



The Gainesville Iguana

A progressive newsletter
and events calendar

May/June 2020
Vol. 34, Issue 5/6

Mutual Aid the GNV way

New Alachua County collective: Make housing a human right

by Ashley Nguyen, Alachua County Labor Coalition
Coordinator

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to wreak upon Gainesville's most vulnerable communities, several community members and students from the University of Florida have stepped up in efforts to alleviate the hardships brought on by these unprecedented times.

Gainesville Housing Justice <<https://www.facebook.com/GNVHousingJustice/>> is a collective formed when it became clear that landlords within Alachua County would not be providing the rent relief that is integral to Gainesville's adjustment to the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the core of the group, composed of Gainesville's most vulnerable tenants, is a mission to make housing a human right in Alachua County.

GNV Housing Justice exists to coordinate a diverse group of tenants as they organize with their neighbors, form tenants' councils, and make collective demands of their landlords. These demands may differ based on individual needs, but they are ultimately all linked by common interests in lowered or frozen rent, relief

See *HOUSING*, p. 20

Community Immigration Mutual Aid fighting for undocumented workers, families

by Cristina Cabada Sidawi, Alachua Cty. Labor Coalition Coordinator

COVID-19 affects everyone, it does not discriminate on immigration status. Yet, relief responses by the federal government have proved to discriminate immigrants and have left them out. Over the past couple of months, all of us have experienced the debilitating consequences of the pandemic, however, we face these consequences differently.

See *IMMIGRATION*, p.20

REGULAR FEATURES

From the Publisher	3
And the Good News is	7
Editors' Picks	9
In Memoriam	17
Oral History	18-19
Directory	21-23



Fix Florida's unemployment insurance system now!

by Jeremiah Tattersall
Field Staff, Florida AFL-CIO,
North Central Florida Central Labor Council

The novel coronavirus has thrown Florida's fragile economy into disarray, and tens of thousands of Floridians are facing sudden job losses and personal financial crises. Simply put, the State of Florida must do everything in its power to stave off the severity of an economic downturn and support working people.

But Florida's Unemployment Insurance (UI) system is on the front line of this economic crisis and it simply isn't up to the task.

Unemployment Insurance was designed to help workers and their families, but also to be a vital tool for economic stimulus, giving workers spending power to keep local economies from collapsing.

Over the past twenty years, the Florida Legislature has refused over \$800 million in federal funds to modernize the system, and in 2011, Governor Rick Scott signed legislation that made it almost impossible for workers to access, shortened the time workers are eligible for benefits and made it much easier for employers to deny any benefits. If workers can access the system, their benefits are capped at a meager \$275 per week. In fact, Florida's UI system has been ranked dead last in the nation!

Florida's UI Trust Fund has the resources to assist working families and our state's economy. There is currently \$4 billion in the UI Trust Fund; that money needs to get out the door, into the pockets of the working families who need it and then into our local economies to help minimize the coming economic catastrophe.

Every \$1 paid in benefits generates \$1.64 in economic activity! A reliable UI system is essential for stopping the spread of coronavirus. In order for Florida to effectively contain COVID-19, Floridians must stay home. However, any quarantine measures will inevitably fail if Floridians do not have the financial security they need to pay their bills.

Governor DeSantis must do more to immediately modernize this system by both increasing benefits and removing unhelpful and unnecessary barriers so the sudden influx of unemployed Floridians can get financial relief now.

The Governor attempted to pass the buck to the state legislature saying he cannot

make certain changes. This isn't true but he still refuses to call a special session. State Senator Keith Perry and Representative Chuck Clemons seem equally uninterested in addressing the structural issues underlying the current UI system.

Please go to flworkersneedrelief.com to

sign the petition to fix the Unemployment Insurance system. Also, please call the following politicians and urge them to call a special session to address the crisis.

- Rep. Chuck Clemons - 352-313-6542
- Senator Keith Perry - 352-264-4040
- Gov. Ron DeSantis - 850-717-9337 🐘

Coping in GVN during COVID-19

by Joe Courter

Here we are in our holding pattern. So much of the last Iguana is still quite relevant, so if you didn't see it you can find it at the website www.gainesvilleiguana.org.

Please support our advertisers; some are still open to serve you, others like Flashbacks and Third House have had to wait out the shut-down. (You can still order books through Third House, though.)

Our live music hosts like Hardback Cafe, Atlantic, Boca Fiesta's Backyard and Looseys are silent, and the musicians who enrich our lives limited to lonely streamed "shows." Try and find these shows and make donations or buy their music.

If you want to see your favorite local businesses still in business when we open back up, show them some love and make donations, order out and be sure to tip.

We hope you are coping well, our lives are so varied these days. Some people are still at work, but from home. Some have to deal with kids being out of school and around the house. Some are out of work and trying to figure out what to do next.

People with families or partners are in closer proximity than they'd wish. Some are on their own without much human

touch at all. All of us are dealing with the necessary frustrations of masking for the social good when out in stores, meaning traded smiles are a thing of the past, the vibe being much more tense as we distance ourselves.

This is a time where we need to reach out to others, check in on friends and even those we have not spoken to in a long time. It does them and ourselves good to remind ourselves that our human connections are still there.

It is also a time where we need to get outside and get exercise of whatever sort you enjoy. I have noticed this extra need in myself, as life these days has a tension, a stress built into it, and that needs to be released somehow.

I am a pretty well-grounded and well-adjusted person, not a person who has to contend with personal issues like depression, financial insecurities, or interpersonal issues from family, work or living situation, yet I am increasingly finding this a difficult time.

As time passes this will not get easier, and I am sure will push some people to their coping limits. If it is getting to you, reach out, please. 🐘

Canada bans 1,500 models of assault weapons

by Agence Franace-Presse, Raw Story

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Friday announced an immediate ban on 1,500 models of military-style assault weapon, responding to a mass shooting and arson spree that left 22 people dead.

"These weapons were designed for one purpose, and one purpose only: to kill the largest number of people in the shortest amount of time," Trudeau told a news briefing. "There is no use, and no place for such weapons in Canada."

The killing spree, the worst in Canadian

history, began on the night of April 18 in Nova Scotia and led to a 13-hour manhunt for the shooter, who was eventually shot dead by police. Trudeau said there will be a two-year amnesty for people who currently own assault-style weapons to protect them from liability, and parliament will eventually pass legislation to compensate them for turning in their guns.

From now on, he said, "it is no longer permitted to buy, sell, transport, import or use military-grade assault weapons in this country." 🐘

From the publisher ...

Double whammy

We are having a double whammy within a worldwide event. What started it and who is suffering? We humans.

Animals and plants are okay, there is no physical infrastructure to rebuild. Covid 19: our technology gave us a great head start on seeing it coming, and even a body of research to similar viruses. Unfortunately another aspect of our technology — our ability to travel by air, sea and rail — has allowed the virus to get out into and around the world.

As typical with viruses, those that get it have varied success in fighting it off. Humans of today have all kinds of assistance in doing this, in fact a major, complex infrastructure of buildings, drugs, diagnostic equipment and personal protective equipment are there. But, unfortunately, and especially of late, in this country that infrastructure is run like a business, and run on the cheap. It got overwhelmed and it will continue to overwhelm areas of major outbreaks.

This is a mean and sneaky virus.

With regard to seeing it coming, there was that problem of how to read and respond to the warnings, and then how to implement that response. Science and ethics said it clearly: isolation and containment. Lock down and avoid close human contact, the number one source of transmission. Flatten the curve, you can't stop it but you can slow it down. This whammy will run its course around the planet as it spreads and will be devastating in overcrowded refugee camps and urban third world slums, where the means of slowing it down are near impossible.

The other whammy has just begun, and that is the impact of that needed response on our complex economic and governmental systems. The shutdown's affecting our lives in many ways, and the highest impact is the loss of income for so many, layoffs if lucky, or possibly closures of businesses. These people will need help because rent and bills will still be there. Bailout money is essential, or some sort of relief. And that ought to come from that same place that can fund wars and weapon systems!! And it needs to go from that lofty mystery place to the people on the bottom, ALL the way down the chain.

From renters to small landlords and homeowners, to those who hold their mortgages, and those mortgage companies to the banks... all need to be made whole to get the system back where it was. It is a big (overly) complex system, and a partial bailout will hurt people. Direct, nonbureaucratic help is needed. I am seeing so much stepping up in our community, getting food and economic relief out while at the same time great cooperation from local government in keeping we social beings from doing the activities which would spread it. However, the State and National response is still shaky at best. Yes, thanks for that \$1,200, but for most folks that is already spent. Those that should get unemployment compensation can't, and others are not even eligible due to our gig economy and the informal economy. They especially need help!

This is big folks, and will impact us for years. But as a world event we can see what's being done elsewhere, and we should start taking these comparisons seriously, because this country is moving in some dangerous directions. The rising authoritarian track the US is on is obvious to most and there are well funded sources who are promoting it. This is not new; it began under Reagan with increased assistance to the wealthy and the smashing of the union movement. With the fall of the USSR, the fear of communism changed to a fear and revulsion of our own "big" government. Trump has been undoing hard fought rights and regulations at an astonishing clip. We face a huge number of conservative judges in lifetime jobs. And as that is playing out we have the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, and a pivotal election months away. Get ready.

p.s. Double Whammy is also the name of a great Carl Hiaasen book ... highly recommended for some humorous escapist reading. 🐢



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:
Linda Bassham
Joye Barnes
Jenny Brown
Dave Melosh
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.

Trump destroyed country he promised to make great again

by Fintan O'Toole

This article was originally published by the Irish Times on April 25. See the original at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1089>

Over more than two centuries, the United States has stirred a very wide range of feelings in the rest of the world: love and hatred, fear and hope, envy and contempt, awe and anger. But there is one emotion that has never been directed towards the U.S. until now: pity.

However bad things are for most other rich democracies, it is hard not to feel sorry for Americans. Most of them did not vote for Donald Trump in 2016. Yet they are locked down with a malignant narcissist who, instead of protecting his people from Covid-19, has amplified its lethality. The country Trump promised to make great again has never in its history seemed so pitiful.

Will American prestige ever recover from this shameful episode? The U.S. went into the coronavirus crisis with immense advantages: precious weeks of warning about what was coming, the world's best concentration of medical and scientific expertise, effectively limitless financial resources, a military complex with stunning logistical capacity and most of the world's leading technology corporations. Yet it managed to make itself the global epicentre of the pandemic.

As the American writer George Packer puts it in the current

edition of the Atlantic, "The United States reacted ... like Pakistan or Belarus – like a country with shoddy infrastructure and a dysfunctional government whose leaders were too corrupt or stupid to head off mass suffering."

It is one thing to be powerless in the face of a natural disaster, quite another to watch vast power being squandered in real time – wilfully, malevolently, vindictively. It is one thing for governments to fail (as, in one degree or another, most governments did), quite another to watch a ruler and his supporters actively spread a deadly virus. Trump, his party and Rupert Murdoch's Fox News became vectors of the pestilence.

The grotesque spectacle of the president openly inciting people (some of them armed) to take to the streets to oppose the restrictions that save lives is the manifestation of a political death wish. What are supposed to be daily briefings on the crisis, demonstrative of national unity in the face of a shared challenge, have been used by Trump merely to sow confusion and division. They provide a recurring horror show in which all the neuroses that haunt the American subconscious dance naked on live TV.

