I have witnessed what was called a “vibrant response.” This is the homeland nuclear attack scenario, which was a coordination of FEMA, the Army, the National Guard, state and local officials, all working together in a massive war game to prepare us for a nuke. I have also witnessed what was called a “hurricane rehearsal of concept drill,” where not only did the same players come in, but also bringing in our allies from Canada and Mexico. So I have seen that we have countless dedicated professionals who think about this constantly and they’re ready to go. And they have not been activated.

### **On why these task forces haven’t been activated yet**

This all has to come from the federal government. This is why we have big government. Politically, you can argue about the role of big government in everyday society, but this is not every

day. This is an emergency. The entire reason that we have these networks is when the bells start ringing — and they have not been activated. I don’t know. I’m not sitting in the White House. I don’t know whether the president is being lied to, whether he is holding onto a political ideology. I honestly don’t know. But there is no excuse not to mobilize the full forces of the federal government right now and to centralize the response.

### **On how the Defense Production Act works when mobilized properly**

What is supposed to happen is the federal government has to activate the Defense Production Act immediately. Now, what Defense Production Act does is it allows the federal government to step in and aggressively force the private sector to produce what we need. And what is so critical in this is timing. Because you can’t simply build factories from scratch; what you can do is identify a supply chain in order to make it work.

For example, if New York needs rubber gloves, New York cannot simply build rubber glove factories overnight. However, there might be a rubber glove factory in Ohio that could produce it, but they might not have the latex. So therefore, the Defense Production Act allows the federal government to go to the condom factory in Missouri and say, “Listen, you have barrels of latex we need. We are requisitioning those. We are giving them to the rubber glove factory in Ohio. And then we are transporting the finished rubber gloves to New York.” That’s how it is supposed to work.

### **On how Trump warns about nationalizing private industry — but that’s not how it works**

President Trump is spinning some sort of tale about, I don’t know, the federal government — black helicopters coming in and taking over factories. That’s not how it works at all. What happens is the federal government has the network to identify where the production chain is and how to help the private sector work through this, because the private sector doesn’t know.

And as an example, I have a World War II rifle made by the Smith Corona typewriter company. Smith Corona worked with the federal government to then partner up with the Winchester company, to then share resources and to share tools and talent to then produce the rifles that we needed. That’s how it works. It’s not some sort of KGB coming in and taking over everything. It is guidance and streamlining. And only the federal government has the experience to know how to do that.

### **On what the U.S. military would do in a pandemic**

I can tell you that the military has a vast transportation network here in the United States that is ready to go. We don’t have to put truck drivers or private individuals at risk, because the military is already trained to do this. And I’ve watched them do this. The military spent years working out the legal framework of how to transport goods from one place to another around this country, because it’s not like Afghanistan, where the army builds a road and then they own the road. The army has had to go through a tremendous amount of training and adaptation to work within state and local governments to make sure everything is done legally and safe without infringing on our rights. And they have

done this. The Army's logistics corps can deliver anything that we need anywhere in this country within a matter of hours or days.

When it comes to sheer massive might, getting stuff done, getting stuff produced and getting stuff moved from Point A to Point B, there is no greater organ in the world than the United States military. We did it in World War II. We've done it all over the world. We can do this now. This is the thing the military is good at, and we need to let them do that.

### **On how the pandemic is revealing flaws in our social structure**

I think there are massive gaps in our systems that are being exposed right now, which, by the way, this is not news to the experts. Anybody who works in these fields could have told you years ago that we were vulnerable to this. It's going to rip through our prisons. It's going to rip through our homeless population. God willing, it doesn't rip through our nursing homes.

But what no one is talking about, what terrifies me, what keeps me up at night are the secondary casualties that will occur because of hospital overflow. What I mean is we're only talking about now how many people are going to die if the coronavirus really rips through our country. What is not being talked about enough or what needs to be talked about are the people who are still going to die of cancer, of accidents, of other diseases, because they simply can't get into the hospitals because the hospitals are choked with coronavirus patients.

### **On how we share some of the blame for this mismanagement as voters in a democracy**

In China, every single death will be laid directly at the feet of the Chinese Communist Party. They have all the power; therefore, they take all the responsibility. When we look back at this, we — all of us individual citizens — are going to have to take a measure of personal responsibility, because we are the government. If we don't like our leaders, we shouldn't have put them there. And as much as we would love to blame this historically incompetent captain of our ship of state, we have allowed the ship to rust underneath us.

It's not just President Trump's fault that institutions like the CDC have been defunded for years. It's not just President Trump's fault that we have allowed anti-vaxxers to spread misinformation throughout this country. It's not just President Trump's fault that we are continuing to build a society in support of a tech world that is based on comfort and not on resilience. We as voters and we as taxpayers must accept our share of the blame.

There is a massive amount of blame that will be laid at the feet of Donald Trump and his enablers. And when this is all over, when the dead are buried and the sick are healed, there will be a reckoning. But there were systemic issues way before Donald Trump. When Donald Trump was a carnival barker on a reality show, we as a people, as a nation, were dismantling the systems that were put in place to keep us safe. And we need to look at that damage, because the one thing we don't want to do is assume that when Donald Trump goes away, that the problems will go with him.

### **On the difference between panic and preparation**

Panic never helps. Panic implies that you lose your mind, and that in a war — even a war against a microscopic enemy — gives aid and comfort to the enemy. When you panic, you don't think rationally, and in times of crisis, rational thought is the greatest weapon you could possibly have. So preparing, No. 1,

means clearing your mind and thinking about what you have to do. It means making a list of what you need to buy, prioritizing what needs to come first, thinking about how you're going to take care of the people around you. That is preparing. Panicking is freaking out and getting in a fistfight in the grocery store over bottled water when you don't even need the water, when the tap is already running. That's panic.

I think right now we have to be so careful about who we listen to, because panic can spread much faster than a virus. And I think in addition to social distancing, we have to practice good fact hygiene. What I mean is we have to be careful what we listen to, what we take in — just as if it were a virus. And we have to be careful also what we put back out, as if we were spreading the virus. So we cannot pass along rumors. We cannot pass along misinformation. We must be critically careful not to scare people into doing irrational and dangerous things. So we need to listen to experts, the CDC, Dr. Fauci [director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases], the World Health Organization, our local public health officials.

These are the front-line soldiers that are doing everything to keep us safe and are literally putting their lives on the line. These are the people we need to listen to. What we cannot listen to is random facts on the Internet supposedly, things that people are passing along to us, conspiracy theories. And I'm very sorry to say this, but I think that everything our president says at this point must be fact-checked. ✨

---

### ***From FOOD JUSTICE, p. 24***

healthy menus. That means committing to at least a 20 percent reduction in emissions associated with the most climate change-intensive foods on their menus — meat, fish, seafood, dairy, and eggs — within the next two years. They can do this by cutting purchases of these foods and replacing them with produce, legumes or whole grains.

While Aramark's contract with UF is now up in the air, this is a chance for both UF and Aramark to fulfill its responsibility to provide a living wage to employees, as well as take steps to become a sustainable component of the Alachua County community.

Many employees under Aramark have been victims of time-card manipulation, wage theft, and poor wages — all of which are a result of Aramark and UF's past disregard for the well-being of workers who keep the UF community afloat.

While the terms of UF's food service contract is up for reconsideration, now is the time for the Alachua County community to pressure one of the biggest employers in Gainesville to treat workers with dignity. ✨

## ***Hey, Readers!***

The Gainesville Iguana has opened a PayPal account, and we're accepting donations through our website at: [www.gainesvilleiguana.org](http://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! ✨

# Coronavirus will change the world permanently. Here's how.

For many Americans right now, the scale of the coronavirus crisis calls to mind 9/11 or the 2008 financial crisis—events that reshaped society in lasting ways, from how we travel and buy homes, to the level of security and surveillance we're accustomed to, and even to the language we use.

POLITICO MAGAZINE surveyed more than 30 smart, macro thinkers this week, and they have some news for you: Buckle in. This could be bigger.

A global, novel virus that keeps us contained in our homes — maybe for months — is already reorienting our relationship to government, to the outside world, even to each other. Some changes these experts expect to see in the coming months or years might feel unfamiliar or unsettling: Will nations stay closed? Will touch become taboo? What will become of restaurants?

But crisis moments also present opportunity: more sophisticated and flexible use of technology, less polarization, a revived appreciation for the outdoors and life's other simple pleasures. No one knows exactly what will come, but here is our best stab

at a guide to the unknown ways that society—government, healthcare, the economy, our lifestyles and more—will change.

Below is one of our favorites from the list of 30 articles. View all the articles at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1083>

## The rules we've lived by won't all apply

*Astra Taylor is a filmmaker and author of "Democracy May Not Exist, but We'll Miss It When It's Gone."*

America's response to coronavirus pandemic has revealed a simple truth: So many policies that our elected officials have long told us were impossible and impractical were eminently possible and practical all along. In 2011, when Occupy Wall Street activists demanded debt cancellation for student loans and medical debt, they were laughed at by many in the mainstream media. In the intervening years, we have continued to push the issue and have consistently been told our demands were unrealistic. Now, we know that the "rules" we have lived under were unnecessary, and simply made society more brittle and unequal.

All along, evictions were avoidable; the homeless could've been housed and sheltered in government buildings; water

and electricity didn't need to be turned off for people behind on their bills; paid sick leave could've been a right for all workers; paying your mortgage late didn't need to lead to foreclosure; and debtors could've been granted relief. President Donald Trump has already put a freeze on interest for federal student loans, while New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has paused all medical and student debt owed to New York State. Democrats and Republicans are discussing suspending collection on — or outright canceling — student loans as part of a larger economic stimulus package.

