



The Gainesville Iguana

*A progressive newsletter
and events calendar*

July/August 2020

Vol. 34, Issue 7/8

Vote Aug. 18!

by Joe Courter

Tuesday, August 18, will be election day for the party primaries and non-partisan races in Alachua County leading up to the November 3 national election.

For the party races, you will need to be a registered Democrat to have a voice; if you are not, you can register as a Democrat on or before July 20. You can always change it back later ... that's the way it works here in Florida.

Early voting will begin August 3; details can be found on page 20.

U.S. Congress Dist. 3 is the soon-to-be ex-Yoho seat (good riddance!). There are a slew of Republicans running on their primary ballot. I will not waste ink on them, other than perhaps it will be entertaining to see how acrimonious they get. There are three Democrats running: Adam Christensen, Phillip Dodds and Tom Wells. The best candidate to try and capture this heavily gerrymandered seat is Christensen, a political newcomer with a background in fraud testing and experience in company start-ups, and a candidate who could hold his own against what will be a tough race.

Eastside Alachua County has a State House race with Democrats Yvonne Hayes Hinson and Rodney Long running

See VOTE!, p. 20

‘No Justice, No Peace’

Goddsville Dream Defenders March, Report from the Streets



Demonstrators shut down a police station intersection in Gainesville on June 13 while speakers documented local abuses during a Goddsville Dream Defenders March against police brutality and white power. The Goddsville Dream Defenders is an abolitionist organization of young people fighting for a future with no cages, violence or corporate greed. Photo by James Thompson.

by James Thompson

On June 13, about 2,000 people occupied state highways and local roads under citizen guard for three hours on a Goddsville (Gainesville Chapter of Dream Defenders) Dream Defenders march against police brutality and white power.

Occupied areas included a UF stadium, the University and 13th Street intersection, a police station intersection, and outside the County courthouse. Stops at Seminary

Lane, Lynch Park, and Porters Community connected Black activists, white allies, and the public to a deep history of struggle.

We marched through stolen lands, by gentrified luxury student high-rises built on sweated labor, and into public institutions forged from slavery. We witnessed the locations of many crimes.

The basketball stadium at UF where the march began was the scene of the first crime.

See MARCH, p. 5

REGULAR FEATURES

<i>Correspondence</i>	2
<i>From the Publisher</i>	3
<i>And the Good News is</i>	7
<i>Editors' Picks</i>	9
<i>In Memoriam</i>	17
<i>Oral History</i>	18-19
<i>Directory</i>	21-23

Just saying ‘systemic racism’ doesn’t expose systemic racism, Let us name the system: ‘racial capitalism’

by Jeff Cohen

This article was originally published on June 17 by Common Dreams. See more at commondreams.org.

If you’ve been watching mainstream TV news programs lately, you’ve probably noticed that a number of corporate journalists — prodded by the marvelous protests against police violence — seem to have learned a new phrase, which they invoke regularly: “systemic racism.”

That’s an improvement from a dozen years ago, when some in establishment media were hailing our society as “post-racial” because of the election of President Obama.

While anti-racist activists have been explaining for decades that the problem of racism goes beyond the bigoted attitudes of individual elected officials (like Rep. Steve King) or law enforcement chiefs (like Sheriff Joe Arpaio) or Fox News hosts (take your pick), mainstream TV news has always preferred to focus on individual racists rather than address the systemic racism embedded in housing, policing, schooling, employment and healthcare policies — institutionalized racism going back to the foundations of our country.

So it’s oddly disconcerting nowadays to hear regular mentions of the phrase “systemic racism” from mainstream journalists who adamantly refuse to criticize (or even name) the system that U.S. racism is entrenched in. That system is “CAPITALISM.”

Or as historian Khalil Gibran Muhammad calls it: “racial capitalism.”

The sad and deadly history began with the savage exploitation of African people as slaves.

What history books euphemistically refer to as “Southern plantations” were really “slave labor camps” benefitting financial elites from New England to old England. After “emancipation” came the capitalist exploitation of African American workers in the worst and dirtiest jobs — not just as sharecroppers.

In the 1930s, when labor and socialist activism forced some concessions from U.S. capitalism, the two groups of workers

excluded from the landmark National Labor Relations Act of 1935 were farm workers and domestic workers. The exclusions subjected millions of Black and Latinx workers to super-exploitation and mistreatment.

(Although agricultural workers today from California to Florida are largely Latinx, farm workers in Florida were heavily African American when Edward R. Murrow produced his acclaimed “Harvest of Shame” documentary in 1960. Watch it at <https://archive.org/details/HarvestOfShame>.)

At every stage in U.S. history — beginning with the brutal dispossession of Native Americans and continuing through modern methods of injustice from redlining to mass incarceration and private prisons — U.S. racism has been inextricably embedded in the system of profiteering.

So it’s fascinating to see pundits on CNN, MSNBC and other networks now discussing “systemic racism” after they’d spent months during the Democratic presidential primaries in panicked overdrive propping up “the system.”

Reforms aimed at reducing the wealth/poverty extremes of neoliberal capitalism — whether proposed by Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren — were relentlessly dismissed as unrealistic, unaffordable,

extreme. These were “shoot-the-moon policy ideas” (Washington Post) threatening to push Democrats “over a liberal cliff.” (New York Times)

- Medicare for All? “Too expensive.” Except it isn’t. For months, mainstream media pundits vehemently defended a system that ties one’s (private) health insurance to one’s job ... and then COVID-19 threw tens of millions out of those jobs.
- Green New Deal, providing millions of high-wage jobs while transforming our economy? Unaffordable.
- A wealth tax on ultra-millionaires to provide universal childcare and better schools — or a Wall Street transaction tax to provide free public college? Unworkable.

Corporate liberal news outlets were aggressive in policing the Democratic primaries for structural reforms that went “too far” in addressing systemic racism and classism.

Despite the media naysaying, the good news is that progressive reforms remain popular with the public.

The bad news is that too many people still rely on media outlets entrenched in the corporate system for news on “systemic” racism. 🐸

Correspondence

We have treated Black Americans and other minorities terribly

To me, partial atonement should include truth and reconciliation in the education of young people. I believe that all public and private schools must teach, age appropriately: empathic communication; conflict resolution; human legacy of the Holocaust; slavery; racism; the genocide and abuse of the American indigenous peoples; internment of the Japanese during WWII; and the internment of children on the Mexican border in 2018.

If we do not remember history, we will repeat it. In our quest of Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness, the knowledge of world history and American history is very important. Each generation should learn about the mistakes we have made so we will not repeat them.

Is this material being taught in Alachua County public schools? If we are not teaching our children about this part of our history, we are complicit in its repetition.

- Bill Gilbert, Gainesville 🐸

From the publisher ...

Exceptional times

We now have not one but two worldwide phenomena going on. One of them is the COVID-19 virus, a product of the unnatural commingling of exotic animals in an Asian market prompted by superstition-based desires to consume these critters for alleged health benefits. This yielded a nasty and stealthy viral strain that, with humans' proclivity to move about the planet, has allowed its spread around the globe. This put into view the successes and failures of different nations in dealing with it, speaking volumes about both the effectiveness of their governments, and the level of cooperation among their citizens. The United States seems to be doing exceptionally badly at this, not only in stifling the spread of the virus, but in its level of economic assistance to its citizens.



Joe Courter

The other worldwide phenomena was catalyzed by the video of the cold-blooded murder of George Floyd. But it was about way more than those 8 minutes and 46 seconds. This was a worldwide reaction to the centuries-long legacy of white supremacy, encompassing colonialism, imperialism and slavery. Peoples who have been dominated and exploited, who have lived with that knee on the throat of their nation's economies, lived with the choke hold on their opportunities, and suffered the institutionalized inequities that the dominant power structure enforces as "normal"; these people are responding with massive resolve and righteous rage.

This nation is being exposed, its racist history built on expropriation of native land and the labor of enslaved people building the economic structure of capitalism, huge money coming to the super wealthy building financial empires that benefit the pet projects of those that had access to the plundered riches. It IS a truly exceptional nation. A nation that is able to deny its own history and standing in the world, though lately the United States seems to be standing with its pants down. A nation that considers empathy as a weakness, that can tolerate locking large segments of its population into poverty or massive levels of incarceration. It is a nation so blinded by self-interest and self-certitude that it has become a massive failure in combating COVID-19, a government too stingy to support citizens out of work and instead sanctioning re-opening too soon, and citizens too self-centered to wear a mask and take the science seriously as people in other nations have.

Young people especially are calling BS on the threats to their future, and the exploitative nature of a system that values profits over people. Coming at a time of increasingly authoritarian governments here and elsewhere, the days we are living now may only be foreshadowing an uprising of further conflicts regarding the meeting of human needs over human greed. And we have no idea how the effects of dealing with COVID-19 may affect our future.