If the plague is a test, its ruling political nexus ensured that the US would fail it at a terrible cost in human lives. In the process, the idea of the U.S. as the world's leading nation – an idea that has shaped the past century – has all but evaporated.

Other than the Trump impersonator Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil, who is now looking to the U.S. as the exemplar of anything other than what not to do? How many people in Düsseldorf or Dublin are wishing they lived in Detroit or Dallas?

It is hard to remember now but, even in 2017, when Trump took office, the conventional wisdom in the U.S. was that the Republican Party and the broader framework of U.S. political institutions would prevent him from doing too much damage. This was always a delusion, but the pandemic has exposed it in the most savage ways.

What used to be called mainstream conservatism has not absorbed Trump – he has absorbed it. Almost the entire right-wing half of American politics has surrendered abjectly to him. It has sacrificed on the altar of wanton stupidity the most basic ideas of responsibility, care and even safety.

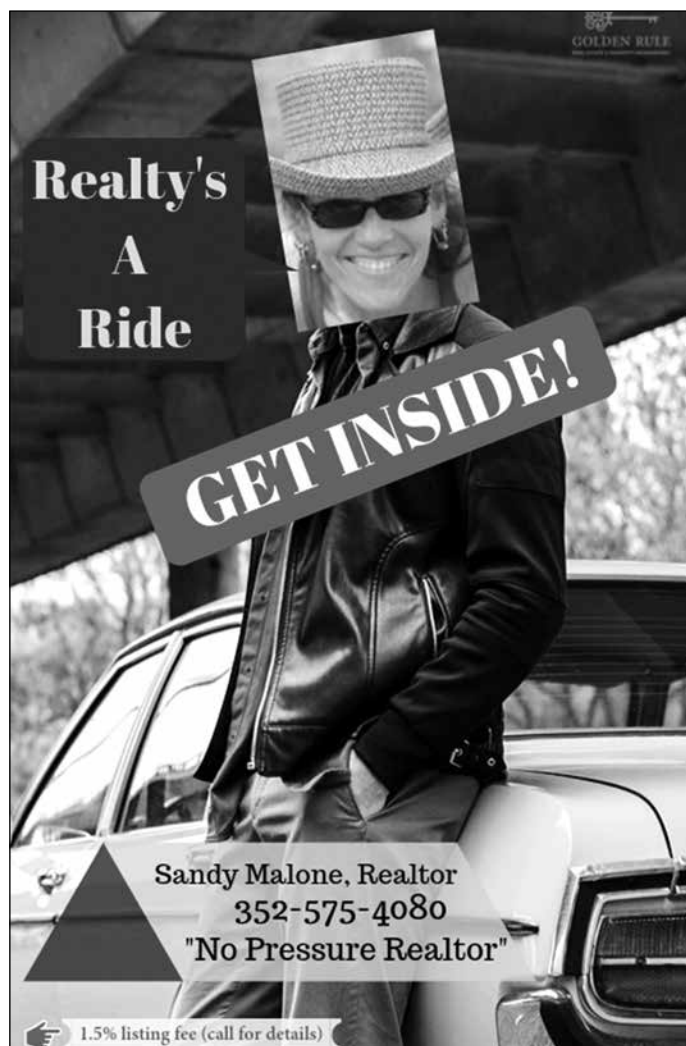
Thus, even at the very end of March, 15 Republican governors had failed to order people to stay at home or to close non-essential businesses. In Alabama, for example, it was not until April 3rd that governor Kay Ivey finally issued a stay-at-home order.

In Florida, the state with the highest concentration of elderly people with underlying conditions, governor Ron DeSantis, a Trump mini-me, kept the beach resorts open to students travelling from all over the US for spring break parties. Even on April 1st, when he issued restrictions, DeSantis exempted religious services and "recreational activities."

There is, as the demonstrations in US cities show, plenty of political mileage in denying the reality of the pandemic.

Georgia governor Brian Kemp, when he finally issued a stay-at-home order on April 1st, explained: "We didn't know that [the virus can be spread by people without symptoms] until the last 24 hours."

This is not mere ignorance – it is deliberate and homicidal stupidity. There is, as the demonstrations this week in U.S. cities



have shown, plenty of political mileage in denying the reality of the pandemic. It is fuelled by Fox News and far-right internet sites, and it reaps for these politicians millions of dollars in donations, mostly (in an ugly irony) from older people who are most vulnerable to the coronavirus.

It draws on a concoction of conspiracy theories, hatred of science, paranoia about the “deep state” and religious providentialism (God will protect the good folks) that is now very deeply infused in the mindset of the American right.

Trump embodies and enacts this mindset, but he did not invent it. The US response to the coronavirus crisis has been paralysed by a contradiction that the Republicans have inserted into the heart of US democracy. On the one hand, they want to control all the levers of governmental power. On the other they have created a popular base by playing on the notion that government is innately evil and must not be trusted.

The contradiction was made manifest in two of Trump’s statements on the pandemic: on the one hand that he has “total authority,” and on the other that “I don’t take responsibility at all.” Caught between authoritarian and anarchic impulses, he is incapable of coherence.

But this is not just Donald Trump. The crisis

has shown definitively that Trump’s presidency is not an aberration. It has grown on soil long prepared to receive it. The monstrous blossoming of misrule has structure and purpose and strategy behind it.

There are very powerful interests who demand “freedom” in order to do as they like with the environment, society and the economy. They have infused a very large part of American culture with the belief that “freedom” is literally more important than life. My freedom to own assault weapons trumps your right not to get shot at school. Now, my freedom to go to the barber (“I Need a Haircut” read one banner this week in St Paul, Minnesota) trumps your need to avoid infection.

Usually, when this kind of outlandish idiocy is displaying itself, there is the comforting thought that, if things were really serious, it would all stop. People would sober up. Instead, a large part of the U.S. has hit the bottle even harder.

And the president, his party and their media allies keep supplying the drinks. There has been no moment of truth, no shock of realisation that the antics have to end. No one of any substance on the US right has stepped in to say: get a grip, people are dying here.

If he is re-elected, toxicity will have

become the lifeblood of American politics.

That is the mark of how deep the trouble is for the U.S. – it is not just that Trump has treated the crisis merely as a way to feed tribal hatreds but that this behaviour has become normalised.

When the freak show is live on TV every evening, and the star is boasting about his ratings, it is not really a freak show any more. For a very large and solid bloc of Americans, it is reality.

And this will get worse before it gets better. Trump has at least eight more months in power. In his inaugural address in 2017, he evoked “American carnage” and promised to make it stop. But now that the real carnage has arrived, he is reveling in it. He is in his element.

As things get worse, he will pump more hatred and falsehood, more death-wish defiance of reason and decency, into the groundwater. If a new administration succeeds him in 2021, it will have to clean up the toxic dump he leaves behind. If he is re-elected, toxicity will have become the lifeblood of American politics. Either way, it will be a long time before the rest of the world can imagine America being great again.

Fintan O’Toole is an Irish columnist, literary editor, and drama critic for The Irish Times, for which he has written since 1988. ✍

FGS delivers free food to 300+ Gainesville folks weekly



by Manuela Osorio

Gainesville is in great need. With the advent of COVID-19, many residents have been unable to access their usual sources of food. The pandemic has most significantly affected community members who were already vulnerable. Many have lost their jobs and are having difficulty affording food. Many no longer have access to transportation to grocery stores. Many are immunocompromised and cannot risk a trip to a store.

The urgent needs of our community mem-

bers are not being met by any other county agencies, so a local organization called the Free Grocery Store has stepped up.

The Free Grocery Store (FGS) is a mutual aid network of volunteers, farmers, bakers, and delivery drivers.

Each week, volunteers from the Free Grocery Store deliver fresh produce, baked goods and non-perishables to over 300 Gainesville residents.

Prior to COVID-19, the Free Grocery Store was an in-person event held at the Civic Media Center each week, typically serving around 30 people.

The sudden need for everyone to stay home caused a spike in demand for food across Gainesville. The Free Grocery Store rapidly evolved to meet this challenge. Volunteers collect food from farms, bakers, food banks and grocery stores, pack it for distribution and distribute it.

Recipients of the deliveries have the option to specify dietary restrictions as well as request foods that do not require preparation

if they do not have access to a kitchen.

The collective work of people from a variety of backgrounds developed the Free Grocery Store. It partners with local farms, businesses and organizations, including Madres Sin Fronteras and Dream Defenders, to make food accessible for those in need.

Money donations can be made to [tiny.cc/freegrocerystoregnv](https://www.tinyurl.com/freegrocerystoregnv).

Food, sanitary, and PPE donations can be dropped off at the counter in front of the Civic Media Center at 433 S. Main St. Right now they need gloves for packing food.

To stay up to date with the Free Grocery Store, you can follow their Instagram <[@gnvfgs](https://www.instagram.com/gnvfgs)> or Facebook <<https://www.facebook.com/GNVFGS/>> accounts.

If you want to help FGS in any way, feel free to email fgsgnv@gmail.com. To donate online, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/iguana1090>.

Peace, love, CMC. ✌

Bond fund supports Alachua County Jail incarcerated

by Anya Bernhard, Gainesville Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC)

"The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons."

- Fyodor Dostoevsky

The ongoing public health crisis is just the tip of the iceberg of the dysfunction and depravity within the Alachua County Jail.

According to one article from *Business Insider*, it is estimated that the transmission of COVID-19 is ten times higher in jails, prisons, and detention facilities.

It is impossible to practice social distancing measures inside the Alachua County Jail. Further, even when provided with proper personal protective equipment (PPE), the record shows that there are no guarantees that employees of the Alachua County Jail will comply with basic safety measures.

On Monday, April 27, a group of activists and organizers held a vigil outside the jail in the wake of the devastating news that an individual had died by suicide inside their cell. While outside in the parking lot, the group, all donned with face masks, was confronted by multiple officers of the jail without any PPE. When vigil attendees asked the officers why they were not taking proper precautions, they stated that it was their right to choose to not wear a mask.

This incident exemplifies the utter negligence of the employees at the Alachua

County Jail and Sheriff Sadie Darnell's paltry response to the public health crisis.

Concerned citizens, activists, and organizers made demands as early as March 16 asking Sheriff Sadie Darnell and State Attorney Bill Cervone to take swift action in response to the prospect of COVID-19 entering the jail.

Requests for compassionate release were met with inaction and silence.

As a consequence, four local organizations — the Legal Empowerment & Advocacy Hub (LEAH), the Gainesville chapter of the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC), Goddsville Dream Defenders (DD), and the Alachua County Labor Coalition (ACLC) — teamed up to start a community bond fund to bring people being held in the Alachua County Jail home, where they belong.

The issues inside the Alachua County Jail are many and various. For one, arbitrarily high monetary bonds are keeping about 50 percent of the roughly 600 people currently detained in the jail for no other reason than individuals cannot afford to pay the cost of bail.

In other words, half of the people in the Alachua County Jail who are being held pretrial, and have yet to be convicted of any crime, and are thereby presumed innocent in the eyes of the law, have been left languishing in a cell because of their inability to buy their freedom.

What does it say about our community that under the current conditions of the jail, we would rather allow someone to lie in wait of a potentially lethal virus because they cannot pay up?

On the evening of May 4, a young man was released on a bond of \$10,000. He was arrested for an incident wherein a police officer asked him for ID, and he identified himself by his first and middle name instead of the name on his state ID, which was not on his person at the time of the incident.