It's clear that in a crisis, the rules don't apply — which makes you wonder why they are rules in the first place. This is an unprecedented opportunity to not just hit the pause button and temporarily ease the pain, but to permanently change the rules so that untold millions of people aren't so vulnerable to begin with.

**Flashbacks**  
**Recycled Fashions has moved!**

Our new address:  
**220 NW 8th Ave., Suite 20**



352-375-3752



**THOMAS GROUP**  
REALTY, LLC

5346 SW 91st Terrace  
Gainesville, FL 32608

- ☎ (352)339-5210
- ☎ (352)226-8228
- ☎ (352)872-5897
- ✉ [kimchalmers@thomasgrouprealty.com](mailto:kimchalmers@thomasgrouprealty.com)



**KIM CHALMERS**  
Realtor®

**ICE CREAM SOLVES EVERYTHING.**

*Ice Cream • Vegan Ice Cream • Dairy Free Ice Cream  
Beer Pops (+21) • Baked Goods • Coffee • Soda*



**Hoggetowne**  
creamery

**Gainesville's Newest & Coolest Ice Cream Shop.**

220 NW 8th Avenue Suite 10 • Gainesville, Florida 32601  
352-554-4940 • [www.hoggetownecreamery.com](http://www.hoggetownecreamery.com)



*From VIRAL, p. 1*

system, by replacing my sick bone marrow with healthy bone marrow from my sister.

The transplant process is basically a blood transfusion, but instead of blood cells, I received new immune cells from the bone marrow, which then took over my body and made it their new home, thus giving me a new immune system that worked normally.

In order for the transplant to work, I had intensive chemotherapy to kill off my original defective immune cells. For a month before and for many months after my transplant (until the new immune cells fully took over), I did not have a functioning immune system. This means I was vulnerable to EVERYTHING.

Many transplant patients get weird infections that most people have never heard of. Many common viruses, that healthy people easily clear without a single symptom, become deadly in a person with no immune system to fight them.

This is the situation I was in after my transplant.

You might think that there were a bunch of crazy rules I had to follow, and maybe that I had to live in a bubble, or travel around in a hamster ball. As fun as the hamster ball might have been, that was not the case.

I followed three basic rules.

1. Constant, thorough hand washing and hand sanitizing.
2. Constant, thorough cleaning and sanitizing of surfaces that I touched.
3. Completely avoiding primary vectors of transmission.

### **Hand Washing and Sanitizing**

At this point, you're probably sick of hearing people tell you to wash your hands. It sounds so basic. It's easy to think that it can't possibly be that effective. I mean, this is a PANDEMIC. If hand washing is so effective, how could it get so bad?

Because people don't do it. People think hand washing is silly and basic, and they don't do it often enough or thoroughly enough.

Hand hygiene is probably one of the greatest innovations of 20th century medicine, behind only the discovery of penicillin and widespread vaccination. It prevents countless infections (see <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/why-handwashing.html>), and its importance cannot be overstated. Your hands are everything.

After my transplant, I washed my hands constantly, and I washed them thoroughly. I washed the palms, the backs, my wrists, each finger individually (concentrating on the finger tips), and then I scrubbed my fingernails in my palms. The whole "wash your hands for 20 seconds" thing made me laugh when I first heard it. If you truly wash your hands thoroughly, with the goal of removing any trace of pathogen you may have touched, it always takes at least 20 seconds, if not more.

I washed my hands like this after every time I used the bathroom, before I ate, after touching anything in a public place, immediately after returning home from being out anywhere, after working out, after driving my car, after working on my computer, after feeding my pets, after cleaning my house.

If I wanted to scratch my nose, or I needed to put in my contact lenses, I washed my hands first, before ever touching my face.

If my hands didn't physically feel freshly washed, I washed them.

If I couldn't remember the last time I washed them, I washed them.

I only used hand sanitizer when I didn't have access to hot water and soap.

If this sounds extreme, consider how much simpler and easier this is than being sick. Washing your hands constantly is just a matter of habit. You have to make yourself do it for a while, and you have to really focus on remembering, but once you do that long enough, you create a habit that will protect you for the rest of your life. In a globalized world ripe for pandemics, this is a necessary 21st century practice.

I have that habit now, because I didn't have a choice. The hospital is not a fun place to spend a few months. Being sick is not a vacation. I was in constant discomfort and pain. It was difficult to eat. It hurt to move. It was exhausting to simply take a shower. I did not want to prolong my transplant recovery by acquiring an infection that could have been prevented if I had just washed my hands after I touched that door handle (or whatever). You have to have clarity about why it must be done, and then all that remains is doing it, every. single. time.

If you find yourself wondering whether you're washing your hands enough, then you aren't. You know when you are. You carry hand lotion around everywhere you go (because your hands look like a crumpled paper bag), and you go through hand

soap like (should I say it?) toilet paper.

Every time you wash your hands, imagine trying to poop in a bed pan. Be grateful for the chance to wash your hands.

### **Cleaning Surfaces**

The best way to give your dry, crumpled-paper-bag hands some relief is to meticulously clean the surfaces that you touch, so that you know you aren't continuing to spread germs or virions (virus reproductive particles) onto your freshly washed hands.

If you're isolating at home, clean everything thoroughly once, and then continue to clean each surface that gets touched when someone enters or leaves the house. If you make a habit of washing your hands immediately upon returning home, you won't have to keep wiping down everything in your house.

This is what I'm doing now, to protect myself from COVID-19. It's similar to what I did in the months after my transplant.

Upon returning home from any excursion, I wipe down my keys, phone, credit card (if I used it), car door handle, car steering wheel, garage door handles and front door handles. I keep Clorox wipes in my car and right beside the front door to make this easy.

Once I've done that, and before I touch anything else in my house, I wash my hands in the kitchen sink. Now everything I've touched with my hands is clean, and my hands are clean. I don't wear outside shoes in the house.

When I go grocery shopping, I take my wipes into the store with me. I wipe down the handle of the shopping cart and the credit card swiper buttons before I touch either one. When I get back to my car, I load my groceries, and then wipe down the car door handles, my credit card, keys, and phone, and finally use hand sanitizer before I touch my steering wheel.

If someone in your house is sick, wipe down everything that people touch, and do it every single day. The sick person should avoid touching things as much as possible to make this easier. When I was recovering from transplant, we wiped every touchable surface in my room and the bathroom, every evening.

I get that this sounds, again, extreme. But consider how uncomplicated it is. Germs and viruses are not mysterious. They are microscopic organisms that hang out on things you touch.

*See VIRAL, p. 10*

**From VIRAL, p. 9**

Clean the things you touch. That's all. Do it consistently. Don't avoid it or get annoyed about it. Just do it.

**Avoiding Contact (vectors of transmission)**

The primary vector of transmission of novel coronavirus is people.

People, and the things people touch.

You can't tell if someone is carrying the virus by looking at them. Frankly, you can't tell if you're carrying it either, just by the way you feel. (See "Infected people without symptoms might be driving the spread of coronavirus more than we realized" at: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1066>)

You can't tell if an elevator button or a bar stool has been contaminated.

So, stay away from everyone, and don't touch public surfaces. When you have to be around people, do not get close to them. When you have to touch public things, don't touch your face or body until you wash your hands.

I open doors and push elevator buttons with my elbows. I open the bathroom door with the paper towel I just used to dry my hands after washing them. I do not lean on or touch countertops in public places.

Most of all, now, I do not go out to places that have elevator buttons, or public door handles, or public countertops, unless I absolutely have to.

If you work an essential job that prevents you from isolating at home, focus on the first two rules. Do them perfectly. The only time you should EVER touch your face is AFTER washing your hands, literally before you touch anything else. If you can keep 6 feet of space between you and other people at all times, do it. The virus can linger in the air (although not for very long), so don't breathe other

people's air. (See "The new coronavirus can likely remain airborne for some time. That doesn't mean we're doomed" at: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1067>)

For the rest of us, the most foolproof protection is to stay home with the people you already live with, and have no contact with anyone else.

Being outdoors in the sunshine is safe and healthy — as long as you're not near other people. (See: "Coronavirus Update: Can you go outside during the coronavirus pandemic?" at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1068>)

Go for walks, hikes, runs and bike rides. Just don't get near other people. Cross the road instead of walking past someone on the sidewalk. I know it feels weird. Do it anyway.

It's a lifestyle change

Believe me, I know. I've spent many more months painstakingly following these rules than you have spent even thinking about maybe having to follow them. When I was recovering from transplant, I had to avoid a whole long list of potentially dangerous illness vectors, including fireplaces, potted plants and strawberries (no joke). I know it can be done, and I know that it works.

But there is one major problem that people have, when it comes to following these three simple rules:

People resist simplicity and consistency.

Whether out of fear or arrogance, some people insist on complicating things by trying to add rules that may sound logical but ultimately don't make a significant difference. This creates anxiety over keeping track of all the stuff you think you should be doing, and worse, the inability to focus on the things that really matter.

Take, for example, one suggestion I've seen, to shower immediately when you get home from being out.

(If you work directly with sick people, then by all means, take a shower when you get home.)

For the rest of us —

If your body hasn't touched other people, and you didn't rub yourself all over the deli counter at the supermarket, how would the virus have come in contact with unexposed parts of your body?

If your answer is, "because I opened the public bathroom door and then touched my face, and then scratched an itch on my neck, and then finger-combed my hair and adjusted my septum piercing" then you need to focus WAY more on the three rules we already discussed.

You are not going to be safer with multiple showers a day than you would be by just being vigilant about washing your hands, not touching things, and not being close to other people.