We need a revolution in consciousness, and a collective joining together across the generations. Where are the elder freedom fighters who went through the Fifties with the Red Scare, the Sixties with Civil Rights and Viet Nam, or the Eighties with Reagan's economics and bogus Central American wars? We seemed to passively watch the Nineties with the Clinton disappointments followed by the Bush selection, 9/11, endless wars and near financial collapse. 2008 gave us some "Hope and Change" with more the former than the latter (yes, thanks for acknowledging LGBTQ rights, but...?), and then November 2016 and deeper doo-doo than we ever imagined. Climate change accelerating, worldwide migration crises, a greedy man/child in the White House undoing decades of progress, and now a pandemic.

The youth are in the streets... are the rest of us ready to embrace the struggles that are coming? 🐞

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 3,500.

Publisher:

Joe Courter

Editors Emeritus:

Jenny Brown
Mark Piotrowski

Editorial Board:

Pierce Butler
Joe Courter
Beth Grobman
Jessica Newman

Production work and assistance:

Joye Barnes
Doug Bernal
Jenny Brown
Gwendolyn Marie
Jojo Sacks

Distribution:

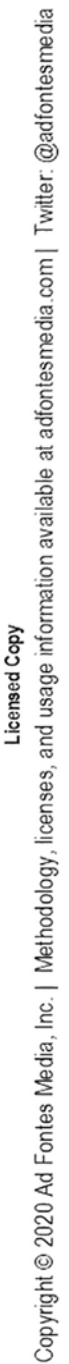
Joe Courter
Kate Ellison
Bill Gilbert
Anita Sundaram

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.



From MARCH, p. 1

Stephen O'Connell, the building's namesake, was Florida's pro-segregation Chief Justice during the Black-led Civil Rights Movement.

O'Connell was a UF president as well, and his legacy continues with low minority and working poor enrollment. UF's Board of Trustees is now run by right-wing Florida real estate developer and Rick Scott appointee Morteza Hosseini. UF is the area's largest institutional employer of service workers, educators, and professional staff at starvation wages.

Every person at the stadium raised their fist and pledged in unison not to hug, kneel with, speak to, or otherwise allow the police to co-opt the march and its public relations. In its most solemn moment, the march later occupied the intersection of University and 13th Street to mourn in silence and power for nine minutes. This is how long it took four cops to publicly lynch George Floyd by strangulation. At each minute, Black activists repeated Mr. Floyd's bloodcurdling pleas to his deceased Mother, to anyone, to let him breathe.

The procession continued through Gainesville neighborhoods built by Black families after Reconstruction a century and a half ago, along the NW 5th and 7th Ave corridors. Organizer Danielle Chan- zes educated us about the crime of gentrification.

In the last two decades, hundreds of people in this community were forced out by local government decisions and developers to make way for luxury student housing after being promised new homes that never appeared. We congregated there in the yard of the A.Q. Jones school, formerly the proud all-Black Lincoln High School. That same building where a Black community once thrived against segregation now houses teachers and staff who do the heavy lifting of raising and educating children whom society has failed before they were born.

We then occupied the police station intersection at 6th Street and 8th Avenue, the headquarters for our local war on Black people. The Sarasota Herald-Tribune recently featured a data-driven statewide study citing Gainesville as the premier Florida city for apartheid policing. It cited the "burden shouldered by east Gainesville in GPD's war on drugs, finding that GPD patrols black neighborhoods in east Gainesville — stopping [Black] college-aged males for minor infractions like jaywalking or biking without lights ... while leaving west Gainesville and UF's [White] campus largely unbothered." Gainesville is not a precious "woke" little college town on the cusp of change. We are Minneapolis, Los Angeles, and New York City.

The march continued to the County Courthouse, where racist judges like the departed David Glant (nicknamed "Father Time" for inequitable and harsh sentencing) handed out dirty justice to generations of citizens for being poor, mentally ill, addicted, or Black.

On those courthouse steps, activist and mother Jhody Polk noted the fight against this legacy, praising "the jailhouse lawyers practicing law in the dark" to bring justice. She celebrated the streets and the community who prepared her to be incarcerated and who steeled her for the struggle. She reminded us that when her son goes out to play or she walks in public, "I can't breathe." Her words remind us of the hard work ahead: "I deserve peace and justice and I'm not waiting for one or the other."

As the march gathered in its final location, the historically Black community of Porters, the crowd met the sunset with roaring chants of "No Cops, No KKK, No Racist USA."

A local resident then discussed how common it is for Black men like him to be harassed for simply walking down the street. As a connector between downtown and UF, Porters has been subjected to a



March for Our Freedom was organized by grassroots volunteers on May 30. Gathering in Depot Park, and walking to Bo Diddly Plaza, more than 2,500 people streamed up South Main Street, some arriving at Bo Diddly Plaza before others had left Depot Park. At Bo Diddly Plaza, a spirited rally took place. 99.9 percent of the people wore masks. Photo is from the roof of the Civic Media Center. Photo by Joe Courter.

high-rise and office style gentrification on a different trajectory than Seminary Lane. Corporations like the Heritage Investment Group (which includes Trimark Realty, a local purveyor of luxury student and multifamily housing) plan to build parking garages and other private amenities which will further increase homeowner property taxes and displace Black residents.

The march's greatest success was relating the criminal history of local institutions, judges, police, and corporations against Black people and the working class. At each stop activists reminded us that these problems are ongoing.

To be fair, some local leaders have been trying to reform what is broken, like slowly reducing the jail population and pushing deferment programs for petty crimes. Meanwhile, generational historical inequities continue to affect our Black neighbors and other persons of color. There have been few visible receipts for these crimes. On June 13th we saw the receipts, drenched in blood and sweat, written up for property taken, education denied, people in chains, and institutions walled off.

The overall message of the march was loud and clear. The streets have spoken. Reform has failed. The edge of the progressive fence many of us have been sitting on is getting sharper and sharper. It's time to come down, pick a side, and go marching on the places and to the people we need to change. We will keep walking and speaking and taking the streets until all demands for a just society are met.

James Thompson is a community activist focused on the racial and environmental politics of land use policy. He is currently an appointed member of the Alachua County Charter Review Commission. 🐢

Don't just save the Postal Service, reinvent it

The USPS could be the government at its best, if politicians gave it a chance

by Jason Linkins

This article was originally published by the New Republic on June 16. See more at newrepublic.com.

If we're lucky enough to see the derangements of the current era pass — such as the Trump administration and its farcical response to a once-in-a-century pandemic — the stewards of the next phase in American life have an awesome task ahead of them.

They'll need to author a new economic recovery and reboot the federal government; more likely than not, they'll also need to find a way to restore the American people's lost faith in institutions and forge a more equitable future. Simple action items are in short supply, but here's one: a broad reimagining of the U.S. Postal Service.

USPS officials have beseeched lawmakers for a bailout during the pandemic, raising concerns that the agency could be insolvent by the autumn.

In April, the White House put the kibosh on \$13 billion worth of sustenance, even as it let far less worthy corporate interests fatten themselves on the Covid-19 bailout teat. (A bipartisan group of House lawmakers is even seeking to cut in predatory payday lenders on the bailout deal, in an apparent attempt to win the Nobel Prize for bottom-feeding.)

Donald Trump has referred to the USPS

as a joke and demanded, as a precondition for aid, that it charge Amazon higher rates — the better to stick it to its founder, Jeff Bezos, whose Washington Post, he believes, has been out to get him from the start.

Bezos can weather the collapse of the Postal Service, but the average American can't. Right now, for hundreds of thousands strewn across the nation's expanse, the Postal Service is their last real connection to their government.

The loss of this vital intersection will only add to the isolation that so many people needlessly experience. There are already too many communities living as if they resided on a remote archipelago, rather than in a unified nation.

But we shouldn't stop at merely providing the USPS with the \$89 billion it has asked for. Rather, this is a moment when we can revitalize the agency and use it to restore our faith in America. The good old post office doesn't have to simply be the place where we send letters.

For millions of unbanked Americans, it can be a place where checks are cashed, bills paid, and loans provided. This isn't a pie-in-the-sky plan. From 1911 to 1967, post offices were the venue for postal banking and a vital lifeline for those hit by the Great Depression; it can serve these needs again. Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, and Kirsten Gillibrand have all backed postal banking.

We can dream even bigger. The post office could be the place where Americans come to navigate the federal bureaucracy, an all-in-one kiosk for quick answers from human beings in a face-to-face setting. Whether it's getting government-provided health insurance sorted out, or learning about available federal grants, the post office of the future would make things a little easier — after a visit, you'd tell your loved ones, "I talked to a guy; we took care of it."