How many University of Florida undergraduates do you see being arrested at Midtown on a Tuesday evening for presenting fake ID? Make no mistake, this young man was criminalized excessively and unjustly by this officer for being black and simply existing. Not only is it absurd that this young man was incarcerated in the first place, but that such action was taken during the ongoing crisis is particularly disturbing.

Arrests are still happening at the hands of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and the Gainesville Police Department. People's lives are being put at risk for "crimes" such as probation violations, drug possession, fraudulent credit card use, resisting an officer without violence, disorderly conduct, and public intoxication.

Instead of throwing people in cages for these incidents, we must turn to the root causes of why people in our community are not getting their fundamental human needs met.

The Alachua County COVID-19 Bond Fund was started in the midst of this public health crisis when the responsible parties, Sheriff Darnell and State Attorney Cervone, failed to act.

However, what the work of the bond fund has revealed is that COVID-19 only exacerbates the failure of the jail, the Court Services program, and the social services in the city and county designated to provide people with basic needs.

The health of those inside the jail is not separate from community health.

As of today, 10 people have been released due to these efforts so far. With your support, we can continue to bring people home. Make a contribution at actionnetwork.org/fundraising/alachua-county-covid-19-bond-fund 🐾



And the good news is ...

As the state fails to act, a federal judge promises relief for Florida felons unable to vote because of court debt

by Lloyd Dunkelberger, Florida Phoenix

At the conclusion of an eight-day trial over the constitutionality of a Florida law requiring former felons to pay all their court costs before they can vote, U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle said Wednesday, May 6, that he will help those too poor to pay their legal obligations.

Hinkle chided the Florida Department of State for failing to produce such a plan, even after he issued a preliminary injunction last October after finding that the 2019 state law did not address former felons who are “genuinely unable” to pay fines, fees, court costs, and restitution that are part of their sentences.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit upheld Hinkle’s ruling in February, saying the state law “punishes those who cannot pay more harshly than those who can — and does so by continuing to deny them access to the ballot box.”

“I don’t think I’m going to surprise you, I’m going to follow the 11th Circuit decision,” Hinkle told lawyers for the state and the civil rights groups that challenged the law as an unconstitutional “wealth test.”

The law was passed to implement Amendment 4, a state constitutional amendment approved by voters in 2018 that sought to restore voting rights for former felons, except those with murder and sex-crime convictions.

Mohammad Jazil, a lawyer representing Secretary of State Laurel Lee, said state elections officials have been working on a plan, which could include such things as former felons filing affidavits about their inability to pay or seeking an advisory opinion from the state. But he said the plan has not yet “crystallized.”

Jazil asked whether if Hinkle advances a plan the state have a chance to react to it — a comment that drew a strong response from the judge.

“So, you have filed hundreds of pages of briefs. You’ve had a preliminary injunction hearing, a summary judgment hearing, [eight] days of trial, and an opportunity to make closing arguments

and that’s not due process? You need more time?” Hinkle said.

Hinkle said he will advance a plan that will “be a whole lot easier to administer than anything you’ve dealt with so far.”

“That may be a bit of a bold statement. And when I write it down, I may find it’s not as easy as I thought it might be. And I certainly don’t think it’s easy,” he said. “I hope it’s more administrable.”

Hinkle said that, when he issues his plan, he will give the state a chance to react and is open to amending it based on the state’s comments.

In their final arguments, lawyers for the civil rights groups raised a host of constitutional arguments against the 2019 law, including that the payment requirement violates the Equal Protection Clause in the 14th Amendment.

“The evidence from trial shows that Florida heaps insurmountable debt on returning citizens when it knows the overwhelming majority of them will be unable to pay,” said Julie Ebenstein, representing the American Civil Liberties Union.

Ebenstein cited testimony from Daniel Smith, a political scientist at the University of Florida, who found some 774,000 former felons still owed financial obligations as part of their sentences.

Danielle Lang, representing the Campaign Legal Center, said whether the 2019 law constituted a “poll tax,” which is prohibited by the 24th Amendment, was “at the heart of this case.”

“The evidence shows what we have seen throughout every stage of these proceedings, which is that LFOs [legal financial obligations] are taxes. They go to fund the government,” she said.

Lang also said the payment obligation raises due process problems for the former felons, citing testimony that attempting to determine outstanding debt would involve multiple entities, ranging from local election supervisors to the state Division of Elections to court clerks to prosecutors and public defenders.

“Voters are sent in a vicious cycle where everyone disclaims the ability to tell them their eligibility and points to someone else,” Lang said. “All the while, the secretary of state has provided zero, zero guidance to anyone to help them decipher this maze.”

Nancy Abudu, representing the Southern Poverty Law Center, said the evidence underscored the impact of the debt obligation on poor minority women, citing data that showed former women prisoners are likely earn much less money when they are released compared to other former prisoners and non-prisoners.

“We are not expecting the court to solve all the social ills that exist in this society, but we are specifically asking the court to exercise its authority to block Senate Bill 7066 [the 2019 law] so that it doesn’t make those social ills even worse,” Abudu said.

Acknowledging the “urgency” of the matter, Hinkle said he would issue his ruling as quickly as possible, noting his decision would likely be appealed.

The timing of the ruling is also critical because Florida voters are preparing to go to the polls for an Aug. 18 primary election and a Nov. 3 general election, which will include the presidential contest.

Voters must be registered for the primary election by July 20 and by Oct. 5 for the presidential race. 🐢

Do you miss or want to discover great local music?

Gainesville Music Livestream Hub at <https://www.musicgnv.com/livestream-hub> has an ongoing list of upcoming livestreams as well as an archive of streams you may have missed.

Also, Sofar (Songs From a Room) has a great archive of local music at www.sofarsounds/gainesville, as well as links to music from around the world. 🐢

Virtual Peace Poetry reading, Peace Scholarship Awards

by Gainesville Veterans for Peace

On Saturday, May 16, Veterans for Peace will post videos of Alachua County school student poets reading their winning poems from the 2020 Peace Poetry Contest at the Veterans for Peace, Chapter 14 website <<http://www.vfpgainesville.org/>> and Facebook page. Three Veterans for Peace Scholarship winners will also be announced.

The eleventh annual Peace Poetry Contest began in January, inviting all K-12 students of Alachua County schools, both public and private, to submit one poem on what peace and social justice means to them. A panel judged the over 200 poems submitted, according to age group.

Because of the Shelter-In-Place regulations, we are especially grateful for the students and teachers who still felt inspired to submit Peace Poems under trying circumstances and distance learning.

Every year VFP notices a theme that runs through many of the poems. The last two years many students focused on safety in the classroom and trauma associated with the fear of being shot at school. The past few years including this year, there have been many environmental and climate change poems submitted.

The new theme this year addressed Covid-19 and the belief that being a good citizen meant observing the Shelter-In-Place regulations. We were encouraged by the maturity expressed in these poems and of course blown away by the beauty of all of the poems submitted.

The 2020 Peace Poetry book will also be posted on our website.

Veterans for Peace will also be announcing the awarding of three \$1000 Peace Scholarships. VFP created these scholarships to give financial support to students who are planning careers in pursuit



of a more equitable, peaceful, and just world. The three selected winners have demonstrated commitment and leadership activities involving peace and social justice, conflict resolution and nonviolent social change.

This event will also include music sung by Alivia Regan Hunter, a 17-year-old singer/songwriter from the 2019 Peace Poetry Reading. 🐾

No Memorial Mile this year

by Gainesville Veterans for Peace

Gainesville's Veterans for Peace chapter has cancelled this year's Memorial Mile display of tombstones for U.S. troops killed in the Middle East and Central Asia, due to the continuing coronavirus crisis.

Chapter president Scott Camil told members, "We don't know when the CoronaVirus curve will start to dissipate. We have many volunteers that are above age 60. We can't meet in person to get the preparation work done and we can't social distance setting up the display."

At press time, the U.S. has lost 4,582 uniformed men and women in Iraq, and 2,448 in Afghanistan (as reported by icasualties.org). Host nation casualty numbers are not available.

On Saturday, May 16, Vets For Peace will post videos of Alachua County school student poets reading their winning poems from the 2020 Peace Poetry Contest at the Chapter 14 website (www.vfpgainesville.org/) and Facebook page. Three \$1,000 Veterans for Peace Scholarship winners will also be announced. 🐾



Hey, Readers!

The Gainesville Iguana has opened a PayPal account, and we're accepting donations through our website at: www.gainesvilleiguana.org. Go to our home page and click on the <Donate with PayPal> link to support us via your PayPal account or credit card. We thank you very much! 🐾

AC Commissioner responds: why masks are required

by Robert Hutchinson
Alachua County Commissioner

The Alachua County Commission enacted an emergency order requiring people to wear masks when they are interacting with others in public places. Some people – such as infants and those with mental or physical conditions that make it difficult to wear masks – are exempted.

The arguments we've received from people who don't want to wear masks in public are:

- masks don't work
- you can't tell me what to do
- if you require masks, then you have to provide them, and
- why weren't they required earlier

Here's my brief response to these points:

1. Masks do reduce but not eliminate the spread of the coronavirus. They are the front line of a range of efforts that include frequent hand washing, temperature screening, abundant tests with quick and accurate results, rapid and thorough contact tracing, effective isolation, and eventually a vaccine. Of all of these, masks are the only outwardly visible signal that you are contributing to the solution. And for essential workers such as first respond-

ers, store clerks, and personal service providers who come in close proximity to dozens or hundreds of strangers each day, masks are also a sign of respect that you recognize their risk and are doing something to lower it.

2. Local governments, under the current state of emergency, have the authority to enact more protective measures than those rolled out by the State. This has been confirmed by the Governor's office by people who have checked with them, including some who were considering legal challenges. The State of Florida has preempted its local governments from opening businesses, facilities, or activities which the State has ordered to be closed.

3. Local government agencies are not required to provide masks or other protective gear, and in many cases employers are not providing them even if they require them. This is not dissimilar to protective equipment like steel-toed shoes, safety goggles, hard hats, and other stuff that some workers are expected to wear to job sites. However, some agencies are attempting to find supplies of masks that they can provide to people so they won't be turned away, and some businesses may

do the same for their customers especially as supply chains for masks become more robust and costs return to normal.

4. In the early phase of the pandemic, we didn't mandate masks for a couple of reasons. First, there was conflicting information about their effectiveness, but today there is consensus from most authorities that the benefits of widespread mask usage outweigh their costs and inconvenience.

And secondly, during the six weeks of the stay-at-home phase, there were substantially fewer people out and about, and this social distancing flattened the curve of the infection rate. In this first phase of re-opening, with all retail, plus restaurants, construction sites, and many other activities back in operation, it is very likely that the epidemic will re-kindle unless we take proactive measures to reduce its person-to-person spread – and masks are one part of the strategy that each of us can do.

It deeply troubles me that store clerks are being threatened by those who are too selfish or inconsiderate to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem. And those who say they would wear a

See MASKS, p. 21

Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

✚ How the coronavirus pandemic shows that Christian white nationalism is a much greater threat to the US than radical Islam

by Alex Henderson / *Alternet* / April 17 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1085>

ISIS has enough common sense and scientific knowledge to realize that coronavirus posed a major threat to its members; in the U.S., the Christian Right and white nationalists have failed to take coronavirus seriously. And as the death toll continues to soar, it is painfully obvious that the Christian Right and white nationalists are doing a lot more to kill Americans than ISIS and other radical Islamists.