Similarly, coming home and immediately taking off all your clothes at the front door is not necessary (though it may amuse your housemates, which could be good for isolation stress? Idk, you do you.)

If you're practicing social distancing, hand washing and surface cleaning, your clothes and hair will not be a significant vector of transmission. (Again, healthcare providers are an exception, but this is part of the reason why they wear scrubs.)

**What's Not Useful**


Below is a long list of crazy rules I've heard people suggest as safety precautions against COVID-19. As someone who had the mighty responsibility of preventing herself from contracting all manner of illness for a long time, I can tell you that none of these things are useful.

(If someone you know is advocating any of these, please tell them to read "Coronavirus myths debunked: Why your hair dryer won't kill the virus and rinsing your nose with saline won't help" at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1069>)



**HOURS**  
Wed. - Sat. 12-8pm  
Sunday 12-6pm

400 NW 10th Ave.  
352.317.5387  
@thirdhousebooks  
[www.thirdhousebooks.com](http://www.thirdhousebooks.com)



**GAINESVILLE  
COMMUNITY  
ACUPUNCTURE**

AFFORDABLE ACCESSIBLE HEALTHCARE

**Jennifer Downey, AP, Dipl OM**  
ACUPUNCTURE PHYSICIAN  
AP 1673

4131 NW 13th Street, Suite 101  
Gainesville, FL 32609  
[GainesvilleCommunityAcupuncture.com](http://GainesvilleCommunityAcupuncture.com)

Phone: (352) 371-0012  
Cell: (352) 745-2977  
[acujenn@yahoo.com](mailto:acujenn@yahoo.com)

[com/Iguana1069](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1069)) or, better yet, get their preventative advice directly from the CDC (<https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1070>), and stop giving credence to random lists of things on Facebook that supposedly come from an unnamed “friend of a colleague who works at a hospital.”)

- You cannot kill novel coronavirus by heating up your nasal passages with a hair dryer, sauna, steam from your tea or soup, etc. This is probably the most hilarious suggestion I’ve heard. The flawed reasoning goes like this ... “Coronavirus dies at 133 F, and it enters through the nose, so if I heat up my nose to 133 F, that will kill coronavirus.”

There are so many issues with this, but here are two major ones:

Novel coronavirus doesn’t confine itself to your nose, waiting for you to blast yourself in the face with a hair dryer. When your mucus membranes (eyes, mouth, nose) are exposed to it, it enters your cells. It populates your lungs and may live throughout your GI tract. You can’t “catch it” before it reaches your lungs. If you’re positive, you’re positive. Everything after that is your body’s immune and inflammatory response to viral infection — including the pneumonia that causes so many deaths.

Pro-tip: If the inside of your nose reaches 133 F, you are burning. 133 degrees Fahrenheit is the temperature of scalding water. The inside of your nose is a watery mucus membrane, so if it ever got that hot, you would need medical attention. But it never gets that hot under normal circumstances, even in the desert, even in a sauna. Why? Because you’re a mammal, and your body regulates its internal temperature independent of the environment it is in.

- Drinking hot liquids does nothing to prevent viral infection (but they do warm you up and make you feel good, so enjoy!)
- “Keeping the mouth moist” and drinking frequently to “wash the virus into your stomach, where the gastric juices will kill it” is completely ridiculous. Novel coronavirus is present in stool samples. It survives in the GI tract. For other reasons why this is silly, read “No, drinking water doesn’t kill coronavirus” at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1071>

Gargling with “vinegar, salt, garlic, or lemon” does not kill the millions of microscopic virions that invade the cells of your mucus membranes when you become infected with novel coronavirus. Vinegar, salt, garlic, and lemon have mostly antibacterial properties — they are not sufficiently antiviral to be useful in this case.

- “The virus can live on hair and clothes.” This falls into the realm of technically true, but not meaningfully true (healthcare providers excepted). If someone literally coughs directly onto your hair or clothes, go take a shower and wash your clothes. Otherwise, shower daily, wear clean clothes, and wash your clothes regularly, like a normal human person who is clean.

The virus infects when it comes in contact with your eyes, nose or mouth. The likelihood of transferring a critical mass of virions to your face because you went to the grocery store and your sleeve touched the checkout counter is very low (assuming you don’t go home and eat your dirty clothes). (See “Can I catch coronavirus from my phone, clothes or other surfaces?” at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1072>)

- “Avoiding cold foods” has no effect on viral infection or transmission (but if you feel cold, drink or eat something warm! Duh.)

- The virus doesn’t “live in your throat” for three days before “moving” to your lungs. Again, when you are infected, you are infected. There aren’t levels of infection. There are stages of symptom progression as your body ramps up its immune response to the virus, but you can’t prevent virions from invading your lungs by gargling something when you have a sore throat (especially not with mild antibacterial agents like vinegar/salt/garlic/lemon). Viruses do not work like bacteria.

As a brilliant emergency medicine physician (and collaborator on this article) said, “You can’t disinfect the entire inside of your body unless you are dead and embalmed.”

In conclusion: Don’t be scared.

When people aren’t over-complicating prevention, they are doubting that something so scary can even be prevented with such simple methods, and so they act as though it’s hopeless, and there’s nothing they can do.

In reality, if you can just commit to these three simple (albeit, tedious) recommendations, you will dramatically reduce your risk of infection and transmission.

If you do the three things I’ve outlined here as though your life depends on it, then you don’t need to feel afraid. I know it sounds exhausting, but I promise you that you can do this. You just have to become consciously and constantly aware of your contact with things and people, at all times.

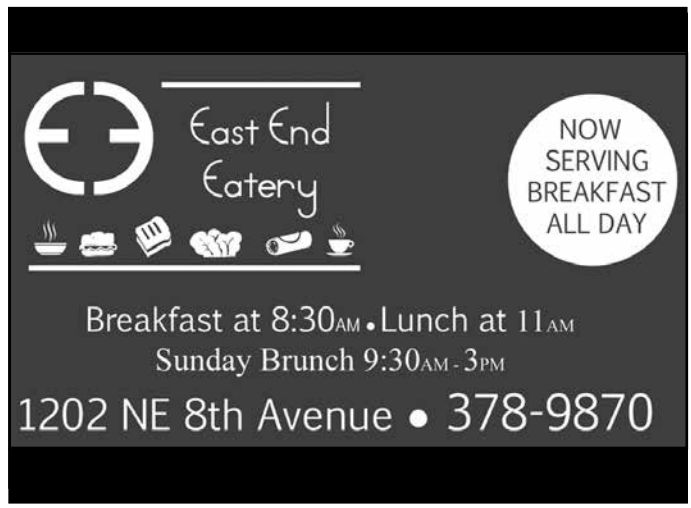
I had WAY less natural immunological protection in my body than most of you have, right now, in your bodies. The hard thing is, you have to do these three things we’ve talked about, and do them well, every single time. The easy thing is, it’s just these three totally uncomplicated, straightforward things.

**Wash your hands, clean the things you touch, avoid people (and the things people touch).**

You’re gonna be ok.

*Author’s note: I collaborated on this article with Dr. Brandon Faza, M.D., who is a physician of emergency medicine in Tampa, Florida, and a wonderful human being. He made sure all of my myth-debunking facts were indeed facts.*

*My wonderful bone marrow transplant doctor, Dr. Dennis Hickstein, M.D. (National Cancer Institute/National Institutes of Health), was kind enough to take the time to review this article and provide feedback as well. I will never be able to adequately repay him for saving my life. 🙏*



**From COMMUNITY, p. 1**

tainty, I believe it is also a time for powerful change – a time to look to our past and remember the ways we have used extraordinary hardship to create extraordinary transformation. Some examples that come to mind are the Jim Crow laws and the movement that led to the Civil Rights act and the Great Depression as a catalyst for social security.

We now have an opportunity for another transformation; one where we center our policies and our economy on the needs of our community and on protecting and honoring those that serve us daily and provide the services that we have come to rely on. It is more important than ever to buy local and support our local economy.

Luckily, here in Gainesville, our community is already taking up this call. We are seeing a huge surge in efforts that are built to provide support for the people that need it most and that allow us to help each other. Since my lens is often focused on the food system, here are some of the resources and opportunities to give back from that perspective:

**Civic Media Center**

CMC is being used as staging for essential mutual aid efforts, allowing volunteers to respond to needs in our community. They are offering free food delivery between 2:30-4:30 on Tuesdays. To volunteer or make a request, fill in their form at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1063>

**Farmers**

Our farmers need our support more than ever. Here’s how you can help:

- The downtown market is currently closed, but is looking for a new place

to re-open. Let your City know this is an essential resource. The Haile Plantation and Alachua County 441 Saturday Markets are still open, and run from 8am to noon.

- Working Food is offering a drive-through farm pick-up on Wednesdays 4-6 and Sat 9-11. Many of these farms have delivery options available. To learn more and see farms participating, visit <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1064>

**Food Service Workers**

Food service workers will be some of the hardest hit in this crisis. Many rely on tips for survival, and are now laid off as restaurants shutter. Ways you can help:

- Keep ordering from your favorite local restaurants so they can remain open. Order a meal for you, and consider ordering one for a friend or first responder.
- Give a meal to family in need – Working Food has a meal program set-up in collaboration with community support organizations, and for \$35 you can provide a meal for a family of 4. See <http://cfncf.org/workingfoodrelief/>
- Send some love via a virtual tip jar: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gainesvilletips/>

**Faith Organizations**

Our faith organizations are stepping up. Catholic Charities and the Alachua County Christian Pastors Association are helping, as are our soup kitchens and foodbanks, like Grace Marketplace and Bread of the Mighty Food Bank, by getting food and organizing food distribution efforts

in collaboration with the City of Gainesville, Alachua County, and Farmshare.