The Postal Service is already one of the most reliable employers of veterans — people who think big, and who have real experience traversing complicated bureaucracies. And since we're already sending a lot of talent out into the nation, there's no reason the USPS can't be a future farm system for the federal government, where our most capable contenders can be called up to the majors, bringing with them a wealth of firsthand experience helping ordinary Americans surmount life's inevitable challenges.

In a way, a revived, more ambitious Postal Service is a giant infrastructure project — only instead of laying asphalt or stacking concrete, it would deploy human potential and the spirit of civic duty.

There's really nothing radical or crazed about this idea, unless you'd call Benjamin Franklin, who was our first postmaster general, a crazed radical. It only demands that we start taking the way we imagine America could be in the best of times more seriously, by making use of what we already have close at hand. 🐘



MONDAY thru FRIDAY
8 AM and 1 PM
WGOT.org / WGOT 100.1 FM
Gainesville's Community Radio

And the good news is ...

Another bunch of racist statues gone: Christopher Columbus took a tumble

by Camille Squires

This article was originally published by Mother Jones on June 13.

Another week, another bunch of racist statues gone. This time it was Christopher Columbus, patron saint of problematic iconography, taking a tumble. On Tuesday and Wednesday, protesters pulled down a Columbus statue at the State Capitol in Minnesota, threw another one in Richmond, Virginia, into a lake, and beheaded a third in Boston. (The rest of the statue in Boston was also taken down the next day.)

Plenty of ink has been spilled correcting the record on Columbus and reminding people that he was a slaver, a murderer,

and a harbinger of settler colonialism in the Americas, and the arguments against celebrating his federal holiday have caught on in recent years. Still, it is significant that two of these monuments to Columbus were brought down by Indigenous people during demonstrations organized to acknowledge anti-Indigenous racism.

The recent protests were spurred by the killing of George Floyd and have focused on police brutality and anti-Black racism in the U.S., but they've made space to address a number of white supremacy's sins against various peoples around the world. In toppling monuments, people are denouncing everything from the

genocide of Indigenous peoples to the crimes of Leopold II in Congo.

Christopher Columbus is the ur-colonialist, the symbol of all the injustices of Western history that flowed from his first voyage in 1492. The ubiquity of his image in cities throughout the Americas is an affront to the Black and Indigenous people who have been the primary victims of his legacy. Three toppled statues are just a start.

The Columbus statues are the latest in a string of racist symbols that have been toppled, torched, occupied, or otherwise defaced in recent weeks. Read the full list at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1100>. 🐊

The fight for equality just won a huge victory: A stunning win for LGBTQ rights

by Karen Dolan

This article was originally published by Common Dreams on June 17.

This moment in our nation's history is marked by pain and uprising.

Infections and deaths from the coronavirus are occurring at heartbreaking rates. Cities and small towns are on fire, figuratively and literally, as police brutality against black people has finally reached a tipping point. Black transgender people are targeted and murdered by police and private citizens alike.

In the midst of this, a stunning victory has been won for human and civil rights in the United States: On June 15th, the Supreme Court issued a landmark decision stating that people who are transgender, gay, lesbian, queer, or intersex can't be fired from their job simply because they belong to one or more of those categories.

This historic decision was achieved by an astonishing 6-3 vote in a conservative court, written and delivered by Trump appointee Justice Neil Gorsuch. It makes clear that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,

which prohibits sex discrimination in employment, now applies to people with any sexual orientation or gender identity. In short, it codifies that people are people and deserve human and civil rights.

This is huge. I would argue it's even bigger than the marriage equality decision of 2015, though it couldn't have happened without it. Not everyone desires to be married, and marriage isn't a necessity for survival. But safe and gainful employment, free of discrimination, is.

It may come as a surprise to some that, until now, the federal government allowed employment discrimination based on someone's sexual orientation or gender identity. But while some states fully prohibit the practice, a majority do not. The rules on LGBTQ workers are a patchwork of selective protections and outright discrimination across the country.

No more.

Well, almost. Gorsuch did include a carve-out for religious exemption. This is a serious and concerning carve-out that must be remedied by Congress, and will be litigated.

Importantly, although this ruling pertains to Title VII, which is the unemployment discrimination section of the Civil Rights Act, it also places sexual orientation and gender identity firmly in the federal legal definition of "sex."

This is of vital importance, as it puts the heft of Supreme Court law behind this definition. That could also inform rules on sex discrimination in areas such as housing, education, health care, and even in the occupying of public spaces, among other areas where the rights of transgender people in particular have long been violated.

The Trump administration has been aggressive in its attempts to roll back every protection won during the Obama administration for transgender people. Most recently, Trump announced a rule to roll back protections for transgender people included in the Affordable Care Act.

This ruling all but negates those attempts.

It isn't automatic, and there are still court battles to be fought, but this decision puts some very big boxing gloves on organizations like the ACLU, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the Transgender Law Center, the Office of Civil Rights, and the Human Rights Campaign as they fight for decency, human rights, and equality under the law for all people.

Transgender people, and especially black transgender people, face the most poverty, the most abuse, among the greatest barriers to health care, and the highest rates of targeted murder of any population in the United States. As such, amid the ongoing unrest, this ruling was also a significant affirmation that black lives matter. 🐊

Supreme Court rejects Trump effort to end DACA

by Josh Gerstein and Rebecca Rainey

This excerpt is from an article that was originally published by Politico on June 18. Read the entire article at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1101>

The Supreme Court rejected President Donald Trump's attempt to end the DACA program, handing a major victory

to about 650,000 immigrants — most of whom who entered the U.S. illegally as children more than a decade ago.

Chief Justice John Roberts joined the court's Democratic appointees in a 5-4 decision that found the Trump administration's move to wind down the Obama-era program for Dreamers lacked a sound legal basis. 🐊

Florida Peace Alliance forms links with peace groups

by Florida Peace Alliance

During this time of global pandemic and death, when the U.N. Secretary General calls for a global ceasefire so humanity can work together to save lives and prevent death, and when the United States struggles with its history of racism, a statewide alliance of Florida-based peace and justice groups has formed: the Florida Peace Alliance.

The Florida Peace Alliance is an alliance of Florida peace and justice groups and allies committed to advocacy, activism and mobilization.

The Florida Peace Alliance already includes more than forty organizations and allies with email contacts and supporters numbering in the thousands. Member organizations are located statewide and include organizations in Miami, Palm Beach, Jacksonville, Pensacola, Gaines-

ville, Ocala, The Villages, Orlando, Tampa, Sarasota, Naples and Fort Meyers.

"We are reaching out to groups, churches and organizations and individuals to create a Florida Peace Alliance and to link with existing peace advocacy groups" said Al Mytty, Co-Chair, who lives in The Villages, and is the Coordinator of World Beyond War - Central Florida.

"Way too often, the U.S. and the world use war and militarism as the way to settle conflict. As Dr. King taught, 'Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hatred cannot drive out hatred; only love can do that.' Dr. King clearly showed the interconnectedness of the evils of racism, poverty and war. We need to re-think our priorities, come together and advocate for peace," said Mytty.

"The culture of war and violence is pervasive in our society. We need to change to a culture of peace and nonviolence. By coming together, we will have a more powerful voice to make positive change. We can teach peace, live peace and work together," said Dr. Manal Fakhoury, co-chair, and founder of Ollin Women International.

The Florida Peace Alliance recognizes the interconnectedness of many issues related to peace, such as climate change and environmental destruction, gun violence, racism, immigrant rights and reform, capitalism and corporate power, trade and globalization justice, social inequality and poverty, inadequate housing, healthcare for all, criminal justice reform, voters' rights, etc.

All are intertwined with our culture of militarism, violence and imperialism. All

of these diminish the value of human life.

The Florida Peace Alliance recognizes that many of the state's representatives in Congress, including both senators, often take pro-war and interventionist positions that fuel conflict instead of diplomacy.

The Florida Peace Alliance hopes to push our representatives to promote "good neighbor policies" based on non-intervention, mutual respect and non-violent resolution of conflicts.

The focus for the Florida Peace Alliance will be: peace and alternatives to war, disarmament, banning nuclear weapons, nonviolence and peace training, sanctions, costs of war, military draft, military alliances, the military industrial complex, etc.

Some possible actions for the Florida Peace Alliance Coalition will be to:

- advocate for peace, an end to war, and nonviolent, non-militaristic ways of resolving conflict
- mobilize organizations and individuals when action and resistance are needed.
- promote events — live and online — so organizations can get the word out to their memberships
- lobby Florida local, statewide and national legislators, and advocate for peace and reduced militarism.
- promote peace and alternatives to war intergenerationally.