✚ How Greenwich Republicans learned to love Trump

by Evan Osnos / *The New Yorker* / May 3 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1091>

To understand the President's path to the 2020 election, look at what he has provided the country's executive class.

✚ 'Murder Most Foul': Unpacking Bob Dylan's new epic — from Dallas 1963 to the pandemic of 2020

by David Masciotra / *Salon* / April 4 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1086>

Bob Dylan's first studio release in over seven years takes a 17-minute musical magnifying glass to the erosion of America's historical promise and the slow decay of the American soul.

✚ "Unconscionable": Planned Parenthood President Condemns States Using Pandemic to Limit Abortion Access

by Amy Goodman / *NPR* / April 27 / <https://preview.tinyurl.com/Iguana1088>

Amy Goodman talks with Alexis McGill Johnson, Acting President and CEO of Planned Parenthood

As much of the U.S. remains on lockdown, abortion rights are under attack nationwide. "Our bodies have literally been deemed essential," she says, "and yet the control of our bodies and the right to control our own bodies has not."

✚ Vector in Chief by Fintan O'Toole / *The New York Review of Books* / May 14 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1084>

Trump's narcissism, mendacity, bullying, and malignant incompetence were obvious before the coronavirus crisis, and they have been magnified rather than moderated in his surreal response to a catastrophe whose full gravity he failed to accept until March 31, when it had become horribly undeniable. ✚

Four solutions to the climate crisis no one is talking about

by Robert Reich
Robert Reich's Blog, Alternet

Both our economy and the environment are in crisis. Wealth is concentrated in the hands of a few while the majority of Americans struggle to get by. The climate crisis is worsening inequality, as those who are most economically vulnerable bear the brunt of flooding, fires, and disruptions of supplies of food, water, and power.

At the same time, environmental degradation and climate change are themselves byproducts of widening inequality. The political power of wealthy fossil fuel corporations has stymied action on climate change for decades. Focused only on maximizing their short-term interests, those corporations are becoming even richer and more powerful — while sidelining workers, limiting green innovation, preventing sustainable development, and blocking direct action on our dire climate crisis.

Make no mistake: the simultaneous crisis of inequality and climate is no fluke. Both are the result of decades of deliberate choices made, and policies enacted, by ultra-wealthy and powerful corporations.

We can address both crises by doing four things:

First, create green jobs. Investing in renewable energy could create millions of family sustaining, union jobs and build the infrastructure we need for marginalized communities to access clean water and

air. The transition to a renewable energy-powered economy can add 550,000 jobs each year while saving the US economy \$78 billion through 2050. In other words, a Green New Deal could turn the climate crisis into an opportunity — one that both addresses the climate emergency and creates a fairer and more equitable society.

Second, stop dirty energy. A massive investment in renewable energy jobs isn't enough to combat the climate crisis. If we are going to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, we must tackle the problem at its source: Stop digging up and burning more oil, gas, and coal.

The potential carbon emissions from these fossil fuels in the world's currently developed fields and mines would take us well beyond the 1.5°C increased warming that Nobel Prize winning global scientists tell us the planet can afford. Given this, it's absurd to allow fossil fuel corporations to start new dirty energy projects.

Even as fossil fuel companies claim to be pivoting toward clean energy, they are planning to invest trillions of dollars in new oil and gas projects that are inconsistent with global commitments to limit climate change. And over half of the industry's expansion is projected to happen in the United States. Allowing these projects means locking ourselves into carbon emissions we can't afford now, let alone in the decades to come.

Even if the U.S. were to transition to 100 percent renewable energy today, continuing to dig fossil fuels out of the ground will lead us further into climate crisis. If the U.S. doesn't stop now, whatever we extract will simply be exported and burned overseas. We will all be affected, but the poorest and most vulnerable among us will bear the brunt of the devastating impacts of climate change.

Third, kick fossil fuel companies out of our politics. For decades, companies like Exxon, Chevron, Shell, and BP have been polluting our democracy by pouring billions of dollars into our politics and bankrolling elected officials to enact policies that protect their profits. The oil and gas industry spent over \$103 million on the 2016 federal elections alone. And that's just what they were required to report: that number doesn't include the untold amounts of "dark money" they've been using to buy-off politicians and corrupt our democracy. The most conservative estimates still put their spending at 10 times that of environmental groups and the renewable energy industry.

As a result, American taxpayers are shelling out \$20 billion a year to bankroll oil and gas projects — a huge transfer of wealth to the top. And that doesn't even include hundreds of billions of dollars of indirect subsidies that cost every United States citizen roughly \$2,000 a year. This has to stop.

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!**

And we've got to stop giving away public lands for oil and gas drilling. In 2018, under Trump, the Interior Department made \$1.1 billion selling public land leases to oil and gas companies, an all-time record – triple the previous 2008 record, totaling more than 1.5 million acres for drilling alone, threatening multiple cultural sites and countless wildlife. As recently as last September, the Trump administration opened 1.56 million acres of Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling, threatening Indigenous cultural heritage and hundreds of species that call it home.

That's not all. The ban on exporting crude oil should be reintroduced and extended to other fossil fuels. The ban, in place for 40 years, was lifted in 2015, just days after the signing of the Paris Climate Agreement. After years of campaigning by oil executives, industry heads, and their army of lobbyists, the fossil fuel industry finally got its way.

We can't wait for these changes to be introduced in 5 or 10 years time — we need them now.

Fourth, require the fossil fuel companies that have profited from environmental injustice compensate the communities they've harmed.

As if buying-off our democracy wasn't enough, these corporations have also deliberately misled the public for years

on the amount of damage their products have been causing.

For instance, as early as 1977, Exxon's own scientists were warning managers that fossil fuel use would warm the planet and cause irreparable damage. In the 1980s, Exxon shut down its internal climate research program and shifted to funding a network of advocacy groups, lobbying arms, and think tanks whose sole purpose was to cloud public discourse and block action on the climate crisis. The five largest oil companies now spend about \$197 million a year on ad campaigns claiming they care about the climate — all the while massively increasing their spending on oil and gas extraction.

Meanwhile, millions of Americans, especially poor, Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities, already have to fight to drink clean water and breathe clean air as their communities are devastated by climate-fueled hurricanes, floods, and fires. As of 2015, nearly 21 million people relied on community water systems that violated health-based quality standards.

Going by population, that's essentially 200 Flint, Michigans, happening all at once. If we continue on our current path, many more communities run the risk of becoming "sacrifice zones," where citizens are left to survive the toxic aftermath of industrial activity with little, if any, help from the entities responsible for creating it.

Climate denial and rampant pollution are not victimless crimes. Fossil fuel corporations must be held accountable, and be forced to pay for the damage they've wrought.

If these solutions sound drastic to you, it's because they are. They have to be if we have any hope of keeping our planet habitable. The climate crisis is not a far-off apocalyptic nightmare — it is our present day.

Australia's bushfires wiped out a billion animals, California's fire season wreaks more havoc every year, and record-setting storms are tearing through our communities like never before.

Scientists tell us we have 10 years left to dramatically reduce emissions. We have no room for meek half-measures wrapped up inside giant handouts to the fossil fuel industry.

We deserve a world without fossil fuels. A world in which workers and communities thrive and our shared climate comes before industry profits. Working together, I know we can make it happen. We have no time to waste.

Robert Reich is an American economist, professor, author, and political commentator. He served in the administrations of Presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and Bill Clinton. He was Secretary of Labor from 1993 to 1997. He was a member of President Barack Obama's economic transition advisory board. ✨



Environmental Protection

Our water, air, and land resources are the foundation of our well-being and we must protect them. I will prioritize preserving the health of our environment as a matter of public good, economic development, and justice.

Social Justice

My years of work in our community have shown me that disparities are our greatest weakness. I am committed to helping us become a place where all our citizens can thrive. I will fight for inclusion, equal rights, and economic opportunity for everyone.

Local Economy

I believe providing support for small businesses and start-ups is critical for a healthy economy. We must also enhance the assets that all businesses need, like an educated workforce and strong infrastructure.

Vote Anna Prizzia for Alachua County Commission, District 3

www.annaforalachua.com

Paid for and approved by Anna Prizzia, Democrat for County Commission District 3



Bernie's army redeploys to support Covid-19's frontline workers

by Steven Greenhouse, *In These Times*

As shoppers crowded into the McAllen, Texas, branch of Sprouts Farmers Market in mid-March to stockpile food, store clerk Josh Cano grew alarmed at the lack of safety precautions in place.

"There weren't sneeze guards or masks or gloves," he says. "There was zero sense of urgency from management."

Cano, 24, worried about bringing the coronavirus home because his mother has cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy. He had heard of an online form that activists from the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and the United Electrical Workers union (UE) were using to help workers organize to make their workplaces safer as the Covid-19 pandemic spread. The two groups—which had previously worked together on the Bernie Sanders campaign—were calling their joint effort the Emergency Workplace Organizing Committee (EWOC).

The experience many EWOC organizers gained from the Sanders movement had a direct impact on their work. Officials from the DSA and UE said the group took ideas from the Sanders campaign — such as building a largely volunteer operation to do complex organizing — and applied them to workplaces rather than an election. Many former Sanders staff members also volunteered to help workers organize. It's one example of a possible path forward for the grassroots movement that powered the Sanders campaign—a way to channel its insurgent energy into new battles for social justice.

Cano filled out the form, and Michael Enriquez, former deputy field director of the Sanders campaign in Iowa and a member of the EWOC planning committee, responded to assist the Sprouts workers. With guidance from Enriquez, who previously ran the Fight for \$15 office in Kansas City, Cano and a co-worker, Michael Martinez, soon got 44 of their store's 50 workers to sign a petition demanding personal protective equipment, a \$3 an hour increase for hazard pay, 14 days of paid sick leave and an in-store safety committee. "We started the petition out of fear," Martinez says.

On the afternoon of April 1, six Sprouts workers marched on their boss's office with their petition and protest signs saying, "Health and safety over profit," and "Make the pay worth the risk."

The workers wanted outside support, and with Enriquez's help, they got the petition circulated through Change.org. Within a week it had 7,000 signatures, including workers from some of Sprouts' 340 other stores. A huge boost came when Sanders himself tweeted his support for the Sprouts workers.

"Seeing that tweet made me and my co-workers feel we weren't alone," Cano says. "We were kind of scared about management. Seeing that tweet, we saw we had a lot of power on our side."

Feeling heat from the petition, Sprouts agreed to provide masks, gloves and more sanitizer and to limit the number of customers inside the McAllen store at any one time. The workers hailed it as a

victory, even though management refused to provide hazard pay. "There's no power like workers united," Martinez says. He adds that Enriquez' expertise was "instrumental in our success."

Colette Perold, a DSA activist and member of the EWOC planning committee, explains the project began when some DSA members started hearing from friends worried about the dangers at their jobs. "They were being forced to do a lot of dangerous things," she says. So the DSA and the United Electrical Workers decided to reach out to workers. "The campaigns that workers are leading in their workplaces are life or death fights, and we want to support that self-activity and help them win," Perold says.

Mark Meinster, an international representative with the United Electrical Workers, says his union helped form EWOC because "we're seeing so many workers take risks to protect their own lives."