Learn more on their facebook pages:

- CatholicCharitiesGainesville
- ACCPAINFOPAGE
- breadofthemighty
- GRACEMarketplace

**University of Florida**

UF is still offering emergency food assistance for anyone affiliated with UF through the Allan and Cathy Hitchcock Field and Fork Pantry. See: <https://fieldandfork.ufl.edu>

**Other Institutions**

In the long run, we need our institutions to use their buying power to ensure our food system is sustainable and fair, so these crises don’t hit so hard. Let them know this matters!

- Our school board has shown leadership in this by signing on to the Good Food Purchasing Program at <https://goodfoodpurchasing.org>
- A coalition of community organizations has begun a campaign to ask UF to also add standards in their upcoming food service contract. Learn more and sign on to signal your support here: <https://foodjusticeleague.org>

**Additional Resources**

If you are looking for a resource and don’t know where to turn, Alachua County has a website and hotline to help: visit <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1065> or call 311.

Seeing all the amazing ways our community is responding to this challenge reminds me of metamorphosis – the incredible process of change from a caterpillar to a butterfly. At first the caterpillar dissolves and it must seem that hope is lost, but then the cells reconnect with one another, combining as one, and something incredible happens – they work as a team until transformation occurs – and all those separate cells become a butterfly.

Our community is adapting and working together in new and creative ways we could have never imagined in order to provide support, relief, and hope. More than ever we need to work together.

Oddly, this may look like social distancing so we can make sure those on the front lines can do their job. It can also look like ordering a meal from a local restaurant, buying your essentials from a locally-owned store, providing funding to the community organizations doing relief efforts, and volunteering if you can safely do so. 🦋



# Coronavirus pandemic resources, guidelines

by James Thompson

In response to the COVID-19 or “Coronavirus” pandemic, the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners has issued [Emergency Order 2020-09](#) to “Stay at Home and Close all Non-Essential Businesses.” The orders include the towns and cities of Gainesville, Montecocha/LaCrosse, Hawthorne, Alachua, Archer, Waldo, Micanopy, High Springs, and Newberry, as well as the rural and unincorporated parts of the County. Grocery stores, gas stations, banks, auto and bicycle repair, hardware, medical facilities, and other essential services remain open, but with proximity protocols in place.

Coronavirus is deadly. Coronavirus transmits easily. CORONAVIRUS IS NOT THE FLU. This virus gestates in the body for a long time, so we will not see its full effects for weeks or months. It is more deadly and more likely to lead to hospitalization than the flu. As of March 27, the predicted date for Alachua County’s hospital beds to be at capacity is April 10. At this point, doctors may have to decide who gets treatment and who does not. We can prevent that by staying apart, together.

Remember To:

1. Stay away from other humans completely, except for your children and immediate household. If you do encounter people in public, keep at least six feet between you. It’s okay to go outside, but not to closed parks or facilities.

2. Wash your hands for 20 seconds very often, especially before and after going out in public for essential services like groceries. Cover your mouth and nose with your elbow when you sneeze or cough.

3. If you have breathing issues, coughing, a fever, or other symptoms of illness, seek medical attention over the phone or a computer first, if possible. Visiting a hospital or doctor’s office in a non-emergency situation can spread the disease.

4. Use social media, phones, and tablets to stay in touch with friends, family, seniors, and anyone struggling with mental health or addiction.

The best general site to find community resources and updates about the virus are at Alachua County’s government site at <https://alachuacounty.us/Depts/EM/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>.

If you are experiencing hardship at this time, you can apply for unemployment at <https://www.stateofflorida.com/articles/florida-unemployment/>.

Good government is important during these times, but local and personal mutual aid are the best first response to any crisis. A Facebook page for mutual aid has been developed by grassroots organizers. Type “[Gainesville COVID-19 Mutual Aid](#)” into your search, browser, or Facebook search line.

At this time it appears Alachua County is responding to the crisis more seriously than Florida’s governor or the president. If there is any confusion about what to do or who to follow, consider the source. 🐿

---

## Music scene apocalypse tunes Gainesville

by Jacob Adams

Gainesville’s music scene has changed immeasurably since the outbreak of COVID-19 led to local guidance, and eventually mandates, that shut down the bars, restaurants and venues where a large portion of shows take place. Even DIY house venues have stopped hosting shows out of an abundance of caution.

Service industry jobs have evaporated as well, causing many of those who work in the service and entertainment sectors to lose their primary sources of income; the overlap among musicians and service workers is notable.

Many artists have turned to live streamed performances and are encouraging their listeners to donate to them directly to help keep their music careers afloat. Likewise, many Gainesville locals are heeding the call and doing what they can to help support artists; either directly through artist fundraising streams or by creating resources for the community to join in supporting local musicians and service industry workers.

Gainesville Tips ([gainesvilletips.org](http://gainesvilletips.org)) is a new resource that allows servers and bartenders to list their venmo/paypal/

cashapp/etc usernames for patrons to digitally tip them while they’re unable to work in their restaurants. No numbers are available on how much has been raised by the effort so far.

Some musicians who have lost their favorite venues are working to help keep those spaces afloat with fundraising efforts. Kyle Keller ([fb.com/kyle.keller.399](https://fb.com/kyle.keller.399) // Instagram: @kylekellermusic) is a local musician who regularly hosts a Monday night open mic night at The Bull. His GoFundMe campaign to support the venue started with a goal of \$1,000 and has now raised nearly \$4,000, thanks to Gainesville supporting its music community.

The Roadhouse DIY ([fb.com/theroadhousepresents](https://fb.com/theroadhousepresents) // Instagram: @roadhousediy) is a relatively new DIY house venue in town that has moved their productions online to keep supporting the Gainesville music scene. The venue is working with musicians to produce live streams that are safe for the artists and the audience and still bring a sense of solidarity and connectedness through real-time interaction during performances. They’re also developing new interview formats, with an upcoming series of song-for-song mutual interviews with artists over Instagram.

A new local volunteer-run 501(c)3 non-profit, MusicGNV ([musicgnv.com](http://musicgnv.com) // Instagram: @musicgnv), has a mission to support Gainesville’s local music scene by providing resources to artists and internship opportunities for folks to learn sound engineering, videography and show organization.

The concept for MusicGNV was developed before the COVID-19 outbreak and they initially intended to host shows to highlight upcoming local and regional artists, create live performance videos and assist artists in growing their audience and bookings by creating and hosting high-quality electronic press kits.

In light of the massive changes brought about by the ongoing pandemic event in this country, MusicGNV has pivoted to producing live performance videos with local artists who have lost income due to the closure of venues and promoting live stream performances to help the artists raise funds.

Donations made to artists through MusicGNV are tax-deductible and the organization has pledged to pass 100 percent of the donations on to the artists they are supporting. 🐿

# Retiring GOP operative Mac Stipanovich says Trump 'sensed the rot' in Republican party and took control of it

This article was originally published by the Orlando Sentinel on December 24. See more at: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1076>

Dashing and faintly dangerous.

That's how The Washington Post described John McKager Stipanovich, universally known as "Mac," following the 2000 presidential recount.

The silver-tongued and sharp-witted former Marine played a behind-the-scenes, but significant, role in the battle over the presidency as a key adviser to Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris.

Stipanovich, 71, helped orchestrate the rise and ultimate dominance of Republicans in the Sunshine State, before stepping down recently from his post as a lobbyist for Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney.

He directed campaigns for former Gov. Bob Martinez in 1986 and 1990, served as chief of staff to Martinez and was an adviser to former Gov. Jeb Bush.

After more than four decades, Stipanovich isn't exiting the Florida political arena completely. He'll write op-eds for the Tampa Bay Times, continue some lobbying and is still courted for his strategic campaign skills.

The News Service of Florida has these questions for Mac Stipanovich:

**Q: To what extent has President Donald Trump and his influence on the Republican Party contributed to your decision to retire?**

**STIPANOVICH:** I don't know that it contributed to my decision to retire. Retirement may be a little strong. I'm going to, as you've seen, do some writing. I'm going to continue to advise a couple of clients. I don't know that the change is going to be that profound. But having said that, I have very strong opinions about Trump and the current state of the Republican Party.

... Let me be as subtle as I can. I think he's a disgusting man and a disgraceful president. And I believe that he and what he stands for poses an existential threat to American democracy. But other than that, I have no strong views.

As for the party, Trump hasn't transformed the party, in my judgment, as much as he has unmasked it. There was always a minority in the Republican party — 25, 30 percent — that,

how shall we say this, that hailed extreme views, aberrant views. They've always been there, from the John Birchers in the '50s, who thought Dwight Eisenhower was a communist, to the Trump folks today who think John McCain's a traitor. They had different names — the religious right, tea partiers — but they've always been there. They were a fairly consistent, fairly manageable minority who we, the establishment, enabled and exploited.

But ... because of profound changes in the economy worldwide as we transition from an industrial economy to a service economy and as the browning of America continues over time ... and all of the roiling in society on various cultural issues, whether it's gay rights or whatever, all of those pressures caused that minority to metastasize.

It became a majority and a growing majority. It was Trump's genius that he sensed the rot in the party and rather than making a quixotic third-party run, like Ross Perot or George Wallace, and losing, he had the vision to hijack the party of Ronald Reagan. I think he's doing very, very significant damage that I hope is not irreparable.

He daily attacks and batters the guardrails of democracy, whether it's a free press, an independent judiciary, congressional oversight. ... He's an authoritarian, which explains his affinity for authoritarians, and to the extent that he has brought a significant portion of America to doubt even the existence of objective truth, it's dangerous.