For further information contact Al Mytty at amytty@hcamllc.com or 317-373-7355 or Manal Fakhoury at manal.llc@gmail.com or 352-266-1268.

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! 🐢

East End Eatery

Open M-F inside, outside on the patio and for curbside carry out

Lunch 10-2, Dinner 5-7

1202 NE 8th Avenue • 378-9870

Continue to Support the Civic Media Center

See www.civicmediacenter.org and hit the "donate now" button.

We currently cannot host any events, but we host and organize the Free Grocery Store, which delivers food to people in need twice a week. To inquire about volunteering or deliveries call 352-388-1586, or visit tiny.cc/volunteerfgs to sign up.

Free Grocery Store at the Civic Media Center

Tuesdays 2:30-4:30 pm - 433 S Main St.

(for people who do not have the means to buy fresh produce)



Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

✂ About Face: Death and surrender to power in the clothing of men

by Nate Powell / Popula / <https://popula.com/2019/02/24/about-face/>

A service brat's extended comic/memoir on neo-fascist symbolism absorbed from comic books, mall punks, SUVs, and more.

✂ Death taxes and science denial

by Stephen Mulkey / Environmental Century / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1102>

Like death and taxes, the denial of science is a constant. We must not cry conspiracy and hate science when it reveals what we don't like, we must approach new understanding with a willingness to grow.

✂ Florida Covid Action

by Florida Communities Connecting for COVID / <https://floridacovidaction.com/>

This online community dashboard is a one-stop-shop for finding Coronavirus data for Florida and lists helpful resources.

✂ GeorgeFloyd Protest - police brutality videos on Twitter

by Greg Doucette and Jason E Miller / <https://tinyurl.com/GFProtestPoliceBrutality>

NC attorney Greg Doucette's (rapidly growing) annotated list of over 600 recent Twitter and YouTube videos of police violence at George Floyd murder protests. (Warning: many videos are seriously disturbing.)

✂ How We Shut Down the World Trade Organization

by Lisa Fithian / yes! / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1094>

Twenty years ago, activists converged at "The Battle in Seattle" to protest the WTO's exploitative trade agreements. Their protest is still relevant today.

✂ Noam Chomsky: What History Shows Us About Responding to Coronavirus

by David Barsamian / Literary Hub / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1095>

Chomsky says that the greatest impact in politics comes from "your constant, day-to-day activist work, the kind of things that change the social conditions, the understanding, the background under which changes can happen." He spoke with Barsamian about the challenges of responding to the coronavirus, the future of our relationship to technology, and history's lessons for moving forward.

✂ No, We Should Not Condemn Uprisings Against Police Murders Like George Floyd's

by Peter Gowan / Jacobin / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1096>

The uprising in response to George Floyd's murder by a Minneapolis police officer led to predictable calls to condemn looting. But the real looting in our society comes from the military, the police, the pharmaceutical companies, private equity, the landlords, the real estate speculators, and the billionaires — not the protesters against police brutality.

✂ The New York Times Admits Key Falsehoods That Drove Last Year's Coup in Bolivia: Falsehoods Peddled by the U.S., Its Media, and the Times


by Glenn Greenwald / The Intercept / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1097>

A close look at Bolivian election data suggests an initial analysis by the Organization of American States that raised questions of vote-rigging — and helped force out a president — was flawed.

✂ Why the Nazis studied American race laws for inspiration

by James Q. Whitman / Aeon / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1098>

The Nazi bureaucracy saw many things to admire in US white supremacy in the 1930s, such as Jim Crow segregation and techniques to determine who counted as a Jew. When the Nuremberg Laws were promulgated in 1935, it is almost certain they reflected U.S. influence. ✂



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



BETTER HOMES
and Gardens
REAL ESTATE

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!

Coronavirus and Medicare for All: Our crisis comes from Government putting profit over public health

by F. Douglas Stephenson

This article was originally published by Informed Comment at juancole.com on April 8.

Big business dominates our government, and public health takes a back seat to the need for private profit. Many government leaders from both political parties share the same “profits over public health” ideology, even though the Covid-19 pandemic clearly shows how our economic system

has failed to serve our citizens by allowing these groups to privatize, sabotage, fragment and cripple our health, public health and other social services. No greater disconnect exists between the public good and private interests than in the U.S. system of for-profit health insurance. Big Insurance and Big Pharma are very powerful private interests that have shaped public policy in national health insurance and public health for the past 40 years.

To make governments less willing and able to respond to public health/environmental crises such as Covid-19, these companies fund right-wing think tanks to attack public health policy. By presenting government as a threat to freedom, the distinguished writer for The Guardian (UK) George Monbiot described how right-wing groups and big business create a narrative by reframing responsible government as the “nanny state,” the “health police” and “elf ‘n’ safety zealots.” They dismiss scientific findings and predictions as “unfounded fears,” “risk aversion” and “scaremongering.” Public protections are recast as “red tape,” “interference” and “state control.”

Supporting Medicare for All and basic principles of public health, one of the world’s leading medical journals, The Lancet (UK), recently published a study estimating that universal health care in the U.S. “is likely to lead to a 13% savings in national health-care expenditure, equivalent to more than US\$450 billion annually (based on the value of the US\$ in 2017).” The study continues:

“The entire system could be funded with less financial outlay than is incurred by employers and households paying for health-care premiums combined with existing government allocations. This shift to single payer health care would provide the greatest relief to lower-income households. Furthermore, we estimate that ensuring health-care access for all Americans would save more than 68,000 lives and 1.73 million life-years every year compared with the status quo.”

To protect profits, the private health insurance industry and their Congressional supporters continue strongly opposing Medicare for All. Private health insurance companies know that with low administrative costs with no need to produce profits, a public Medicare For All system would have unbeatable pricing advantages for the American public.

Research in the New England Journal of Medicine showed that administration consumes a total of 31 percent of U.S. health spending, with much of that waste attributable to private insurance company overhead and profit. If the single-payer plan pays health care professionals, hospitals and drug companies at levels com-

RE-ELECT
Mike Byerly
For Alachua County Commission

A proven progressive record.
"Public safety means more than police and jails. For twenty years I have worked to shift County resources away from reactive to preventative strategies, like stronger investments in social services and early childhood development. Current events have brought this issue front and center, and now is the time to push." -Mike Byerly

VoteByerly.com
352-234-7010
P.O. Box 776
Micanopy, FL 32667
byerly4@gmail.com



Political advertisement paid for and approved by Mike Byerly, Democrat, for Alachua County Commission District 1

parable to Medicare's current substantially lower rates, premiums for all individuals and families could be so low that the public plan could consume the market and end private health insurance.

Often the public is confused and fearful when the "socialized medicine" label is conflated with single-payer, Medicare-for-all, which simply is "socialized health insurance." Whatever the pros/cons of socialized medicine, Medicare for All is not socialized medicine. Socialized medicine is a system in which doctors and hospitals work for and draw salaries from the government. Health-care professionals in the U.S. Veterans Administration and the armed services are paid this way. The good health systems in Great Britain and in Spain are other examples.

Most European countries, Canada, Australia and Japan have socialized health insurance, but not socialized medicine. The government pays for care that is delivered in the private (mostly not-for-profit) sector. This is similar to how Medicare works in this country. Physicians and other health professionals are in private practice and are paid on a fee-for-service basis from government funds. The government does not own or manage medical or mental health practices or hospitals.

The U.S. subscribes to a private business model for health insurance that defines insurers as commercial entities. Private health insurers also maximize profits by limiting benefits or by not covering people with health problems. Like all businesses, their goal is to make money. Under this business model of health insurance, the greed of casual inhumanity is built in and the common good of the citizens and nation is ignored. Excluding many in the middle class, the poor, the aged, the disabled and the mentally ill is sound business practice policy since it maximizes profit.


Today we still have tens of millions of individuals without insurance, many more who are underinsured, many who have impaired access to their physicians because of insurer network restrictions, many who face financial hardship when health needs arise, and an outrageously expensive system due to the profound administrative waste of the insurers and the burden they place on the health care delivery system when immense profit is required. With millions losing their jobs due to Covid-19, the dangers of connecting health insurance to employment are painfully clear. Health insurance must be tied to citizenship, not employment.




Almost none of these problems would exist if the government, instead of the private insurers, served us as the health insurance financing authority. It is inhumane to allow consumer-directed, moral-hazard based private health policies to erect barriers to health care for millions of citizens with minimal or modest resources.