"Unions have a choice right now," he says. "We can either hunker down and ride out the storm, or we can get on the side of the workers in struggle, many of whom are nonunion workers. If we can help workers wage a broad, militant fight back, we can hopefully set the stage and make some changes in society for the common good."

Since launching in early March, EWOC's organizers have helped several hundred workers fight for improved safety at warehouses, fast-food restaurants, hospitals, bottling plants, supermarkets and child-care centers across America.



THOMAS GROUP

THE CHALMERS TEAM

KIM CHALMERS, REALTOR®
kcgainesville@gmail.com
352.339.5210

JEAN CHALMERS, REALTOR®
chalmersrealestate@gmail.com
352.538.4256



Contact the Chalmers Team for All of Your Gainesville Real Estate Needs



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

Dani Shuster, a cashier and customer service worker at a Mom's Organic Market in Philadelphia, says she is thankful for the advice the workers at her store received from EWOC. For two weeks in early March, panicked shoppers flooded the grocery. (One day, Shuster says, actress Kate Winslet entered the store wearing gloves and filled up four shopping carts.) Many workers were putting in 10- or 12-hour days to meet the surging demand.

"A lot of workers expressed fear, anxiety, feelings of being overwhelmed, and we were hearing nothing from the corporate leadership," Shuster, 29, says. Workers complained that Mom's — a chain with 19 stores in four states and Washington, D.C. — was not providing masks and that there wasn't enough hand sanitizer throughout the store.

"We just seemed to be abandoned by the people in power," Shuster says. "We started to conclude we needed to do something." Although she had no prior experience in workplace organizing, she was inspired by the message of the Sanders campaign. "The realization that our collective power can challenge corporate greed and we can win helped make the possibility of organizing in my own workplace a reality."

After surveying their coworkers, Shuster and several colleagues plunged into drafting a list of demands and a petition. At

that point, Shuster, recognizing she could use some organizing advice, reached out to EWOC, which she had heard about through an acquaintance in DSA.

Shuster says that EWOC felt like a "natural" outgrowth of the Sanders campaign. "In my own experience and observations, the Sanders campaign helped reignite worker organizing in this country," she says.

Dan advised her on how to get coworkers to sign a petition; its demands included hazard pay of time and a half, a midday break for sanitizing, and limiting the number of customers in the store to 20 at a time. "Dan helped me feel confident in having direct conversations with workers and really posing the question, 'Are you willing to sign this petition to protect your own life and the lives all around you?'" Shuster says.

Nineteen of the store's roughly 33 workers signed, and Shuster presented the petition to store management with six coworkers on April 6. They then held a protest outside the store as a caravan of supporters drove around honking. (Many supporters came from a community group, One Pennsylvania.) Management did not respond immediately, although the grocery says it stepped up cleaning procedures and installed protective plexiglass at the registers.

In the days after the protest, the work-

ers grew increasingly impatient, and pressure on Mom's grew. The Pennsylvania Attorney General's office even got involved, holding meetings with organizers and, Shuster says, contacting the CEO of Mom's. Mom's ultimately provided masks and more sanitizer and agreed to set customer limits in sections of the store. It also said it would institute a special shopping hour for seniors and vulnerable populations — something the Mom's workers had demanded. Management also agreed to a retroactive bonus, though it disappointed the workers by refusing to grant regular hazard pay.

"We saw what happens when you speak out individually — not much," Shuster says. "We demonstrated that when workers come together, they can accomplish a lot."

Asked about forming a union, Michael Martinez of Sprouts says, "A labor union, that's not what we're going for. We're trying to show that the workers have strength in numbers and that we won't accept the bare minimum."

The UE's Meinster acknowledges that what EWOC is doing is not typical union organizing. "These are immediate fights around immediate demands," he says. "The kind of tasks confronting the labor movement is to provide support and leadership to those workers and help develop the workplace leaders we'll need in coming years." ✨

Using social media to build social movements

It's true enough that a lot of social media really is a dumpster fire. But plenty of people are also using Twitter or Insta to educate, celebrate, or to build more inclusive, dynamic social movements. They show us the original promise of social media: that it can bring together and mobilize a diverse coalition of people.


Every year, the Grist 50 highlights emerging leaders who are working toward a more sustainable and equitable future. Follow these five online for updates from a future you'd like to live in:

- With posts from around the globe, climate striker Alexandria Villaseñor will connect you to activism across the U.S. and keep you tuned in to the global youth climate movement. (Instagram)
- Birder Jason Ward's tweets — especially his #trickybirdID challenge — set the bar for knowledge, expertise, and funny, sharp commentary. (Twitter)
- University of California, Santa Barbara prof Leah Stokes breaks down the science of new climate-change studies on Twitter — and demolishes climate deniers.
- Indigenous writer, editor, and policy analyst Julian Brave NoiseCat crafts Green New Deal proposals, but in his spare

time, will update you on justice, climate, and progressive issues. (Twitter)

- Scientist and former zookeeper Corina Newsome gives followers a fuller sense of what conservation science can look like. Also? She's a whole lot of fun. (Twitter) ✨

There are 45 other folks doing great work on our list. Read about all of them on the 2020 Grist 50 at <https://grist.org/grist-50/2020/> ✨



THIRD HOUSE BOOKS

Online ordering only from website. Please do!

HOURS
 12-6pm
 12-6pm

**400 NW 10th Ave.
 352.317.5387
 @thirdhousebooks
 www.thirdhousebooks.com**

Statement for a feminist foreign policy to confront the Coronavirus pandemic

This pandemic calls for us to challenge our militarized notion of security.

There is ample evidence that a militarized response will further criminalize marginalized communities of color who are often targets of over-policing and imprisonment.

by Women Cross DMZ / Portside

NOTE: In February, three organizations — MADRE, Women Cross DMZ, and Grassroots Global Justice Alliance — convened a group of 23 women and gender nonconforming people from across the United States in order to engage in a cross-movement dialogue on our collective work against militarism and war in order to examine, challenge, and reimagine U.S. foreign policy.

While our convening occurred before the coronavirus became a global pandemic, this public health crisis has only amplified the need to redistribute resources, restructure society, and create long-term solutions that prioritize the true needs of all people.

The following statement represents the beginning of a larger conversation to redefine our sense of “national security” using the framework of a feminist foreign policy for peace and justice.

The coronavirus pandemic has revealed the urgent need to address the impact of US militarism and wars at home and abroad, and to redefine our collective sense of “national security.”

To date, more than 1 million people have been sickened worldwide, and in the United States, thousands of people have died. Meanwhile, healthcare workers lack proper protective equipment and hospi-

tals face shortages of diagnostic tests and ventilators. Lack of affordable healthcare and insurance in the U.S. has exacerbated conditions of precarity for the most vulnerable among us, including people without permanent shelter, the working class, people with disabilities, and sex workers.

While U.S. officials frame the effort to halt the coronavirus pandemic as a “war” — healthcare workers are “on the front line” fighting an “invisible enemy,” and Trump has called himself a “wartime president” — this is not a war but a global health emergency that necessitates urgent international cooperation.

This crisis reveals a deeply broken notion of “national security.” The U.S. spends just \$7 billion on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — a decline of about 10 percent over the last decade — while spending on the U.S. military exceeds \$900 billion. This pandemic calls us to redefine our sense of “national security” using the framework of a feminist foreign policy for peace and justice.

As transnational feminists united against militarization and war, we call for a feminist foreign policy that reorients the United States’ role in the global community to prioritize interdependence, connection and cooperation, justice, valuing people and the planet over profit, and protecting the most vulnerable among us.

We envision a radically reoriented U.S. for-

eign policy that addresses the root causes of war and militarism, which wages violence at home and abroad. This calls for aligning the concerns of U.S. communities of color and Indigenous Peoples with peace and justice movements in places impacted by U.S. militarism and the legacies of colonialism.

Building this vision requires us to engage in cross-movement and cross-border conversations that center the voices and leadership of women of color, Indigenous Peoples, queer, and gender nonconforming people committed to gender justice and peace — voices that have been absent from dominant discourses on foreign policy.

We must recognize that the militaristic framework has failed us both domestically and internationally. Massive investments in the Pentagon have wreaked violence and instability around the world through the support of dictatorships, coups, the “war on drugs,” “war on trafficking,” and settler colonial states, resulting in the displacement of millions of people worldwide.

The immigrant “caravan” arriving at the U.S. border, for example, is directly related to decades of U.S. foreign policy throughout the Americas. We also see this in the militarized response to the coronavirus pandemic, such as continuing ICE raids in U.S. cities and the increased military presence at borders, refugee camps, and check-points.

Gainesville Quaker Meeting

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



www.gainesvillequakers.org

352-372-1070

702 NW 38th St.

Worship each Sunday @ 11 am.

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

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

Anti-Asian sentiments are particularly on the rise during this pandemic, leading to a sharp rise in anti-Asian violence, as well as hawkish anti-China rhetoric and proposals that are further exacerbating tensions between the US and China.

This pandemic calls for us to challenge our militarized notion of security. While many may applaud the use of the military and police to build emergency hospitals and enforce social distancing, we are concerned that this amplified militarized state, as conditions worsen, will be used to quash social movements.

There is ample evidence that a militarized response will further criminalize marginalized communities of color who are often targets of over-policing, mass surveillance, and imprisonment. Leaders around the world are already seizing this opportunity to expand their executive powers, with troubling implications for equity and justice.

We call for investments in a regenerative economy to build a more socially fair and ecologically sustainable society. This must include recognizing the gendered impact of the pandemic as nurses, teachers, domestic workers, caregivers, cleaning and food service workers — roles typically occupied by women — are now being recognized as the true backbone of society. Yet this labor is some of the most undervalued and least paid.

Women already perform a majority of unpaid labor in the home — which has increased and intensified with social distancing and stay-at-home measures — while continuing to maintain their jobs with little support for, or reprieve from, their added caregiving responsibilities. And for millions of women and gender nonconforming people currently forced to stay inside, home is the most dangerous place.

It is nearly impossible to control the virus in communities devastated by warfare, where hospitals lie in rubble and water treatment plants have been destroyed. That's why Yemeni, Syrian and Afghan women demanded ceasefires weeks ago.

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres followed suit, calling for a global ceasefire. This call provides a historic window for a new U.S. foreign policy built on strengthening global cooperation and diplomacy, including facilitating coordinated, mutually beneficial responses between nations.

Other countries are modeling this kind of leadership, including Cuba, which is sending doctors overseas, and China and South Korea, which are shipping test kits and other critical supplies. As the wealthiest nation in the world, the United States has the responsibility to assist impoverished countries facing the pandemic — with no strings attached. If a vaccine is developed in the U.S., it must be freely shared with the global community.

A cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy is sanctions, which is war by other means. Given the interconnectedness of the global economy, sanctions are another lethal form of militarism, impeding economic development and hampering delivery of urgently needed humanitarian aid, life-saving medicine and medical equipment.

To rectify historic injustices and contribute to a world rooted in equity over inequality, care of the planet over exploitation of resources, and cooperation instead of domination, we urge you to join us in the immediate call for the following actions:

1. **Reallocate Pentagon spending towards meeting human needs** as outlined by the People's Bailout, including healthcare and paid sick and family leave for all, halting

of evictions and foreclosures, and honoring treaty obligations to Indigenous Peoples.