**Q: For years, you and I have been saying the political climate is worse than ever. You've hit on some of the issues, but looking back over the arc of your career in politics, how do you think we got to where we are today?**

**STIPANOVICH:** I think it's those three factors I mentioned earlier plus more — rapid cultural change, rapid economic change and dislocation, rapid demographic changes, rising income inequality and all. And a significant portion of the country has felt left behind, disrespected, uncared for, and so they are striking back.

The organizing principle of the Trump Republican party is fear. And specifically, for a great many of them, not all of them, white fright. That's why his race-baiting and that's why the immigration wedge issue worked so well for him. It plays into that anger, anxiety, envy, that is characteristic of his base.

By being president of the United States, he has legitimized and normalized behaviors and attitudes that were beyond the pale three years ago.

**Q: What do you consider your biggest victory?**

**STIPANOVICH:** Well, of course, it would have been the '86 gubernatorial election. Claude Kirk was a fluke back in the '60s and then Bob Martinez was only the second Republican governor elected since Reconstruction.

Martinez was the breakthrough that eventually allowed the Republicans to take over the Senate and then the House. As a result of his election, there was that coalition in the Senate, led by Jim Scott and Dempsey Barron. That was the turning point in Florida. ❧

## Gainesville Quaker Meeting

You are welcome here, where together we seek to live lives committed to peace and justice.



[www.gainesvillequakers.org](http://www.gainesvillequakers.org)

352-372-1070

702 NW 38<sup>th</sup> St.

Worship each Sunday @ 11 am.

# And the good news is ...

## A win for affordable housing in Florida

by Lloyd Dunkelberger, Florida Phoenix

Florida lawmakers have agreed to fully fund the state affordable housing program in the coming year, a significant policy development that impacts struggling Floridians who face rising costs and low wages.

Over the weekend, House and Senate budget negotiators agreed to spend \$370 million for affordable housing initiatives. It is in line with Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, who had urged full funding for the housing programs.

The Legislature's decision is a significant particularly for the state House, which in recent years had been successful in shifting money from the housing program to other state priorities.

Over the last two decades, lawmakers have swept more than \$2 billion from the housing programs, which are funded by a portion of the real-estate tax on property sales, to other spending priorities.

In the current year, lawmakers approved \$200 million for the housing programs, including \$115 million for areas impacted by Hurricane Michael in 2018. But they also shifted more than \$125 million in housing funds to other non-housing programs.

In the new budget year, which begins July 1, the entire \$370 million will be spent on affordable housing, which is critical in a state where many workers face rising housing costs and low wages.

"A family shouldn't see all of their money

consumed by rent because of our high real estate prices," Rep. Kionne McGhee, the Miami-Dade lawmaker who leads the House Democrats, said in a statement.

"Today is a positive move towards a bold agenda to address the lack of affordable housing in our state," McGhee said. "I am proud of my colleagues in both the House and Senate. I would like to personally thank Gov. Ron DeSantis for prioritizing this issue."

For additional background see the remainder of this story at: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1079>, and "Florida Legislature passes affordable housing bill" by Scott Sailer of the JAX Daily Record at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1080>. 🐊

## Zelalem Adefris helps Floridians keep their heads above water

Every year, Grist selects the Grist 50 -- emerging sustainability leaders who've been selected from roughly 1,000 nominations sent in by readers and supporters. These new heroes are transit advocates, social-justice activists, and entrepreneurs, including one who's reducing methane emissions by making what is essentially Beano for cows. There's a battery genius, a climate comedian, a lentil maven . . . and the list goes on. Zelalem Adefris, VP of Policy & Advocacy, Catalyst Miami in Miami, Florida is one of this year's winners. To meet the rest of the Grist 50!, go to <https://grist.org/grist-50/2020/>.

by Chip Giller, Grist

After four years in Miami, Zelalem Adefris sees all too clearly that climate change does more than just flood shorelines. Low-wealth communities already bear the brunt of climate change in

its many forms, she says, including extreme heat and hurricanes, upticks in infectious diseases, and displacement caused by rising inland-property values.

Her solution? Train community members to fight for their rights. Adefris wrote a curriculum for the anti-poverty nonprofit Catalyst Miami's leadership training program on climate justice. It has 260 graduates to date. Each is eligible for a mini-grant program she launched, and graduates are tapped for input on Catalyst's ongoing policy projects.

Adefris is also on the steering committee for the 80-org-strong Miami Climate Alliance, which ensures the city makes equitable climate-infrastructure investments. "We push for transparency and community engagement," she says, "and going to where the need is." 🐊

## Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

- 🐊 **Cuba's Coronavirus Response Is Putting Other Countries to Shame** by Ben Burgis / Jacobin  
*Cuba is caricatured by the Right as a totalitarian hellhole. But its response to the coronavirus pandemic — from sending doctors to other countries to pioneering anti-viral treatments to converting factories into mask-making machines — is putting other countries, even rich countries, to shame.*  
See: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1078>
- 🐊 **Koch-Linked Charity Bankrolled Project Veritas as It Worked With Ex-Spies to Infiltrate Liberal Groups** by Alex Kotch / The Center for Media and Democracy's PR Watch.  
*What we progressives are up against is a powerful lobby of well funded organizations. They are not beyond dirty tricks.*  
See: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1061>
- 🐊 **How the Pandemic Will End** by Ed Yong / The Atlantic  
*The U.S. may end up with the worst COVID19 outbreak in the industrialized world. This is how it's going to play out.*  
See: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1077>
- 🐊 **In Stunning Bipartisan Rebuke of DeVos, Senate Overturns Anti-Student Rule** by David Halperin / Republic Report / Truthout  
*The Senate voted to overturn a new Department of Education rule that would make it nearly impossible for students ripped off by their colleges to have their federal student loans cancelled.*  
See: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1081> 🐊

# In memoriam

## Herschel Hugh Elliot



Photo by  
Ariela Grodner

by Dwight Bradley

Dr. Herschel Hugh Elliott passed away at his Gainesville homestead on Feb. 16. He came into the world a century ago, on Feb. 6, 1920, in Connecticut farmhouse. How he arrived turned out to be a predictor of how he lived: the old fashioned way, at home, during a blizzard, without doctor or midwife. Hertha Bogenhagen, his mother, came from a family of German immigrants who homesteaded in Nebraska. Richard Travis Elliott, his father, grew up under rough circumstances on the frontier in South Dakota. But this was an era of great mobility. By the time Herschel came along, his parents were living in a parsonage in Connecticut. Spoiler alert: Herschel ended up an atheist.

He earned his Bachelor's from Yale in 1941, his Master's from University of Virginia in 1943, and Doctorate, in Philosophy, from Yale in 1950. He taught at American University in Lebanon from 1951 to 1954, and then at UF from 1955 until his retirement in 1986. He was a staunch proponent of the application of philosophy to human affairs. Herschel was always interested big issues in ethics, environmental stewardship, overpopulation, and economics. His book "Ethics for a Finite World" is available at Amazon; his recent essay on capitalism is posted on his website at <https://herschelelliott.wordpress.com/cv/>.

Pacifism ran in the Elliott family. During the last two years of World War II, Herschel served without pay in the Civilian Public Service, managing timberlands in the Florida Panhandle, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. After the war, he made six voyages to Europe as a "Seagoing Cowboy," helping to deliver thousands of pregnant heifers to Germany. He was a minimalist: he wore second-hand clothes, drove old cars, sat in old chairs, enjoyed simple vegetarian food. And he was generous, for years providing land for a colony of homesteaders in what is now San Felasco State Park.

He traveled extensively in New Zealand, Australia, the Fiji and Samoan Islands, Hawaii, the Galapagos, Central America, South America, Europe, and the Middle East. In 1950, as the Cold War was ramping up, he and his mother bought a car in London and drove it 3,000 miles across western Europe, through the Eastern Bloc countries, across the Bosphorus, and finally to Lebanon—where the car sold for a profit. During these travels he kept careful notes on vegetation, soils, farming practices, and weather patterns.

For more than 60 years he split the year between his homestead along Newnan's Lake on the outskirts of Gainesville, and a mid-1800's farmhouse with no plumbing or electricity in Barnard, Vermont. In both places, he raised his own food, nurtured wildflowers (especially orchids), grafted fruit trees, and managed his woodlands.

Herschel is survived by his sister Paula Bradley, his brother David Elliott, and many nephews, nieces, and their partners and children. He left a worldwide circle of close friends of all ages, including his immediate neighbors Barbara Dupont and Sara and Kay Eoff. We all join in mourning his passing and thank him for making the world a far better place. 🐾

## Remembering Granny



Photo by Maxim Moritz

by Joe Courter

Most people simply knew her as Granny, a tall skinny older woman who had lived on the streets of downtown Gainesville for many years. All of us were shocked, after not seeing her around for a few weeks, to learn she had been killed while on her bicycle on January 30. As it was a hit and run, and she had no family to notify, word

did not get out until March 2 when the police ran her picture in the paper trying to track down the hit and run driver who had killed her.

By that afternoon Jenn Martz put a notice out on Facebook that there would be a candlelight vigil in her memory at Bo Diddley plaza that next night, Tuesday, March 3. That invite was shared and shared, and that night over 230 people came out. Turns out Granny had a family, hundreds of grandchildren with whom she had shared a everything from a brief conversation to a supportive relationship. This humble, wise woman could comfort someone who was sitting alone and upset. She would walk someone to their car late at night. She would ask nothing but for a little money and always be grateful whether you chose to or not.