Universal Medicare for All is a solid investment in our country and all of its citizens. This investment simply promotes a social service for universal access to affordable

health care insurance for all. Aren't we a society that cares enough to see that everyone receive the health care they need? That's the basic point of Medicare for All, and it's certainly the right thing to do now with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Join the majority of Americans who support improved Medicare for all. Ask your legislator to support legislation in the House (H.R. 1384) and Senate (S. 1129) that would establish this badly needed reform. ✖






AC4Congress2020

www.forthemanynotjustme.com

Paid For By Adam Christensen For Congress


ADAM CHRISTENSEN

We're Fighting For Working Families Like Yours

Alachua + Clay + Bradford + Union + Putnam + Marion

VOTE FOR ADAM

IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 18TH




RE-ELECT

LEANETTA MCNEALY

for Alachua County School Board



Children  st

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Leanetta McNealy for Alachua County School Board

Have you wondered just what is ‘systemic racism’?

by Dr. Teresa Taylor Williams

In 1866, one year after the 13th Amendment was ratified (the amendment that ended slavery), Alabama, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, Florida, Tennessee, and South Carolina began to lease out convicts for labor (peonage).

This made the business of arresting Blacks very lucrative, which is why hundreds of White men were hired by these states as police officers. Their primary responsibility was to search out and arrest Blacks who were in violation of Black Codes. Once arrested, these men, women, and children would be leased to plantations where they would harvest cotton, tobacco, sugar cane. Or they would be leased, to work in coal mines or for railroad companies. The owners of these businesses would pay the state for every prisoner who worked for them; prison labor.

It is believed that after the passing of the 13th Amendment, more than 800,000 Blacks were part of the system of peonage, or re-enslavement through the prison system. Peonage didn't end until after World War II began, around 1940.

This is how it happened.

The 13th Amendment declared that “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.” (Ratified in 1865)

Did you catch that? It says, “neither slavery nor involuntary servitude could occur except as a punishment for a crime.”

Lawmakers used this phrase to make petty offenses crimes.

When Blacks were found guilty of committing these crimes, they were imprisoned and then leased out to the same businesses that lost slaves after the passing of the 13th Amendment. This system of convict labor is called peonage.

The majority of White Southern farmers and business owners hated the 13th Amendment because it took away slave labor. As a way to appease them, the federal government turned a blind eye when southern states used this clause in the 13th Amendment to establish laws called Black Codes.

Here are some examples of Black Codes:

In Louisiana, it was illegal for a Black man to preach to Black congregations without special permission in writing from the president of the police. If caught, he could be arrested and fined. If he could not pay the fines, which were unbelievably high, he would be forced to work for an individual or go to jail or prison where he would work until his debt was paid off.

If a Black person did not have a job, he or she could be arrested and imprisoned on the charge of vagrancy or loitering.

This next Black Code will make you cringe. In South Carolina, if the parent of a Black child was considered vagrant, the judicial system allowed the police and/or other government agencies to “apprentice” the child to an “employer.” Males could be held until the age of 21, and females could be held until they were 18. Their owner had the legal right to inflict punishment on the child for disobedience and to recapture them if they ran away.

This (peonage) is an example of systemic racism – racism established and perpetuated by government systems. Slavery was made legal by the U.S. Government. Segregation, Black Codes, Jim Crow, and peonage were all made legal by the government, and upheld by the judicial system. These acts of racism were built into the system, which is where the term “Systemic Racism” is derived.

This is the part of “Black History” that most of us were never told about.

Teresa Taylor Williams is the publisher of “New York Trend,” a weekly news publication that focuses on issues and lifestyles of the African and Caribbean American communities. 🐾

In reality, there is no such thing as not voting: you either vote by voting, or you vote by staying home and tacitly doubling the value of some Diehard's vote.

-David Foster Wallace

#StandForSeminaryLane

They Tore Down Our Home...

& Said They'd Rebuild It Even Better For Us...

10 Years Later, Their Promise To Us Remains Broken...

They've Sold Our Land To Greedy Developers...

Who Plan To Gentrify Our Affordable Housing With Student Housing...

We stand against the erasure of the indigenous people and culture of this Historic Black District that has been in existence since Reconstruction...

We Stand For Seminary Lane

We're fighting to save the Seminary Lane Property, the Historic 5th Avenue & Pleasant Street Communities and all vulnerable Black Communities in Gainesville and across the country that are facing destruction in favor of profit.



Gainesville Alliance for
Equitable Development

Black Communities Matter



HOURS

Closed to the public, but accepting online orders
Monday 12-6pm

400 NW 10th Ave.

@thirdhousebooks

www.thirdhousebooks.com

UF to end use of prisoners for slave labor

by Alachua County Labor Coalition

The University of Florida announced that “there are agriculture operations where UF has relied on prison and jail inmates to provide farm labor. The symbolism of inmate labor is incompatible with our university and its principles and therefore this practice will end.”

The University had eight contracts with the Florida Department of Corrections as of 2019. These contracts forced incarcerated individuals, many of whom are people of color, to work with zero compensation under the threat of punishment.

“The University of Florida profited off slavery by exploiting a loophole of the 13th amendment which freed slaves,” said Kevin Scott, an organizer with Florida Prisoner Solidarity. “Slavery can, and still is, used as punishment for crimes” he said.

The University of Florida has become the first university to cut its agricultural contracts with the Florida Department of Corrections. They follow Alachua County and the City of Gainesville who ended their contracts in 2018.

A concentrated campaign throughout 2019 targeted the University of Florida president, Board of Trustees, and IFAS.

The campaign built off of the 2018 Prison Strike, where Gainesville residents occupied space outside of the Gainesville Work Camp, to prevent the enactment of slavery in our city.

“We can’t disconnect UFPD’s presence in Gainesville from Florida’s prison system that exploits people for their labor. UF’s Police Department has jurisdiction to arrest folks on and off-campus, meaning that they have criminalized Gainesville’s black communities away from campus, and into work camps all across the state” said Juan Zapata, UF graduate and former organizer with Divest UF. “UF can repair the damage they’ve done by abolishing their police force, immediately terminating their labor contracts, and divesting their \$2.04B endowment from all forms of human detention,” he said.

“I am thrilled that my alma mater has found the courage to end the use of forced prison labor,” said Jeremiah Tattersall, chair of the ACLC. “I hope that UF continues by ending their funding of prisons in their \$2.04 billion endowments” he continued.

This campaign to end the use of prison slave labor at UF was made possible by Florida Prisoner Solidarity, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, Divest

UF, Alachua County Labor Coalition, Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons, and many others.

“UF didn’t end their use of prison slave labor out of the kindness of their hearts. They didn’t wake up today and realize how amoral it was,” said Panagioti Tsolkas, an organizer with the Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons. “This came about because we organized, we fought, and we won.”✊

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



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

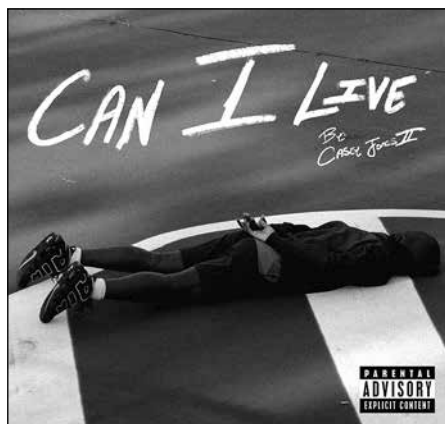
I believe providing support for small businesses and start-ups is critical for a healthy economy. We must also enhance the assets that all businesses need, like an educated workforce and strong infrastructure.

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

Dion Dia Records and Casey Jones II



by Laila Fakhoury, Dion Dia Records
First and foremost, Dion Dia is a brand.

Our brand takes inspiration from certain aspects of street culture from around the world and utilizes those elements to promote the betterment of communities, the formation of human relationships, and the elevation of unheard voices. We uplift creators by releasing music, curating events, showcasing artwork, and creating products.

Secondly, we are a minority-owned, full-service independent record label that seeks change in the music industry and in what it means to be a record label. From our conception we have always maintained a community focus.

Alongside our lineup of silent discos and live music events, we began hosting

a series of events called “Disco for Good” that profit share with community organizations and nonprofits.

We are currently developing programs centered around recording patients in the hospitals and incarcerated people in the prisons. Through our practices, we will create a record label with a heart and soul; A label that will transcend the boundaries and roles of a traditional label and grow into something bigger.

Currently we represent a lyrical hip hop artist named Casey Jones II. Casey is a Gainesville native, Eastside High School graduate, and current student at Santa Fe College. On Friday, Juneteenth, Casey released his first single, titled “Can I Live.” In this powerful debut, Casey

chose to provide a narrative on the struggles of Black Americans by asking a simple rhetorical question ... Can I Live?

You can listen to Can I Live by Casey Jones II on all digital streaming platforms, such as SoundCloud, Spotify, and Apple Music.


Follow Dion Dia on Facebook and Instagram to keep up with new music, videos, events, and community projects. Feel free to reach out to the label with any questions, we are eager to keep open communication with our community.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/diondiarecs/> (Dion Dia Records)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/diondiarecs/> (@diondiarecs) ✨



**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

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.