2. **Respect and extend the global ceasefire**, end active military operations, and permanently change course away from endless wars toward peacebuilding, diplomacy and development.
3. **Permanently lift U.S. economic sanctions** against Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, and 25 other countries.
4. **Stop U.S. political, economic and military support for authoritarian governments**, such as Israel and India, that inflict violence on the people of Palestine and Kashmir.
5. **Drastically reduce jail, prison and detention center populations** and immediately release people from detention conditions that increase the spread of COVID-19.

Now is the time to join together to create the change we envision. By mobilizing ourselves and our communities, we can democratize US foreign policy, not only for our own collective security, but for the future of all peoples and our planet.

Christine Ahn, Women Cross DMZ and Korea Peace Now! Women Mobilizing to End the War

Mizue Aizeki, Immigrant Defense project

Medea Benjamin, Code Pink

Phyllis Bennis, Institute for Policy Studies – New Internationalism Project

Linda Burnham, Author and Activist

Jazmín Delgado, Center for Political Education

Diana Duarte, MADRE

Noura Erakat, Rutgers University

Adom Getachew, University of Chicago

Chung-Wha Hong, Grassroots International

Catherine Killough, Women Cross DMZ

Helen Kim, Consultant

Akhila Kolisetty, MADRE

Hyun Lee, Women Cross DMZ

Thenjiwe McHarris, Blackbird, Movement for Black Lives (M4BL)

Nadine Naber, University of Illinois and Mamas Activating Movements for Abolition and Solidarity (MAMAS)

Cynthia Oka, Grassroots Global Justice Alliance

Brittany Ramos DeBarros, About Face — Veterans Against the War

Kathleen Ok-soo Richards, Women Cross DMZ

Sima Shakhshari, University of Minnesota

Tasia Ahuja Smith, Consultant

Yifat Susskind, MADRE

Cindy Wiesner, Grassroots Global Justice Alliance

Sunyoung Yang, Grassroots Global Justice Alliance

Janene Yazzie, Sixth World Solutions

We thank the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF), Open Society Foundations, and the RBF Pocantico Center for their support of this groundbreaking convening. 🐾

“A lynch mob”: after months of inaction, two white men are charged with murder of Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia

from NPR's *Democracynow*, May 8

The two white men caught on camera shooting and killing Ahmaud Arbery, an unarmed 25-year-old African American man, were arrested and charged Thursday with murder. The arrests came two days after video of the attack in February was shared with the public, sparking widespread outrage. Today would have been Arbery's 26th birthday.

We speak with civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump, who represents the Arbery family and formerly represented Trayvon Martin. [This is the last part of the interview segment.]

AMY GOODMAN: Ben Crump, what forced the release of this video this week? I mean, and it comes at the same time that Georgia has lifted its lockdown, so there was immediate protest. I mean, it's clear it's the protesters and the outcry across the country that have led to this — to the arrests of the McMichaels. Talk about what forced this video release. And it also was just released on a local website.

BENJAMIN CRUMP: Yes, ma'am. Apparently, a lawyer or a former lawyer associated with the McMichaels, the murderous father and son duo who executed Ahmaud Arbery, released the video. And apparently he said he released it because he felt that it would somehow exonerate these killers. And it makes no sense to me. It's asinine how they feel this hunting party, this hunting posse, chasing this unarmed, young African American throughout that community was something that would exonerate them.

Amy, they teach us in first year law school about malice of forethought. That is, you know, what is in the mind of the killer. And we believe when they got in that truck with all that firepower going to confront this young Black man, that they had evil intent, that you can look at their intentions and conclude that they should be held liable for murder, because we know, again, if the shoe was on the other foot and it was two African American men who got in their trucks with this kind of firepower and killed an unarmed, young White man in broad daylight, that they would be charged and convicted with murder, day one.

AMY GOODMAN: So, you have, at the time of this broadcast, in a little bit, the Georgia Department of Investigation is going to hold a news conference. Then a major protest is going to be held. If you can explain what the Georgia Department of Investigation had to say?

Now the Georgia governor says there will be justice. And also, you represented Trayvon Martin's family. Trayvon Martin would have been the same age of Ahmaud if he had lived and not been killed by George Zimmerman. And again, today is Ahmaud's 26th birthday. So, if you can talk about what this means, that the Georgia Department of Investigation is involved, and your comparisons?

BENJAMIN CRUMP: Certainly. The similarities between Trayvon Martin and Ahmaud Arbery are eerie. Both of them were killed in the month of February — Trayvon on February 26, 2012, and Ahmaud on February 23, 2020. And then both of them were accused of burglary, you know, Trayvon in the gated community and then Ahmaud in the Satilla Shores community.

And then, both of the killers, who were armed, claimed that they had to kill these young unarmed Black men because they were in fear of their lives. And then, both of the killers, after they killed these two unarmed, young Black men, Trayvon and Ahmaud, they both got to go home and sleep in their beds at night.

And then, you had the prosecutors in Sanford, Florida, with Trayvon, having alleged conflicts of interest, and then you had the prosecutors in Brunswick, Georgia, have a alleged conflict of interest. And then, you didn't get an arrest for weeks in Trayvon's case; you didn't get an arrest for weeks in Ahmaud's case. In Trayvon's case, the state police, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, had to take over the investigation before there was an arrest, and in Ahmaud's case, the Georgia Bureau of Investigations had to take over the investigation before there was an arrest.

And in both cases, you had objective evidence of a pursuit. In Trayvon, we had audio. We heard the pursuit, and we heard the gunshot. But in Ahmaud's case, we visually see the pursuit with our own eyes, and we see the gunshots.

And so, it's so eerily similar. And the fact that they both would be 26 years old today, had they lived, tells us all we need to know, that in America, we must do better. We must do better.

AMY GOODMAN: Ben Crump, what happens next, as we wrap up?

BENJAMIN CRUMP: We ask that

there's a special prosecutor brought in, because we have great distrust in anybody working in that southeast Georgia law enforcement community. And we want to make sure that we have a diverse jury panel, because we don't want a repeat of cases past where you have no diversity on the jury and they don't understand the culture or the common life experiences of Ahmaud Arbery.

AMY GOODMAN: We want to thank you so much, Ben Crump, for joining us, civil rights attorney representing the family of Ahmaud Arbery, the author of “Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People.” He represented the family of Trayvon Martin. And, of course, we'll continue to follow this story as it unfolds. ✨

Labor Notes

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



www.labornotes.org

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

Subscribe \$30/year

 **El Indio**
REAL MEXICAN FOOD
377-5828

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

In memoriam: RIP Terry Fleming

It was with shock that word went out about the death of Terry Fleming from a heart attack on April 28.

Terry arrived in Gainesville in 2002 and immediately got involved in the community and helped spearhead the founding on the Pride Community Center. He became very active in the local Democratic Party, and as well became a strong advocate for the homeless, especially in recent years at Grace Marketplace. However, Terry's work went way beyond Gainesville as a statewide activist.

"We are all in shock, and mourning the loss our dear friend and dedicated colleague, Terry Fleming," said Palm Beach County resident Stephen Gaskill.

Gaskill serves as president of the Florida LGBTQ+ Democratic Caucus. Fleming served as VP and president of the caucus.

"He was one of the giants of our community who dedicated his life and career to service," Gaskill said. "First as a Navy veteran, then as a mentor and supporter of LGBTQ youth, as a policy advocate fighting for LGBTQ equality, and as a Democratic activist electing pro-equality candidates.

"Terry is a leader who can never be replaced. He brought decades of experience and institutional knowledge combined with a humble spirit and 'get it done' attitude. Because of Terry's leadership, Alachua County and Gainesville have been light years ahead of other municipalities on LGBTQ equality – not just in Florida, but across the country. The Florida LGBTQ+ Democratic Caucus sends our condolences to Terry's husband and family, his community and colleagues."

Fort Lauderdale resident Michael Albeta, who worked with Terry said, "Terry had everything you wanted in a leader: a steady hand, a smart political mind, experience, compassion and empathy, a humble heart for service, and an infectious spirit that inspired people to work together for a common purpose. For more than 20 years, I've counted on Terry for his counsel, hard work, and belief in our mission of equality for all. We've lost one of the greats."

Former Gainesville resident Maria Carter said "Terry is the first person I met when I showed up, 19 and scared, at the Pride Community Center in Gainesville. He couldn't have been more welcoming. He found out I played music, and after that, he called me every year in August to invite whatever band I was in to play



Terry Fleming with President Barack Obama at White House, April 2011.

at the Pride Festival. He was the first gay person I met who went to church. He was an optimist and an activist. He brought so many different kinds of people together, with a cheerful, seemingly limitless energy that was infectious. I will miss him very much."

Local organizer Jeremiah Tattersall shared this: "In 2017 we were protesting for the removal of the confederate statue from the Alachua County Commission building. A bunch of white nationalists showed up so a bunch of counter-demonstrators came too. These racists were rolling up with shields and helmets looking for a fight. It was a bit tense.

"I brought a bullhorn and we took to the platform that Old Joe was on to start chanting and giving speeches. I grabbed Terry and said, 'make sure no one tries to come up behind me.' It's not the first time I asked him for this. And sure enough, someone tried to come up behind me and out of the corner of my eye I could see him with his hand on some idiots chest pushing him away saying 'and what the fuck do you think you're doing.'

"Terry always had our backs. He literally had my back at multiple protests making sure I was safe when I put myself in a vulnerable position. And that's who he was. If you were vulnerable, in need, or a target he tried his hardest to build a place where you were safe. He was such

a kind and loving man who would endlessly give. He was strong and passionate, smart and humble. He was one of the best among us. The world will miss you."

Helen Strain said, "Terry was a master at building coalition to solve problems and advance a progressive agenda here, in our state, and in our nation. He was a masterful campaigner and I will never forget Election Day canvasses launched from his front porch and phone banks in his home. I will miss his laugh, his honesty and especially his friendship."

Alachua Branch NAACP President Evelyn Foxx said, "Yes, Terry was one of a kind. We have to do everything we can to keep his legacy alive."

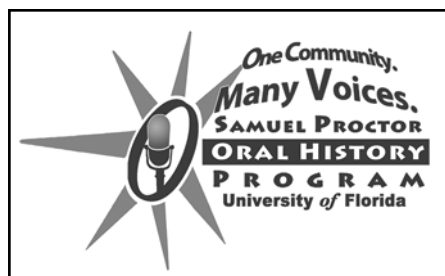
Gainesville City Commissioner Helen K. Warren said, "Terry was our rock and pointer, floodlight beaming on the path to what needed to be our focus."

And from the PCCNCF Board's Facebook statement: "Carrying on Terry's work will take all of us," said co-president Tamara Perry-Lunardo. "Not just the Board and our regular volunteers, but everyone in our local community who shares the passion Terry had for serving others, working for LGBTQ+ visibility and equality, and creating a safe space for people to be themselves."

The Pride Community Center will hold a memorial at the center when we can all come together, whenever that is.

Rest In Power, Terry Fleming. 🌹

History and the people who make it: Victoria Córdor-Williams



Victoria Córdor-Williams [C], Latina activist, was interviewed by Nathalia Ochoa [O] in June, 2013.

This is the 59th in a series of transcript excerpts from the UF Samuel Proctor Oral History Program collection.

Transcript edited by Pierce Butler.

C: I am president of the Latina Women's League here in Gainesville, Florida. I am an activist in the community for many years.