She found a final resting place out at Prairie Creek Conservation Burial after a two-day fundraiser netted well over the \$2,000 needed for that. Prior to her burial on March 6, a service was held at Bo Diddley Plaza, and the wicker casket top was there, and ended up with notes from many dozens people tied to it. The one that is etched in my brain read "Thank you for walking me to my car and convincing me to sleep in it rather than driving home drunk. You may have saved my life."

At the service on Friday, Jon DeCarmine spoke, and mentioned two other people we lost in the past couple years, Pat Fitzpatrick, who longtime crusaded mightily for the poor and oppressed, especially against the meal limit St. Francis House had, and most recently Arupa Chiarini, who ran the Home Van and did support work for the homeless right from her front porch. They provided support for people like Granny, trapped in poverty with no way out. With Granny the giving went the other way, she gave love, smiles, wisdom to people who didn't even know they needed it.

These three were unpaid volunteers who found purpose in fighting the good fight. Maybe they are the ones who should be honored on that blank cement slab where the confederate soldier was. Just an idea now, more perhaps next issue. Thoughts? 🐾



# Earth Day turns 50: yesterday, today and tomorrow

by Carol Mosley

Earth Day, as we know it, was first celebrated in the U.S. in 1970 and brought millions across the globe out of classrooms and work places into the streets to bring environmental concerns to the forefront.

This year on April 22<sup>nd</sup> Earth Day will turn 50 years old. We've come a long way over the decades in some areas, but have lost ground in others, such as species decline, and we have a long way yet to go.

The 1950s brought urban sprawl and the age of convenience, which also meant more stuff to dispose of and more pollution from manufacturing. The car became an essential for every family outside of a major city, spewing CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere without a second thought to the consequences of air pollution, let alone toxicity of leaded gas. Beaches and birds were turning up drenched in oil spilled from tankers. And, we found out the hard way that CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) were acting like Pac Men and eating holes in our ozone layer. The cost of rampant growth was too great.

The 1960s were a time of social change on multiple fronts. The Civil Rights movement set the stage for protests against the Vietnam War and Rachel Carson's book "Silent Spring" shocked the world with the effects of DDT on the bird population, especially our own national bird, the Bald Eagle. Environmental issues were becoming evident across the globe, and the stage was set for a massive public awareness campaign addressing the connection between a healthy planet and our own health and well being.

The first idea to set aside a day to honor Earth and promote peace was made by peace activist, John McConnell, at a UNESCO conference in 1969. A month later, Wisconsin Sen. Gaylord Nelson saw an opportunity to put environmental concerns in the forefront of American minds by declaring an official day to hold "teach-ins" to raise the public consciousness and promote a call to action. In 1969 he had been shocked by an oil slick along the coast of Santa Barbara from a Union Oil platform's blowout releasing more than three million gallons into the ocean. Tens of thousands of sea lions, dolphins, and sea birds died.

Senator Nelson recruited California Republican Congressman Pete McCloskey, who had been working on formation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and environmentalist Denis Hayes, to lead a committee with a staff of 85 to organize the events. The date of April 22, 1970 was chosen as ideal because it was after spring break but before final exams.

It is estimated that 10 percent of the U.S. population attended an Earth Day event somewhere. It was celebrated on thousands of college campuses and in public schools. Mayor Lindsey of New York agreed to close Fifth Avenue to accommodate the crowds and offered use of Central Park for activities. The New York events were carried by all the major TV networks, bringing environmental issues to the attention of the general public. Speeches, teach-ins and other events took place in parks across the nation. Cartoonist Walt Kelly created a poster of his character, Pogo, reminding humans that "we have met the enemy and he is us."

That first Earth Day provided the impetus that led to formation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and passage of landmark environmental legislation such as the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Endangered Species Act. Concern for a

healthy environment had been inserted into the public psyche and onto the political platform. It was a unified understanding across party lines and social stature, by young and old, including labor and commerce, that what happens to our environment happens also to us.

Environmental consciousness was not contained to the U.S. alone, and Earth Day celebrations went global over the decade. Entering into 1990, recycling took a front seat along with preparation for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

Some in the environmental movement took issues with the way Earth Day celebrations were being usurped by corporations and governments to promote products and political agendas rather than public educational opportunities and hands on actions.

As the world turned over into a new millennium, Earth Day 2000 focused on clean energy and global warming. It had the internet as an organizing tool to take the message world wide. That also provided an opportunity for environmental activists and scientists to connect with each other and regular people.

Earth Day turned 40 in 2010 to well funded campaigns of feeding public skepticism over global warming, and denial by corporate polluters and lobbyists who successfully swayed politicians. But in 2016, the United Nations chose Earth Day to sign the Paris Climate Agreement.

Now, in 2020, Earth Day is turning 50 this April 22<sup>nd</sup> and environmental awareness is no less a concern than when it was founded in 1990.

The climate crisis is front and center but addressing it takes many directions. This year will focus on five main components. The Citizen Science component seeks to collect one billion data points provided by citizens of all ages and interests. Education, advocacy, and local volunteering are all important factors. The call for events is our opportunity to enlighten, and demonstrate to, the public as well as support the Artists for the Earth initiative. Uniting science and art provides a shift in perspectives for both, which broadens possibilities for solutions. It also serves to provide a platform for expression of joy and an opportunity to bring newcomers into the fold.

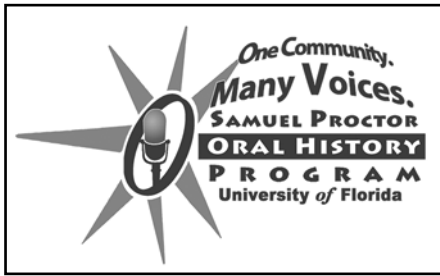
As we work with the generations younger than us to bring Earth Day into the next decade, let's keep in mind the adage that we don't inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.

What are YOUR plans for Earth Day 2020 celebrations? You are welcome to join the Bradford Environmental Forum and the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice for a double weekend of Earth Day activities on April 18 and 25. Visit [www.bradfordenvforum.org](http://www.bradfordenvforum.org) for details.

## Additional Resources:

<https://www.earthday.org/>  
<https://www.earthday.org/earth-challenge-2020-a-citizen-science-initiative/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth_Day)  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4798796/>  
<http://theozonhole.com/cfc.htm>  
<https://www.pexels.com/photo/sky-earth-galaxy-universe-2422/>  
<https://www.pexels.com/photo/ball-shaped-blur-close-up-focus-346885/> 🌌

# History and the people who make it: Byllye Avery - Part 2



*Byllye Avery [BA], feminist health activist, was interviewed by Deidre Houchen [H] in May, 2012.*

*This is the second part of this interview, and 58th in a series of transcript excerpts from the UF Samuel Proctor Oral History Program collection.*

*Transcript edited by Pierce Butler.*

**H:** *How long were you in Atlanta?*

**BA:** About fifteen, sixteen years. It was wonderful. Moving to Atlanta was just incredible.

**H:** *What year was that?*

**BA:** 1981. When I moved to Atlanta, I knew I had to organize Black Women's Health Project.

I had to move to Atlanta in order to get a critical mass of women to sit down and talk to me. The women here were scared of me. I didn't really know exactly why.

It might have been because I was a lesbian, it might have been because I was always talking politics, it might have been because we opened the abortion clinic. All I know is that I couldn't get any traction. It was time for me to leave.

Atlanta is the chocolate city, from the mayor right on down—I was amazed. They became very supportive of us, and in 1983, we held the first National Conference on Black Women's Health Issues.

We thought we'd have three to four hundred women come. We had over two thousand from all over the country as well as Canada. We had seven or eight buses that pulled in. We got a post office box. There would be like five or six envelopes, and twenty registrations in one envelope. Fifty in this one.

That conference — there are so many women who will tell you it changed their lives. It was like the first time we as Black women came together to talk about the reality of our lives. We included all of who we are.

We had workshops—we didn't call it gay or whatever. We called it alternative

lifestyles. Black people are very homophobic. They were also anti-feminist. So instead of using the word "feminism," we used "empowerment."

For many women, that was the first contact with the whole idea of that. I invited Audre Lorde because when Audre Lorde came to the University of Florida to speak—she spoke over at the church—I was sick with the flu, but I felt like if I didn't go to hear her, there would not be another Black woman in the room.

So, I sat in the back of the room so that she would have at least one Black woman hearing her. I wrote her, and she said, "I remember you. And now with all the public speaking I do, of course I remember one Black woman who comes in a room of White women, and she's the only one in the room." She couldn't come during that time, but she and I became friends, just from that one act.

**H:** *Did you identify as a lesbian when you lived in Gainesville?*

**BA:** Pretty much, yeah.

**H:** *Were you connected with any of the gay and lesbian groups here?*

**BA:** You're assuming there were gay and lesbian groups, right?

**H:** *Well there was the Gay Liberation Front.*

**BA:** We had each other, we had ourselves. There were tons of lesbians here. But I wasn't officially affiliated with any group. There wasn't a whole lot of stuff happening.

**H:** *That first conference, who were the women who were there?*

**BA:** They were just regular everyday women. I traveled around the country with a slideshow, talking about our health issues. Our theme was "We're Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired." So many people identified with that.

**H:** *What were some of the biggest health issues and concerns?*

**BA:** Same ones we have now. Nothing's changed. Infant mortality rate among Blacks was twice. Obesity was not quite the issue at that time that it is now. It's really frightening because of who's obese. I mean, girls in the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade are just tons. I went to my fiftieth college reunion and we looked better than the graduating class. They

were young, and they were beautiful.

Their feet were falling all over their shoes, and that's frightening because these women still got to go through child birthing years and all of the complications that come from obesity.

In the beginning days of the Black Women's Health Project, we talked about our physical health issues, but what the women really needed to talk about was psychological distress that they're living in.