Why we need Medicaid expansion ASAP

by Gaby Gross, Alachua County Labor Coalition

The covid pandemic crisis has made visible the utter inadequacy of healthcare in Florida. Before the pandemic, almost 900,000 low income adults had no health insurance. Now having lost their jobs in the covid crisis, thousands of others have lost their employment-connected health insurance. At the same time the cost of treatment for covid-19 virus infections can add enormously to healthcare needs.

Currently, Medicaid coverage in Florida, apart from specialized programs, is only available to people who have dependents and earn less than 30 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (about \$7,000 a year for a family of three). With expansion, whether or not they have dependents, people with incomes of up to 138 percent of the FPL (about \$29,000 for a family of three) will be eligible.

Whether it's due to malice, ignorance or prejudice, our legislature has refused to accept the federal money which would have covered 90 percent of the cost of expanding Medicaid.

The legislative refusal is irrational because Floridians' taxes go into the pool of federal funds used for Medicaid expansion, but few Floridians benefit.

The refusal exacerbates the health problems of African-Americans and other minorities who already suffer from poverty-induced health problems. For example, for every two infants born to white mothers who die in their first year, five black babies die. High blood pressure which can lead to early death if untreated is more prevalent among African-Americans than white Floridians.

Results from states which have expanded Medicaid show that people covered by Medicaid get regular checkups so that health problems such as hypertension are diagnosed and treated early avoiding more serious illness and early deaths.

In addition to the funds which would enable our residents to enjoy better health, the state would enjoy general economic benefits. More medical workers will be employed. With improved health many more residents will be able to work, particularly those with mental health and substance abuse problems which can be treated by Medicaid.

The ideal healthcare system would be a form of Medicare for All. Until that happens we must grasp the benefits of Medicaid expansion. The Alachua County Labor Coalition is working for expansion through Medicaid Matters for Florida, a statewide coalition, and also cooperating with the League of Women Voters and other organizations. To draw legislators' attention, we are seeking to have local municipalities pass resolutions in support. We will also be working to ensure voters know which candidates will become supportive legislators.

Volunteers will be needed. Details will be available shortly. Please contact the ACLC office 352-375-2832, info@laborcoalition.org for more information.

Please join us on Thursday, July 30 from 5-6:30 pm for a virtual celebration of the birthday of Medicare and Medicaid. Speakers will discuss Medicaid expansion in Florida and preserving and expanding Medicare. Zoom information will be announced. 🐾



435 S. Main St.
Mon-Fri 9-8 Weekends 10-6

220 NW 8th Ave.

352.375.3752



Modern & Vintage Apparel

**Buy. Sell.
Trade.**

Open every day 12-6



flashbacksrecycledfashions.com

'We are better than this'

by Jimmy Carter
former U.S. president

Rosalynn and I are pained by the tragic racial injustices and consequent backlash across our nation in recent weeks. Our hearts are with the victims' families and all who feel hopeless in the face of pervasive racial discrimination and outright cruelty.

We all must shine a spotlight on the immorality of racial discrimination. But violence, whether spontaneous or consciously incited, is not a solution.

As a white male of the South, I know all too well the impact of segregation and injustice to African Americans. As a politician, I felt a responsibility to bring equity to my state and our country.

In my 1974 inaugural address as Georgia's governor, I said: 'The time for racial discrimination is over.' With great sorrow and disappointment, I repeat those words today, nearly five decades later.

Dehumanizing people debases us all; humanity is beautifully and almost infinitely diverse. The bonds of our common humanity must overcome the divisiveness of our fears and prejudices.



Former President Jimmy Carter released this statement on Wednesday, June 10. Carter was the 39th president of the United States from 1977 to 1981. He is pictured here with his wife, Rosalynn Carter.

Since leaving the White House in 1981, Rosalynn and I have strived to advance human rights in countries around the world. In this quest, we have seen that silence can be as deadly as violence.

People of power, privilege, and moral conscience must stand up and say "no more" to a racially discriminatory

police and justice system, immoral economic disparities between whites and blacks, and government actions that undermine our unified democracy.

We are responsible for creating a world of peace and equality for ourselves and future generations.

We need a government as good as its people, and we are better than this. ✪

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!**

In memoriam:

John X. Linnehan: From priest to activist



John Xavier Linnehan and his wife, Martina

by Carol Mosley

Feb. 28, 1928 – May 13, 2020

John Xavier Linnehan transitioned at 93 with his wife, Martina, at his side.

He lived a life of simplicity and social activism, putting words into action to effect social change.

John graduated from Boston College, did a brief stint in the Air Force, and entered the seminary to study for the priesthood. From 1958 through the next 15 years, he served as a pastor and Superintendent of Schools. In 1973 he married Martina as they began a life of activism together.

Active in grassroots movements for peace, social justice, and environmental sustain-

ability, they began organizing with United Farmworkers, and then resisting the military-industrial complex and nuclear arms.

In 1983, they engaged in their first act of nonviolent civil disobedience at the G.E. plant in Largo, which manufactured nuclear weapons components. Both were convicted of “criminal mischief, trespassing, and unlawful assembly” and served six months in prison. Upon release, John and Martina worked with the homeless at the Open-Door Community in Atlanta.

They were also involved various other groups, including the Nuclear Freeze Campaign, the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice (FCPJ), Pax Christi Florida, Ground Zero, From Trident to Life Campaign, The Southern Life Community, the Nuclear Train Campaign, the NAACP, Witness for Peace in Nicaragua, Floridians Against the Death Penalty, Atlanta Dojo and the Smokey Mountain Peace Pagoda project.

Founding Metanoia Community in 1986, John and Martina confronted what Martin Luther King called the three social evils: racism, materialism and militarism. They participated in a 200-mile “Cancel the Countdown” peace walk from Kings Bay to Patrick Air Force Base, protesting the Trident II missile; a pilgrimage from the site of Florida’s executions in Raiford to Tallahassee to advocate for alternatives to the death penalty; a Walk for the Earth from the Everglades to Tallahassee; and a

walk for economic justice to the 2004 G8 Summit in Georgia.

John became especially concerned about climate change and the effect on future generations. In 2009,

“X and M” moved to the Land owned by FCPJ in Bradford County, where they helped build two “eco” houses modeling sustainable design and energy efficiency. They devoted their final years of activism to the study, practice and teaching of sustainable living in relationship to the Earth, challenging all to social responsibility.

Scaling down in later years, John and Martina moved from the FCPJ Land to a simple apartment in Gainesville in 2018. John X would often remind everyone to “trust the process” and “embrace the mystery.” To the end, he was known for stretching the paradigms of conventional thought, whether social, political, or theological, as he challenged the status quo.

Martina was his transition coach through his last long-distance trek. His remains were interred at Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery, south of Gainesville.

A Celebration of Life is planned for a future time at FCPJ. For those who wish to memorialize John X, donations can be made to the “X Fund” of the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice, 10665 SW 89TH Ave., Hampton, FL 32044. Rest in Power, John X. 🐾

Lorelei Esser (1949-2020)

Bob Freeman (1940-2020)

With sadness toward their passing, but in celebration of their lives, we note the loss of two notable and beloved Gainesville artists, Lorelei Esser and Bob Freeman in late May and early June.

Each had contributed to the theater and visual arts, and leave behind literally hundreds of friends whose lives they each had touched during their long years in Gainesville. They will be missed but not forgotten. 🐾



History and the people who make it: Gainesville Women for Equal Rights - Part 1



Jane Hiers [H], Jean Chalmers [C], Cora Roberson [R], Vivian Filer [F], and David Chalmers [DC] speak in April 2009 with interviewer Steve Davis about their time working with Gainesville Women for Equal Rights (GWER), one of the first integrated organizations in Gainesville. This is the 60th in a series of transcript excerpts from the UF Samuel Proctor Oral History Program collection.

Transcript edited by Pierce Butler.

F: I would start out by saying how intrigued I am that we were able to get together in the first place. It was unheard of for African Americans and Caucasian Americans to form any kind of formal group for this county. I'm not sure who actually started us together. I guess it was Bev Jones?

R: Bev Jones, Joan Henry.

H: The original was Terry Ault, a faculty wife — or maybe her husband was a student. They were involved with the Students for Equal Rights. They were having a problem getting backing. Terry thought that getting the women together might be useful. She talked to Pat Creel, who is no longer with us; but she and Pat, whose husband was in the Religion department, got together.

Pat included me, and we talked about getting faculty wives together. I called in Joan Henry, who had just quit smoking. And it's been on my conscience ever since! Because she got immediately involved in the whole idea. We decided to get together as many faculty wives as we could. We met in what was the Student Union second floor library one night, and we had this amazing turnout. There must've been forty to sixty people there. It was full of interest and enthusiasm, and then it just took off.