I'm from Lima, Peru. I came here to United State more than twenty-four years. I arrive in LA, after my trip from Germany. From there, we moved to Missouri, and I got married, and then came with my husband to Florida.

I am mechanic engineer. I work in Peru; I have a degree in this area. I went to Germany to pursue a degree. I was most of all impressed about technology, but, was a wake-up for me in trying to find a support of women.

I took some courses here at UF, related with solar energy. In Peru, I wanted to do something related, but in the poorest areas. Unfortunately, I never find a person to fund this kind of project. As a woman in that area, it was really hard. In Germany, the same thing.

When I came to the United State, a little different, but the same thing, too: there is a lot of competition in the university. When I have my daughter, that gave me the big opportunity to learn more about the place that I was going to live. You try to find a place for your own. That is difficult when you leave your country, your family; you never know where you're going to find that dream.

For me it was going different places until I find Gainesville, and I found what I wanted, what I need, and because of that, I work really hard.

O: How does a mechanical engineer become a community activist? [Laughter]

C: That is what I love, because life give you all these opportunity. I'm so

grateful about my family, because they give me every single thing: music, art, social issues. I like to paint; I learned to play piano. I like to explore. I don't see it that I put aside one thing that was in my heart, because being an activist in the community, you put everything.

As a mother, or as a father, you are psychologist, a doctor, a nurse, a teacher. In that kind of way, is the same thing an activist, but a little more. [Laughter]

To be an activist, is to see, when you look behind you, the seed that you put there, and you start watering every single day. You don't see that it's growing, until one day you turn back and you see all these beautiful flowers, all these beautiful trees, that was growing in the time that you were working. It's hard, but it's rewarding.

O: What do you know about La Casita? How have you been involved with them?

C: I remember here at the university, first of all, my connection with professors who were involved with Latin America. In Missouri, I didn't have much information about Latin America — beside my husband and friends, no? Television and news, nothing there.

When I came here, it was incredible talking with people. A lot of students from different organization were part of La Casita, too. That give me the incredible opportunity to learn more about how these student from different countries, or from different states here, come to the university, and face a lot of challenge. I like to help, because I have the experience of going to other countries, and I knew what you have to face. At that time, I was organizing other thing. There was many issues at that time, too.

Most at all was domestic violence. Students didn't know how to find support. Sometimes, in Latin America, and those times, it was part of the culture; the husband do everything, and you have to follow whatever. Not always, but sometime, depending, how you was raised. You feel uncomfortable telling it other persons. It was happening with UF students. I start helping. I learned a lot about your rights here, and resources that this community have.

I was in different community organizations, and I knew a lot of resources. I start giving this information to friends. People was saying that I was the ambassador, or was a minister, or —. Sometimes my hus-

band say, "Every time the telephone ring, it for you." [Laughter]

One student called me, I think, at 11 at night. Of course, I go to sleep at that time, but students, I know that you don't! [Laughter]

This student, I don't know if she was from Venezuela, or Colombia. She said she felt lonely. She was missing her family. She was crying. We spoke for more than two hours, I start feeling that there is a big need here.

We have to engage, in some way, the community with the Casita. Many other members of the community were supporting La Casita, too, in their way. For example, there was a big group of Nicaraguans here supporting the Nicaraguan students. And were really wonderful.

I saw that, and I tried to do, not only with the Nicaraguans, but in general. That was incredible experience, enriching my life, no? A person who are activist in the community, we need these kind of leaders in the university. Sometime, they work really hard through couple of year, then suddenly, they leave.

The community here has been growing really fast, so there are more needs. The student population have other needs, too.

The new director, Eric Castillo, he gave incredible support, enhancing, I think, the institute more than any other one. Natalia Leal, the director, was incredible person who worked so hard, and she put a lot of things here in the community. Unfortunately, she left. The same with Leticia Martínez. She was trying to find other roles for the institute. It was not easy, but she was trying to work with others, and I was really happy about what she was doing.

The Institute of Hispanic and Latino Culture is an incredible part of the community, and has been since 1994. They are engaged in issues that right now we are facing. I remember as a student — "I need to finish this career!" Being involved in other things sometime is really difficult. But then, you need to be, because this is the most important part of your life, no?

I am President of the Latina Women's League in Florida, in county of Alachua. We provide resources like English program, citizen program; for families,

we do bilingual storytime. We do the Gainesville Latino Film Festival. We tried to engage in all the areas of community needs.

In the classes, we start focusing on the Latino community. Two years ago, we opened to everyone. That gave the opportunity to Latinos to be more involved and look that they are not alone, there are others. So, they start supporting each other. That was really important. The citizenship program, because we have to learn from others, and the others have to learn from us.

La Casita, and the Institute, has been supporting us for many years, too. The other thing missing now here is the organization that was founded twenty years ago, more than twenty, the UF Hispanic Professors. That involved all professor who has background with the Hispanic community — Hispanic or Latino — here. They were a very big support. Unfortunately, this group disappear, I think, five, ten years ago? As an organization we have been trying to work about issues that we are facing, not only in literacy, but health, too.

Many students, when they come here, they try to find a friend, or a space that they are missing — like home. Or just to speak Spanish. To have something in common, for example, the ones who live in Miami, whether they miss these Cuban restaurants, or kind of meal that they like. Or music, or things. That is important, to have a space — or to just relax and try to find yourself, no? Or to find something that you need to fight for. Perhaps you find this person who can support you. Or can hear you, no?

The institute here present a lot of programs about different issues, and invite professors, invite members of the community to do presentations. La Casita needs to give more space to expose the art of the Latinos.

O: What would you say you are most passionate about in life?

C: Oh wow, that is a big question! [Laughter]

“Passion,” that is a beautiful word. I think my passion is to engage people to work together for issues: that can be art, that can be rights, the important issues, that we can make a difference. I know that women can do a lot! [Laughter]

If we concentrate, we can make a lot of changes. In everything: the rights of women, the rights of any other person, no? Violence against women. We are in the twentieth century, and we still do it. Our rights, too: the right to vote, no? I can’t believe we still have these kind of problems!

That is my hope for this new community of Latinos and Hispanic in the United State: that we don’t go back anymore. We go forward, and make a difference. Work with everyone because all of us are human beings: we’re here for our family, we’re here to support all other cultures, to understand each other, because we have to survive.

That is why we need the Institute of Hispanic and Latino Culture here. With the support of all the faculty, can do a lot of things. But now? Well, I don’t want to say anything. [Laughter]

But if we don’t have this institute, I don’t think that we can work. I’m not saying that we can’t, but more difficult to do everything, and we don’t have that time sometimes.

The students have an incredible role these couple of year, and the next couple of year, too. When you come to the university, try to open more your point of view, to what is going on in the community, because your experience can enhance whatever career you’re learning, if you balance what you are doing and what you can do. You can be the voice, and don’t be afraid to expose yourself or what you are, what you believe. Respect

the other ones. The most important thing that I learn is you disagree, but at least you can hear the other person. When there are different groups, it’s really important to learn how to put everything together. That is the incredible experience to be an activist, and put together everything, and do the next step. Not to go back, not anymore.

O: Any further thoughts that you would like to share?

C: Try to open and explore every single issue that this country give you, but don’t forget about issues in your heart from your culture. In some way, you can put together trying to work in issues that you always wanted. That is the important thing here in the United States, no? That you can do some things that sometimes you couldn’t, and sometimes you feel more comfortable doing here.

For example, I am member of the League of Women Voters. One time, one person told me, “How easy it was for you to be a citizen here?” I said, “It was not easy.” For me, it was not easy, in the sense of leaving Peru. But it was an important thing that I did, for my new family, who I was start here in the United States.

Anywhere that you go, the experiences that you have here, the experiences you brought from your country, don’t lose it! Don’t lose those kind of things, because those are going to give you a path that you are trying to achieve.

A full transcript of this interview can be found by entering “Victoria Córdor-Williams” 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. ✨

Flashbacks
Recycled Fashions has moved!

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

Flashbacks is temporarily closed, but is offering personal shopper mystery bags - see May 5 Facebook post for details: <facebook.com/shopflashbacks/>

Since 1986

352-375-3752

The advertisement is a black and white illustration. At the top, the text reads "Flashbacks Recycled Fashions has moved!" followed by "Our new address: 220 NW 8th Ave., Suite 20". Below this, a large sign is held by a skeleton on the left and a person on a bicycle on the right. The sign says "Flashbacks is temporarily closed, but is offering personal shopper mystery bags - see May 5 Facebook post for details: <facebook.com/shopflashbacks/>". To the right of the sign, it says "Since 1986". At the bottom left, the phone number "352-375-3752" is listed. The skeleton is holding a small rectangular object, possibly a phone or a camera.

From HOUSING, p. 1

of overdue rent, and collective defense against landlord retaliation.

The group has been able to secure legal advice and is working to build tenant power within the city of Gainesville.

In addition to GNV Housing Justice, students from the University of Florida had reached out to the collective in search of assistance regarding preparation for a possible rent strike.

A large number of students at UF have been locked into off-campus leases and will be forced to pay rent during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic with little to no recourse. A significant amount of these students have left their homes and do not currently reside in Gainesville.

As the pandemic continues to pose negative economic impacts on many students and their families, students have petitioned for rent relief and are beginning to organize around tenants' rights within their housing communities. As a direct result of organizing the UF Student Government is poised to pass a \$500,000 rent relief bill.

As the COVID crisis is not going to be resolved any time in the next few months, there exists an urgent need for Gainesville tenants to organize together, specifically into tenants' unions. Tenants unions allow for vulnerable renters to collectively act against landlords who are unwilling to provide rent relief during a crisis that has economically impacted all members of the Gainesville community.

To get involved in organizing your co-tenants or helping others get organized please fill out our housing survey at bit.ly/2Lc4f9E or email us at info@laborcoalition.org. 🐾

From IMMIGRATION, p. 1

This pandemic has brought great stress to our community and has inflicted even greater stress to the immigrant families in our community. Many of these immigrant families have faced layoffs and some have had to continue working in conditions that are not safe.

Mass layoffs and cuts in hours have made it incredibly difficult for these undocumented families to pay utilities, rent, and medical bills.

The \$2 trillion stimulus package has promised \$1,200 to adults with incomes of less than \$75,000 and left out millions of taxpaying undocumented workers and families. These taxpaying undocumented workers and families deserve the same opportunity to help them navigate life in such difficult times.

The Community Immigration Mutual Aid (CIMA) is fighting to guarantee economic assistance for undocumented workers and families during this pandemic.

CIMA is a coalition made up of individuals working together from The Human Rights Coalition of Alachua County, Dream Defenders, Madres sin Fronteras, and The Alachua County Labor Coalition.

The Stimulus Solidarity efforts promoted by CIMA has urged those

who are receiving stimulus checks to donate a portion of their check to undocumented families who will not receive economic assistance under the \$2 trillion stimulus package. All donations will go directly to immigrant families, so they can survive through the economic upheaval of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Friends and neighbors have already responded and come together to raise \$19,800 to help our undocumented brothers and sisters. With that money at least 50 families are to receive financial assistance to help navigate life during the pandemic.

CIMA is extremely grateful for the generosity of our community members and thanks to each and every person who helped in the efforts. Please visit hrcalachua.com/pandemic-response to make a donation.