They broke the silence and talked about incest, which was a very very serious, detrimental problem. I hadn't focused so much on incest because I'm fortunate to be one of the people it did not happen to. I learned it's a very big problem for Black women. You sit in a circle with twenty-five women, and like eighteen of them have been victims of sexual abuse. It still is a very damaging thing.

Domestic violence was very very serious. That's what Black women needed to talk about, so we cried and talked about it, and broke that silence. We focused on psychological well-being, because if your head is not right, the rest of your body is not going to function. We had to figure out how to break down those barriers.

**H:** *MacArthur fellowship. Please tell me more about you getting that.*

**BA:** You don't know how the nomination happens, anything about that. I got it in 1989. They'd given it to Billie Jean Young, who was an organizer. She did the Southeast Rural Women's Association. I think Marian Edelman got it the next year.

They were giving it to Black women activists. That's why people kept saying to me, "You gonna get one." I never let that hang in my mind, you know? You can't sit around doing anything like that.

One day, I had been out to lunch, and I came back and Sonya says, "Momma, this man keeps calling you from the MacArthur Foundation." We made an application to them for a grant, and I thought it was just a grant officer calling for one more piece of information.

So, he say, "I want to tell you that you won the MacArthur award." I'm like oh my God. He said, "Are you sitting down?" I said, "Well I'm on the floor." I told the staff, "I just got the MacArthur award." The secretary said, "Well how much money did you get?" And I said, "Oh, I don't know, I forgot to ask him."

So you just do what you know in your heart is right to do, and that's not something you even think about. My only involvement is that sometimes when people have been nominated, they will ask me, "Do you know this person and would you write a recommendation?" That's the only involvement.

**H:** *There seems to be differences between Black women who consider themselves feminists, and White women. How did those differences play out?*

**BA:** I was with a group of White women who were really wonderful. Who recognized that they didn't see the world the way I did, but didn't invalidate the way I saw the world.

When I talk about Margaret Terrance and Judy Levy, these were people who I struggled with, to understand where they were coming from, and for them to understand where I was coming from.

Oh my God, you should read bell hooks, you should read Dr. Lorde, and people like Susan Brownmiller and Adrienne Rich, they really had a very good analysis around class, which we had a lot more difference, many times, than race. Class is huge, but the country is afraid of class. Class unites more people than race, quite frankly, and class cuts across races.

So back to your point. I was fortunate to be with people who I could struggle with honestly, and disagree with violently, and it still be okay. And we worked through things. It's a good lesson for me. 'Cause

we can have allies everywhere. And we can have enemies among us, and that was a very painful thing to witness. So that's sort of how I got there.

Sometimes the Creator sends you gifts. You might not like the packaging. You have to be able to look at what you can't see. That's the lesson I've learned.

Like I've been hurt terribly by Black women. The very Black women that I have helped, the very Black women that I'm trying to help. And then I have been helped by White women, who I would have thought would have been against me. Some gave me money out of guilt, and others gave me money because they liked what I was doing. At the end of the day, you need many things to make the work.

One of the things [I] would say to White women is, "Instead of you working with poor Black folks, why don't you go work with poor White folks?" They're the ones who vote for Rick Scott and against their

interest. A lot of damage is done by those types of people. So go work down your color line. And when you work down your color line, you then understand the whole world in a different way. How many of them are willing to go up into Appalachia to work with the poor people up there? How many of them really really go out to Archer?

*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. 🐾*

## Federal judge blocks Trump rule that would have thrown 700,000 people off food stamps

by Democracy NOW!

A federal judge has blocked a Trump rule that would have thrown 700,000 people off of food stamps, known as SNAP, or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The rule would have required affected recipients to work at least 20 hours a week in order to qualify for food stamps beyond the first three months.

U.S. District Court Judge Beryl Howell wrote, "[A]s a global pandemic poses widespread health risks, guaranteeing that government officials at both the federal and state levels have the flexibility to address the nutritional needs of residents and ensure their well-being through programs like SNAP, is essential." 🐾

### INDIE & OLDER ROCK, ELECTRONIC, PUNK, AMERICANA, JAZZ, TALK and MORE!

#### INFORMATIVO PACIFICA

MUSICA LATINA

MON-FRI: 6AM

#### THOM HARTMANN

MON - FRI: 7 AM

#### DEMOCRACY NOW!

AMY GOODMAN

MON - FRI: 8 AM and 1 PM

#### JAZZ

ROBBIE STEVENS

WEEKENDS: 8-11AM



## WGOT 100.1 FM

Gainesville's Community Radio

Streaming now at

# WGOT.org

#### GREAT SHOWS BY:

FRED SOWDER

BILL PERRY

H.R. GERTNER

D.J. CRAMELA

D.J. LUTRA

DOUG CLIFFORD

KEN STEARNS

GARGS ALLARD

BRIANNA

MARKUS ALEXANDER

CHUCK D.

(and others!)

**WE ARE GAINESVILLE'S COMMUNITY RADIO STATION  
CELEBRATING 12 YEARS ON THE AIR!**

# A call to prevent coronavirus from entering the county jail

The following is an excerpt from a letter demanding the release of incarcerated people as a means to reduce COVID-19 transmissions and deaths in Alachua County. It was sent to local public officials on March 25. This effort is being organized by Dream Defenders, in collaboration with many other local organizations, with the support of several city commissioners. To see the full letter and the list of people who signed it, visit [www.gainesvilleiguana.org](http://www.gainesvilleiguana.org). To find out more recent updates on the struggle to free our people, keep up with our social media. Find us as [www.facebook.com/ufdreamdefenders](https://www.facebook.com/ufdreamdefenders), Instagram: @goddsvilledd, and Twitter: @goddsville\_dd.

Mass incarceration is a public health crisis, especially at this time. As of Monday March 23, there were 692 people caged in Alachua County Jail. The most recent data from FDOC claims that an estimated 67.5 percent of inmates in Alachua County Jail are awaiting trial and are thus presumed innocent. The number of people that Alachua County holds for ICE is uncertain, but we know that the number of people turned over to ICE has drastically increased in the last year. Medical experts state that it is not a question of if, but when, COVID-19 will enter jails and prisons. When it enters, the virus is likely to infect everyone inside, including jail employees. As a result, Marc Stern, former Assistant Secretary for Health Services for the Washington State Department of Corrections, proposed that prisons and jails consider releasing people to manage the COVID-19 outbreak.

During this pandemic, incarcerated people are at increased risk of exposure and death. The unsanitary and dangerous living conditions in our jails make them a petri dish for viral infection, and neither the jails nor the county hospitals have the capacity to handle such a large outbreak. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends physical distancing, which is impossible for people who lack freedom of movement due to their incarceration. People routinely share jail cells with twenty to seventy people in cramped quarters. The Department of Corrections does not give people enough food, and as a result, people often share commissary items to fill their stomachs. Medical care is sparse and inadequate, heightening the chance of viral outbreaks and an inadequate subsequent medical response.

Conditions have already worsened for people in jail. On March 16, Alachua County announced the elimination of visits from loved ones, which, given the high price of phone calls, are often the only form of communication that people have with loved ones on the outside. Studies show that such restrictions have adverse effects.

We have a moral calling to our community, which includes people behind jail walls, in the midst of this pandemic. Continued incarceration will be a death sentence. We must stand with the most vulnerable and take the following steps:

- Release all people in jail who are incarcerated pretrial. More than 67 percent of people in Alachua County Jail are currently awaiting trial and have not been sentenced. It may also involve new release mechanisms, like instating “rocket dockets” that prioritize releasing as many people as possible.
- Release all people in jail who have fewer than 180 days of their sentence remaining.
- Release our most at-risk prisoners. This includes releasing elderly and immunocompromised inmates as well as minors from jails, prisons, and detention centers.
- Stop detaining people for ICE and put an end to ICE raids. In 2019, the number of people that Alachua County Sheriff’s Office turned over to ICE more than quadrupled from the year before.
- Issue a moratorium on new bookings and carceral sentences. People who would be arrested for violations of local ordinances and misdemeanors should be issued Notices to Appear by police officers in lieu of arrest to limit their exposure to the jail system.
- People who remain incarcerated must be treated with the dignity they deserve. They must be able to speak freely to their loved ones. Folks inside must also have access to adequate medical care, affordable supplies, safe food, and hygienic products.
- Create and expand emergency housing for those returning to the community after incarceration and connect them to healthcare providers as needed. Through FY 2019-2020, it will cost Alachua County taxpayers \$97,000 per day to maintain the Alachua County Jail. Those resources could be used for much more urgent purposes than keeping people incarcerated. Given the CDC’s recommendations regarding physical distancing, it is a moral imperative for our County to decarcerate and use that money to provide emergency housing to people released from jail who need it. Doing so will protect the lives of thousands of people who are imprisoned in Alachua, while safeguarding the health of all people in Alachua County. 🐾

**THOMAS GROUP REALTY, LLC**  
**JEAN CHALMERS**  
 Realtor®, CRS, GRI  
 Broker-Associate, Senior Vice President

5346 SW 91st Terrace • Gainesville, FL 32608  
 c: (352) 538-4256 • o: (352) 226-8228 • f: (352) 872-5897  
 chalmersrealestate@gmail.com • www.JeanChalmersRealtor.com

**VINE**  
 ORGANIC BAKERY & CAFE

**SOURDOUGH BREADS • PASTRIES • ORGANIC COFFEE**  
**SOUP & SANDWICH • FINE WINE • NATURAL SODAS**  
**BEER • WI-FI • VEGAN & GLUTEN FREE PRODUCTS**