F: Do you remember how African Ameri-

can women were brought into that fold?

C: Was it at the Presbyterian Student Center that we invited a whole group of you to come and tell us what it was like to be an African American woman — in those days, a "Negro" — in Gainesville.

We were just absolutely thunderstruck at that parallel to the Gainesville Women for Equal Rights, or a little bit before that was the Human Relations Council, which was the local branch of the Southern Regional Council. And we had been meeting at the Negro library the third Sunday of every month for — well, we started in 1958, I guess. A lot of the members then from the Human Relations Council came over to GWER. That was Anne McGee, and LaKay Banks, and Donna Coward, and —

H: Mable Dorsey.

R: Cora Roberson. [Laughter]

C: Yeah. We'd meet at the Negro library, where the covers were torn off the books, and crayons, and anything that wasn't "fit" for the White library went over there.

That core of women put together this meeting. They told the faculty wives all of the problems of living in this segregated community. When I look back on it, it was so patronizing; the African American people would come to our Sunday meeting with their problems, and then we White folks would go talk to the city commission and the county commission.

That really changed with the Gainesville Women for Equal Rights, where African Americans were talking to the city commission and the county commission together with us.

F: That's how we got that name. Remember? "Those damn women are coming again!" [Laughter]

R: I'm glad we're speaking the language of that day, where we'll be using the word "White," "Negro," and "Colored." Because I remember when all the water fountains, and restrooms, and what-have-you; you could go to the courthouse right downtown, but they didn't allow you to go to the different stores. But only in the public places, they had the word up, "Colored."

C: Yes. For water fountains —

R: And those are the only kind of places you could go in.

H: What had just been built was the new J. Hillis Miller Health Center. And they had the Black/White Th—

F: Colored restrooms.

H: And they had water fountains right on every floor.

F: I want to talk some about that. But I was really trying to remember all of the ways we divided ourselves up into committees. Because I know committees did hard work. I was on the healthcare committee. But there was the education committee, and —

DC: Employment.

H: Voter registration.

C: Tutoring.

F: Absolutely. To me, the power was there. People on those committees had vested interest and knowledge, about what it took to make that work. I think our role was, in coming back in committee, and putting down the next step, and then gathering the resources that it took to move to the next step, then selling it to the folk we need to go and speak with.

I look back on that era as really self-affirming for me. Having always had a big mouth in school, and being always allowed to just say it, I always had the feelings — back to the time when I stopped letting White kids run me off the sidewalk, walking all the way across town.

One day, I was not having that anymore, and we had that discussion. And I didn't have to have it anymore, because they knew if they came out there what would happen. Well, I did all that as a teenager.

But as an adult, there was no place to go to make a difference; it seemed, until I became a member of GWER. I know that's where I needed to be, and I know the women who were there gave me the strength to go and do those things.

H: We gave each other strength.

F: That's true.

H: Because all of us were weak in some ways! [Laughter] Some of us were more vulnerable than others, and I think that one of the telling things was how many

Negro teachers, whose jobs were threatened, came and stood up for what they believed—and were able to do so. The rest of us were once removed from being fired, and having volunteer jobs from which [Laughter] nobody could fire us!

R: Yeah, when I was teaching elementary and high school [at] old Lincoln, you were supposed to be reappointed for the next year. When they passed that form out, they had down near the bottom, the organizations that you are affiliated with.

GWER, I believe, was on there, and NAACP. It was suggested that we not check GWER and NAACP. But I checked both of them, and they were looking for me to be fired. But nothing happened.

F: You were hoping to get tested!

R: Mhm! I was going to test it. “I’m a member. What are you going to do about it?” Ann McGee was one of those persons, too. And Gladys Alexander was working in speech therapy, she probably had to sign one of those same sheets. Maybe all Black teachers, I guess, but I know we did over at Lincoln, which is now A. Quinn Jones. We had to sign!

C: Well, you put your jobs on the line! Boy, what a lot of courage, eh?

F: Lot of courage! Hearing those issues discussed in our meetings, and allowing people to opt out if they chose to, was one of the strengths of GWER as well.

I remember talking very openly and real earnestly about who is sacrificing what to move us to this next level. That was really very important for me; at that point, I had not gone to college. I was a nursing assistant; I thought, “Nobody is going to fire me from anything I can’t get anywhere else.” At that point. But I worked at Shands at the time, and I remember being on the healthcare committee, along with Mable Dorsey, and Alice Howard.

F: And Mary Webb, who’s out in California setting the world on fire. She’s writing and teaching at Berkeley. When we met — we knew our job was big, because it involved so many steps. One of the steps had to do with the doctors’ offices, and the second step was the hospitals. Mable was pregnant with Rodney. She chose to stop going in the little back door.

R: Sure did!

F: And her obstetrician, she was going in the front door. I was going to Dr. Black on 4th Avenue, and I decided that was my last day in the cubbyhole. It was orga-

nized. We decided who was doing what.

So, the same week that we went out to do that, I did go out in the front. In the front, there was a fish tank, and windows, and magazines; I just was amazed, because all we had were four chairs in a little room about as big as a bathroom, and a window that you poke your head through to tell the nurse that you were there. That was it! I never went back to that back area. Nobody would send us away, either; they saw the news by then. That happened.

Also, we challenged the dentist. Black folk were going to Ocala to the Black dentist. I was riding the bus to the railroad station, to go to the dentist in Ocala. Because we had one Black dentist for all of Gainesville. And then, we’d come back to the big committee with our reports, and where we needed to go, and we encouraged others to do so.

One of the dentists in town that I finally took my boys to, who are forty-six and fifty-one now — they’ll hate me for that one — but they were small. And my friend, this member of GWER, she and I were very close, and she was on the committee. She said, “Vivian, if you want to take the boys to the dentist, why don’t we try my dentist?” I said, “Okay.” So, she called, and she asked the receptionist if this dentist accepted Colored patients. The lady was just flabbergasted; we were listening, and she just didn’t know what to say. My friend said, “Well, go and ask him.” It was Dr. —

F: Machaud! They got him on the phone, he said, “I take any patient that makes an appointment.” So, we made an appointment for my boys to go there, and they loved it! He treated them like little angels. And besides, at the end of the visit, they could open the bottom drawer and pick out a toy. To this day, they talk about him, and how much they loved him.

Years later, when I taught nursing, Dr. Machaud’s daughter came in as my student. I told her, “I loved your daddy!” It was just so wonderful to have this generational connection.

But I think the most important piece for our committee was the hospitals. The Equal Rights Commission was there, but we GWER decided to challenge it. We sat in that office — four of us, two Black women and two White women. “You must integrate this hospital because you receive federal dollars under the Hill-Burton Act.”

This man, after he turned three shades of red — there’s nothing in this room as red as that man was, when we told him that! — he finally said, “Yes,” and he left. What he did was to take the signs off the water fountains and the bathrooms. [Laughter]

R: “Colored” and “White.”

C: But still, the Black babies were born on this floor —

F: The third floor was our floor.

C: —the White babies were born on this floor. And those babies were transported up and down in the public elevator!

F: Yeah, I know. My babies were born there.

C: Yeah! And when the Ladies’ Auxiliary raised money for sterilizers, they got two sterilizers: one for Black babies’ bottles, and one for White babies’ bottles. You know, it was just absurd!

To be continued in the September Iguana. See a full video of this interview by searching for “GWER 2009” at youtube.com.

Find 14 related interviews at <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/oral/results/?t=gwer>.

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. 🐢

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

2020 Primary Election; Vote August 18 or earlier

www.votealachua.com

phone: 352-374-5252

Why vote?

Here is the warm-up for November, when we all do our part to remove Trump & Co. For now, we are trying to put good people in. Voting is a way to act in your own and the people's interest to prepare for making positive changes in our lives. It isn't time for a moral statements, or personal purity, it is math. We'll assess the results in September.