The efforts of CIMA have led to dialogue with the city about extending the GNVcares efforts to undocumented families within the city. The GNVcares efforts include providing financial assistance to neighbors who are in low-income categories as well as providing grants to small businesses.

The city has not made any formal commitment to extending some of these funds to tax-paying immigrant families, however, it seems likely they will at some point. 🐾



Earth Pets Downtown and Downtown Tabby

404 NW 10th Ave / M-F 10-7, Sat 10-5

Earth Pets Downtown is a local, women owned and operated business. We've been at our current location since 2009, we have Third House Books next door, Cypress & Grove just to the East, and Afternoon and Working Food across from them. We sell only natural, wholesome pet foods, with no corn, wheat or soy and nothing made in or sourced from China. We will deliver if needed. In addition, we rescue kittens from the community, kittens that would normally end up in the shelter or homeless, and provide them with good food, shelter, lots of socialization and vet care, and then adopt them out to the community.

The Downtown Tabby, an art bar, came along when we decided to combine two of our passions, animal rescue and collecting. You'll find lots of mid-century modern items as well as local art and fine art. We serve beer and wine and you can take it to the nursery and hang out with the kittens or sit outside at our patio and listen to music. Or just hang out on our super cool mid-century furniture. All proceeds from The Downtown Tabby go toward our rescue efforts. People are encouraged to donate anything they think might fit into our vibe at the shop. Anything unique or eclectic does the trick. Events are on hold for now.



From MASKS, p. 9

mask only if you suggest we do, but will refuse if you tell us we have to, are engaging in juvenile temper tantrums. We are all frustrated, but taking it out on store clerks is simply indecent.

And then there's folks who have said they would comply if the president or governor say we have to, but not if local officials do. I wish those at the top were making it easier by leading, but from my vantage point, local governments are doing the best that we can with the information and resources we have, and have shown creativity, flexibility, and transparency to the best of our abilities.

Thank you for your efforts, large and small, to work together towards a full and safe recovery for our community. 🐢



Iguana Directory

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

Readers: If there is inaccurate information here, please let us know. If you are connected to an organization listed here, please check and update so others can be accurately informed. Please confirm times of meetings with individual organizations, as they may be cancelled due to the pandemic.

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

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

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

Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs (ACORN) Clinic is a not-for-profit (501C3) organization that provides low-cost, high-quality medical and dental care, and social services for people with and without health insurance. The clinic primarily serves residents of Alachua, Bradford and Union Counties. The Clinic fulfills its mission with the help of volunteer physicians, nurses, dentists, hygienists, pharmacists and counselors. 23320 N. State Rd 235, Brooker, 352-485-1133, <http://acornclinic.org/>. 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

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. <http://americanpromise.net>, info@americanpromise.net

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

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

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

Central Florida Democratic Socialists of America A local chapter of Democratic Socialists of America focusing on local social and political activism issues to better our community. General meetings are on the 4th Monday of every month at the Downtown Library in Gainesville in Meeting Room A. centralfldsa@gmail.com, www.fb.com/centralfldsa

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

Civic Media Center Alternative reading room and library of the non-corporate press, and a resource and space for organizing. 352-373-0010, www.civicmediacenter.org, 433 S Main St., Gainesville, 32601

The Coalition for Racial Justice gnv4all@gmail.com

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

Code Pink: Women for Peace Women-led grassroots peace and social justice movement utilizing creative protest, non-violent direct action and community involvement. CodePink4Peace.org, jacquebetz@gmail.com

The Community Weatherization Coalition is a grassroots community coalition whose mission is to improve home weatherization and energy efficiency for low-income households through education, volunteer work projects and community-building. The CWC welcomes new volunteers to get involved in a variety of ways, from performing audits to PR/Graphics and more. Contact: 352-450-4965 or cwc@communityweatherization.net

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

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

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

Continued on next page

Continued from preceding page

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gainesville Peer Respite A non-profit, non-clinical mental health community providing sanctuary and support to those experiencing emotional distress. Peer Support Warmline is

available 6pm-6am; we offer wellness activities, support groups and brief overnight respite stays. Call the Warmline Support: 352-559-4559, gainesvillerespite.org

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

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

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

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 or facebook.com/humanistsocietyofgainesville; gainesvillehumanists@gmail.com.

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

Ichetucknee Alliance focuses on activities in order to save the Ichetucknee River.<http://ichetuckneealliance.org/>, 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, projectmanagement@indivisiblegnv.org

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

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

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

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

Madres Sin Fronteras (Mothers Without Borders) is a local grassroots immigrant-led organization that works to protect the rights of immigrants' families in our community and to ensure that all are treated with dignity and respect. Email: msfgainesville@gmail.com

MindFreedom North Florida Human rights group for psychiatric survivors and mental health consumers. 352-328-2511

Move to Amend, Gainesville is an organization dedicated to amending the US Constitution to establish that money is not speech, and that only human beings have constitutional rights. Contact Alachua County Green Party for info.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Support, education and advocacy for families and loved ones of persons with mental illness/brain disorders. 374-5600. ext. 8322; www.namigainesville.org

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare Local advocates work to promote/preserve these threatened programs for senior citizens. We have literature, speakers, T-shirts. Email: Our.Circle.Of.Care@gmail.com. See national Web site to join: <http://www.ncpssm.org/>

National Lawyers Guild Lawyers, law students, legal workers and jailhouse lawyers using the law to advance social justice, support progressive social movements. nlggainesville@gmail.com or www.nlg.org

National Women's Liberation is a feminist group for women who want to fight back against male supremacy and win more freedom for women. Inequalities between women and men are political problems requiring a collective solution. Founded 1968. Join us: www.womensliberation.org, P.O. Box 14017, Gainesville, 32604, 352-575-0495, nwl@womensliberation.org

NCF AWIS - an advocacy organization championing the interest of women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) across all disciplines and employment sectors. Meetings are usually the first Monday of the month (except holidays) from 5:30 -7:30pm, Millhopper Branch, Alachua 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

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 (NOTE: Temporarily closed due to Covid-19 - check website for updates)

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.floridiansforafairdemocracy.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.sjsierra.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, sjpufflorida@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](https://www.facebook.com/UFcollegedems)

UF Pride Student Union LGBT+ group open to queer folk of all sorts, including students, non-students, faculty and staff. www.grove.ufl.edu/~pride

United Faculty of Florida, UF chapter Run by and for faculty, the University of Florida Chapter of United Faculty of Florida (UFF-UF) represents over 1600 faculty and professionals at UF. UFF's origins lie in efforts by faculty to protect academic freedom, defend civil liberties, and end racial discrimination at UF. www.UFF-UF.org, 352-519-4130.

United Nations Association, Gainesville Florida Chapter Purpose is to heighten citizen awareness and knowledge of global problems and the UN efforts to deal with those issues. www.afn.org/~una-usa/.

United Way Information and Referral Human-staffed computer database for resources and organizations in Alachua County. 352-332-4636 or simply 211

Veterans for Peace Anti-war organization that raises awareness of the detriments of militarism and war as well as seeking peaceful and effective alternatives. Meets first Wednesday of every month at 7 pm. 352-375-2563, <http://vfp Gainesville.org/>

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/; Instagram.com/womensmarchgnv; Twitter.com/WMFL_Gnv/ and/or email wmw@hearourvoicegnv.org. Together we can do anything... Join Us! We Need You. Let's build this peaceful movement together!

World Socialist Party of the United States (WSP-US) welcomes anyone wanting to know more about Marxian socialism and our efforts to transform the dog-eat-dog-Devil take the hindmost world-created by capitalism into a democratically arranged world society of equality at boston@wspus.org. Upon request the Party will provide membership applications, <http://wspus.org>.

Zine Committee works to preserve and promote Travis Fristoe Zine Library at the CMC, new meeting time TBD - see Facebook, cmzinecommittee@gmail.com 🐾

Support local farms, farmers markets for food security

by Anna Prizzia

Local farms and food business are on the frontline helping us during this challenging time as we manage response to COVID-19. Our food system is dynamic and critical to the resilience of our community, state and country. Local farms and food businesses are working hard to provide healthy, safe food to their consumers. Our local producers can offer fresh products while many of our national and international supply chains have been shut down by the pandemic.

In order to protect our local food security, it is vital to support our local farms, and it is a silver lining during this crisis to see that our community is doing just that.

If you haven't already, check out one of our communities several great farmers markets throughout the week that are taking precautions to keep their customers safe - Grove Street on Mondays, a new market starting in Celebration Point on Wednesdays, and Haile and the 441 Market on Saturdays.

For those that prefer a limited contact way of shopping, some growers offer delivery, and Working Food has partnered with several farms for a drive-through market on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Many of these markets accept SNAP benefits, some even doubling SNAP so that local food is even more affordable.

As summer draws closer, our farmers and their fields will take a rest from the heat by mid- June. This is the time our farmers focus on rebuilding soil and planning for the new season. It is a great time to think about how you can shift

your purchasing habits for the coming season, too.

If you haven't considered it, you might think about joining a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) for next season. In a CSA, customers pay upfront for the entire season (typically from October to June). By doing this, you are investing in the farm by essentially purchasing a share of it. This upfront payment enables farmers to finance the early stages of growing: seeds, equipment, labor, etc. In return, customers get a share of the farm products typically weekly or bi-weekly. Some farms offer different options for the size of your household, payment plans, and an option to customize what is in your share.

There are two main types of CSAs:

workplace and community. Produce and sometimes other products such as honey, yogurt, eggs or even meat, are packaged and delivered to a convenient place for you to pick up, either at a market or right at your place of work – such as the Gator CSA at UF. A few farms that offer CSAs locally include Siembra!, Family Garden, Swallowtail, and Frog Song Farm.

A CSA can be a little overwhelming for those that haven't eaten seasonally before. Suddenly you have a bounty of local vegetables to cook with every week. One way to ease into a CSA is to share with a friend or neighbor. Not only do you get to split the vegetables as you learn more about what you like and how to prepare them, but you can share recipes and ideas. It's a fun way to diversify your diet. 🐸

Black people are so tired.

We can't go jogging. (#AmaudArbery)

We can't relax in the comfort of our own homes. (#BothemJean, #AtatianaJefferson)

We can't ask for help after being in a car crash. (#JonathanFerrell, #RenishaMcBride)

We can't have a cellphone. (#StephonClark)

We can't leave a party to get to safety. (#JordanEdwards)

We can't play loud music. (#JordanDavis)

We can't sell CDs. (#AltonSterling)

We can't sleep. (#AiyanaJones)

We can't walk from the corner store. (#MikeBrown)

We can't play cops and robbers. (#TamirRice)

We can't go to church. (#Charleston9)

We can't walk home with Skittles. (#TrayvonMartin)

We can't hold a hairbrush while leaving our own bachelor party. (#SeanBell)

We can't party on New Years. (#OscarGrant)

We can't get a normal traffic ticket. (#SandraBland)

We can't lawfully carry a weapon. (#PhilandoCastile)

- Anonymous (YouTube) / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1093> 🐸



Established 1986

Subscribe!

Individuals: \$15 a year
(or more if you can)

Low/No income: what you can
Groups: \$20 a year

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

www.gainesvilleiguana.org

GainesvilleIguana@cox.net

facebook.com/gainesvilleiguana

Articles from current and past issues since 1996, and PDFs of print issues since 2012 are available at www.gainesvilleiguana.org