**627 N MAIN STREET**  
 FACEBOOK.COM/VINEGAINESVILLE  
 352.872.5866 • CASH ONLY - ATM ON SITE

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

## Labor Notes

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



[www.labornotes.org](http://www.labornotes.org)

for in-depth and up-to-date  
reporting from around the  
labor movement

Subscribe \$30/year



*Straw & Company*  
Fine Custom Woodwork

## Iguana Directory

Call 352-378-5655 or email [gainesvilleiguana@cox.net](mailto: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](http://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](http://gainesvillegreens.webs.com), [alachuagreen@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 [bstandly@aclufl.org](mailto:bstandly@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](http://americanpromise.net), [sandy.WeThePeople@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.WeThePeople@gmail.com)

**Amnesty International** UF campus chapter of worldwide human rights movement; [www.facebook.com/ufamnesty](http://www.facebook.com/ufamnesty) or [UFamnesty@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.arcinst.org)

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

**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](mailto:centralfldsa@gmail.com), [www.fb.com/centralfldsa](http://www.fb.com/centralfldsa)

**Citizens Climate Lobby** builds awareness and lobbies for sensible climate policies, [btancig@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.civicmediacenter.org), 433 S Main St., Gainesville, 32601

**The Coalition for Racial Justice** [gnv4all@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.chispasuf.org), [chispasuf@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://CodePink4Peace.org), [jacquebetz@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://alachuadems.org)

*Continued on next page*

*Continued from preceding page*

**Divest Gainesville** advocates divesting City financial assets from fossil fuel industries and educating on racial justice and climate change. [youngersn@outlook.com](mailto: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

**Dream Defenders** is a socialist, feminist abolitionist organization, a safe space for people of color. Facebook: [goddsville dream defenders](https://www.facebook.com/goddsville.dream.defenders)

**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](mailto: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](http://www.finalfriends.org), [final.friends.org@gmail.com](mailto:final.friends.org@gmail.com), 352-374-4478

**The Fine Print** Quarterly magazine founded in 2008 with political, social and arts coverage. [thefineprintmag.org](http://thefineprintmag.org)

**Florida School of Traditional Midwifery** A clearinghouse for information, activities and educational programs. 352-338-0766 [www.midwiferyschool.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.gaaponline.org), [info@gaaponline.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:Gainesvilleiaij@gmail.com), [www.gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com](http://www.gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com), 352-377-6577

**Gainesville NOW** [www.gainesvillenow.org](http://www.gainesvillenow.org). [info@gainesvilleNOW.org](mailto: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](http://gainesvillerespite.org)

**Gainesville Roller Rebels** - a womens' Flat Track roller derby team needs skaters and volunteer assistance. [join@gainesvillrollerrebels.com](mailto: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](mailto:officers@ufgau.org), [www.ufgau.org](http://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](http://www.growradio.org), PO Box 13891, Gainesville, 32604, 352-219-0145 (v), 352-872-5085 (studio hotline)

**The Humanist Families of Gainesville** meet the last Thursday of the month from 6 to however long they want to stay, play, talk, buy veggies, eat, dance, at One Love Cafe. Visit us on FB Humanist Families of Gainesville and leave a message.

**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](http://www.gainesvillehumanists.org) or [facebook.com/humanistsocietyofgainesville](https://www.facebook.com/humanistsocietyofgainesville); [gainesvillehumanists@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:email.ufhumanistsoncampus@gmail.com), alternative: [j.bontems@ufl.edu](mailto:j.bontems@ufl.edu), phone- 561-374-3537

**Ichetucknee Alliance** focuses on activities to save the Ichetucknee River. <http://ichetuckneealliance.org/>, [ichetuckneealliance@gmail.com](mailto:ichetuckneealliance@gmail.com), 386-454-0415, P. O. Box 945, High Springs.

**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](http://indivisiblegnv.org), [projectmanagement@indivisiblegnv.org](mailto:projectmanagement@indivisiblegnv.org)

**Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC)**, branch of IWW, [GainesvilleIWOC@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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) <<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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:nlggainesville@gmail.com) or [www.nlg.org](http://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](http://www.womensliberation.org), P.O. Box 14017, Gainesville, 32604, 352-575-0495, [nw1@womensliberation.org](mailto:nw1@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 Cty Public Library. 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. Meets 3rd Weds at 6:30 in Rum Island building, 2070 SW CR 138, Ft White. 386-243-0322, <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 Awareness Month** is a planning committee for spring's UF Pride events, ufpridemonth@gmail.com

**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](http://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 Life South Building, 4039 W. Newberry Rd, 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, stand-byourplan@gmail.com; <http://standbyourplan.org/>

**Student Animal Alliance** UF based group that promotes animal rights through education, volunteering and social events. facebook: student animal alliance, instagram @studentanimalallianceUF

**Students Demand Action** is a youth led gun violence prevention group. sdagainesville@gmail.com

**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 the Pride Center

located in the Liberty Center at 3131 NW 13 St.. 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](http://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/](http://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/>

**WELLS** (wellness, equity, love, liberation and sexuality) is a healing research collective aiding UF marginalized communities, especially QTPOC, facebook WELLS healing and research collective

**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: m.facebook.com/wmflgnv/; [www.facebook.com/groups/wmflgnv/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/wmflgnv/); [Instagram.com/womensmarchgnv/](https://www.instagram.com/womensmarchgnv/); [Twitter.com/WMFL\\_Gnv/](https://twitter.com/WMFL_Gnv/) and/or email [wmw@hearourvoicegnv.org](mailto: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](mailto:boston@wspus.org). Upon request the Party will provide membership applications, <http://wspus.org>.

**Zine Committee** works to preserve and promote Travis Fristoe Zine Library at the CMC, new meeting time TBD - see Facebook, [cmzinecommittee@gmail.com](mailto:cmzinecommittee@gmail.com) ✨

# Civic Media Center SpringBoard postponed

It had all come together so well, the date, the speaker, the place. We were in the midst of planning the food when the Coronavirus invaded like little alien ships attacking the humans of Earth. So we had to postpone SpringBoard. And, as well, the CMC has had to postpone all events except the Free Groceries on Tuesdays.

SpringBoard is an important fundraiser for the CMC. Postponing the event will not postpone our need for funds to keep the CMC going. This virus is a major disruption to the entire economy, as well as all our lives. Just as the disease itself has its worst impacts on weakened or compromised humans, so the small businesses and nonprofits that live close to the edge, economically speaking, are most seriously affected by the accompanying disruptions in their revenue streams.

So please, any donation large or small will help the 501(c)3 CMC keep itself going during this downtime while we wait for the virus to clear out. Rent is still there, utilities should be less, and we want to keep paying our coordinators who will concentrate on fundraising and future planning.

Checks can be mailed to the CMC at 433 S. Main St. Gainesville, FL 32601, or a donation can be made thru the new and improved website's PayPal. [www.civicmediacenter.org](http://www.civicmediacenter.org)

## 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 1960s, Dr. Simmons saw, first hand, the evolution of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as world events and his interactions with the Civil Rights Movement changed and expanded through little thinking and actions.*

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

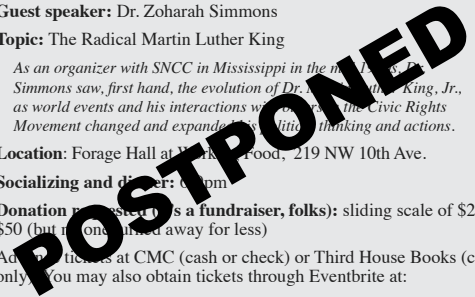
**Socializing and dinner:** optional

**Donation requested (not a fundraiser, folks):** sliding scale of \$25-\$50 (but no one turned away for less)

Adult 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



# Coalition calls for sustainable, equitable food at UF

by Ashley Nguyen

The world's leading experts — from the United Nations to the Lancet Medical Journal— have released studies stating that in order to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, there needs to be a call for the world to limit greenhouse-gas intensive foods through shifts to healthier and more sustainable diets.

These findings also come amidst growing climate protests led by young people across the country and the world demanding stronger action on climate change.

Many of these protesters attend high schools and colleges like UF, where food is provided by Aramark. Meat and other livestock products we eat are responsible for nearly 15 percent of global climate change emissions — meat is responsible for as much climate pollution as all transportation worldwide. Beef alone, which has the biggest climate footprint of all, is about 34 times more climate pollution-intensive as legumes like beans and lentils, pound for pound.

While Aramark has released a plan for sustainability, it did not address the

significant emissions associated with its menus, one of the company's largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions. And the company failed to even set a goal for how much climate pollution they are aiming to reduce, which is the hallmark of a meaningful climate plan, and something the company pledged to do at a shareholder meeting in 2019.

Aramark sells more meals than almost anyone else nationwide, and as such, they have a unique opportunity to become an industry leader when it comes to climate-

*See FOOD JUSTICE, p. 7*



Established 1986

## The Gainesville Iguana

Gainesville's progressive newsletter and events calendar

Gainesville Iguana, P.O. Box 14712, Gainesville, FL 32604

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

(352) 378-5655

[GainesvilleIguana@cox.net](mailto:GainesvilleIguana@cox.net)

[www.gainesvilleiguana.org](http://www.gainesvilleiguana.org)

[facebook.com/gainesvilleiguana](https://facebook.com/gainesvilleiguana)

Articles from current and past issues since 1996, and PDFs of print issues since 2012 are available at [www.gainesvilleiguana.org](http://www.gainesvilleiguana.org)

**Subscribe!**  
**Individuals:** \$15 a year  
 (or more if you can)  
**Low/No income:** what you can  
**Groups:** \$20 a year