Election Day, August 18

- Polling places are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Voters must vote at the polling place to which they are assigned
- For info on voting by mail go to: www.VoteAlachua.com/MBRS or call 352-374-5252

Voter Registration / Early Voting Deadline

- All locations will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Mon, July 20:** Voter registration / party affiliation change deadline
- **Mon, Aug. 3:** Early voting begins
- **Sat, Aug 15:** Early voting ends

Locations:

- Alachua County Supervisor of Elections Office (515 N. Main St., Suite 100, G'ville)
- Tower Road Branch Library (3020 SW 75th St., G'ville)
- Millhopper Branch Library (3145 NW 43rd St., G'ville)
- Legacy Park Multipurpose Center (15400 Peggy Road, Alachua)
- Orange Heights Baptist Church (16700 NE SR 26, Hawthorne)
- J. Wayne Reitz Union (655 Reitz Union Dr, UF campus, G'ville)

Precinct Voting:

- Voting at your polling place on Election Day is easy
- Bring a picture and signature ID. (For info on types of IDs accepted at the polls, please check <https://www.votealachua.com/Voters/Register-to-Vote-or-Update-Registration>)
- Find which precinct you are assigned to vote at by looking at your Voter Information Card
- Check www.votealachua.com prior to an election in case there are changes to a polling place location
- Visit the www.votealachua.com page for more information

The Supervisor of Elections office is hiring poll workers to help staff the voting locations. To volunteer, complete the form at <https://www.votealachua.com/Election-Workers/Become-an-Election-Worker>.

Iguana Voter Guide if you want it (people say they like it)

- **Representative in Congress (District 3):** Adam Christensen
- **State Representative (District 20):** Your Choice (*not on all ballots*)
- **Property Appraiser:** Ayesha Soloman
- **Sheriff:** Clovis Watson
- **Alachua County Commission (District 1):** Mike Byerly
- **Alachua County Commission (District 3):** Anna Prizzia
- **Alachua County School Board (District 2):** Dyonne McGraw
- **Alachua County School Board (District 4):** Leanetta McNealy 🐢

From VOTE!, p. 1

for District 20. There are no other candidates, so the winner here wins. Both are longtime Gainesville residents and veterans of the City Commission, and have a lot of life experience. No clear choice here.

Property Appraiser has five candidates running, some of them self-funding to a big degree, and most already working in that office. We like Ayesha Soloman, who is a younger and more grassroots candidate, though very well versed in all the aspects of the job, and we hope she does well enough to make it to the perfunctory November final vote versus a write-in candidate.

The Sheriff's race will be a big one to watch, with longtime Sheriff Sadie Darnell being challenged by Clovis Watson. There are many disconcerting things in Darnell's record, especially with her running of the jail, questionable hiring of known domestic abusers, and an infatuation with more and more stuff, including the infernal helicopter. Clovis seems to have really grown and benefited from his time in Tallahassee, and we look forward to a change in the sheriff's office.

County Commission has District 1 incumbent Mike Byerly facing Mary Alford, a likewise strong environmentalist who got in early and perhaps thought Mike was not going to seek re-election. Mike is sharp and principled, and we support his return to the Commission.

County Commission District 3 has Anna Prizzia running for Robert Hutchinson's old seat. She could be a good replacement for Hutch, but also good is Jason Stafford. A late-declared candidate is Kevin Thorpe, who ran last time with huge monetary backing from Weyerhaeuser/Plum Creek. We say vote Anna and get another woman's voice on the Commission.

School Board District 2 has Khanh-Lien Banko versus Dyonne McGraw running to replace Eileen Roy. Both have been involved with the School Board and education issues, but based on recent issues we lean toward McGraw.

Online Candidate Forums

There are a number of online forums where you can see the Alachua County area candidates for office in action. Here are some we were able to find, and even though the date may have passed, you can find the archived record online to watch.

The date may help you find the video on Facebook or perhaps YouTube.

Congress Dist. 3, State House Dist. 20: Alachua County Democrats, June 23

Sheriff Forum: Alachua County Democrats, June 30

County Commission: Alachua County Democrats, July 1

School Board Forum: Alachua County Democrats, July 2

County Commission: Alachua Co. Labor Coalition, 5:30pm, July 7

Sheriff Forum: Dream Defenders (abolitionist perspective), 2-4pm, July 11

All candidates: League of Women Voters, 1:30-4pm, July 19 🐢

There's been a number of controversies affecting the Black community in recent years, and there is a need to tip the power on the School Board. Her opponent, Banko, has positives to offer, but this is a time for change.

School Board District 4 has Leanetta McNealy looking to retain her seat against Sande Calkins. We would definitely like to see Leanetta retain her seat; as a former Principal she knows education, and is devoted to get some important things done. There are some outstanding needs to be addressed and lost time to be made up for. 🐢

From JUNETEENTH, p. 24

As people all across our country protest the state-sponsored terror inflicted on Black people by the police right now, we also fully understand how important it is to fight for and exercise our fundamental right to vote.

Black people should not have to keep fighting for voting rights, and we should not have to keep fighting for our right to stay alive and to live in our communities without fear.

Yet the disease of systemic racism that permeates every institution in our country continues, and we will never be rid of

it until people confront their unconscious bias and dismantle power structures that keep Black people from thriving.

Elected leaders being ignorant or indifferent to the history of racism in our country will only ensure that it continues to poison our nation.

Muche Ukegbu, lead pastor of multicultural Miami church The Brook, put it this way.

"I'm becoming more and more convinced that tone deafness doesn't come from not having the right people in the room, but from having the wrong things in their hearts," he said.

Amen. 🐢

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. <http://laborcoalition.org/>, info@laborcoalition.org, 352-375-2832, Mail: PO Box 358201, 32635; Office: 235 S Main St #206, 32601. Meetings at Emmanuel Mennonite Church, 1236 NW 18th Ave.

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, Brookier, 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 bird species in the southeast. 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

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

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

Continued on next page

Continued from preceding page

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 for All The Gainesville Sun's GNV4ALL initiative is an effort to identify and address problems related to inequities and racial injustice in our community. See Facebook for online activities including Criminal Justice, Education, Voter Registration, Family Support, and Health & Transportation, or email GNV4ALL@gmail.com.

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 352-559-4559, gainesvillerespite.org

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

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

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

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@ourevnecfl.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.floridiansforfairdemocracy.com/>

Sierra Club meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Life South Building, 4039 W. Newberry Rd, 352-528-3751, www.ssjsierra.org

Sister City Program of Gainesville links Gainesville with sister cities in Russia, Israel and Palestine, Iraq, and Haiti. Meetings are the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Mennonite Meeting House, 1236 NW 18th Ave. (across from Gainesville HS). <http://www.gnv-sistercities.org>

Stand By Our Plan informs the public on critical differences between the Comprehensive Plan and Plum Creek's proposal, which we do not support. Alachua County's Comprehensive Plan is the best blueprint for future growth in the county's unincorporated areas; it protects valuable wetlands, standbyourplan@gmail.com; <http://standbyourplan.org/>

Student Animal Alliance UF based group that promotes animal rights through education, volunteering and social events. faacebook: 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

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 Frisbie Zine Library at the CMC, new meeting time TBD - see Facebook, cmzinecommittee@gmail.com ✨

Gov. DeSantis: This is not how you should honor Juneteenth

by Casey Bruce-White

This article was originally published by the Florida Phoenix on June 19. See more at floridaphoenix.com.

Gov. Ron DeSantis is going back to court in yet another attempt to keep hundreds of thousands of Floridians from voting.

In a request for expedited review, attorneys for DeSantis chose to file their initial brief with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit by June 19. They want that court to overturn a ruling by a federal judge who sided with 17 returning citizens who sued the state for denying them their voting rights based on wealth.

Here is the significance of that date: A disproportionate number of the people whose voting rights are being suppressed in Florida are Black. June 19—also known as Juneteenth—is the anniversary of the day when the last enslaved people in the U.S. were freed in 1865.

The state should be honoring Juneteenth by registering and removing barriers to the right to vote to ensure the full guarantees of citizenship and voting for Black Floridians instead of devoting taxpayers' resources to strip voting rights.

Here, in brief, is that grisly history:

In 1871, six years after the last enslaved people were freed in Texas, Black men were given the right to vote. Six years later, in 1877, Florida adopted a poll tax that was used to strip the right to vote from most Black people in the state. Then came the adoption of literacy tests, which were designed with the sole purpose of keeping Black people and other people of color from voting.

These tactics were used in conjunction with Black Codes, which led to thousands of Black people being arrested on bogus criminal charges and losing their right to vote. What's worse, even after an individual completed their sentence, the State's onerous, arbitrary clemency laws adopted in its 1868 constitution made it nearly impossible to regain your rights as a citizen.

The system of felony disenfranchisement—adopted at the beginning of Jim Crow and a period of state-sponsored white supremacist racial terrorism—survived essentially unchanged from Reconstruction until 2018.

While the system of felony disenfranchisement was fundamentally changed for the better in Florida after the passage of Amendment 4 in 2018, disenfranchisement still exists in Florida and in other states

across the country, and it disproportionately affects Black people.

According to the Washington, D.C.-based Sentencing Project, one of every 13 African-Americans in the United States have lost their voting rights due to felony disenfranchisement laws.

In November of 2018, 65 percent of Floridians voted for Amendment 4, and rejected that legacy of the Confederacy. Through this amendment, Florida voters returned the ability to vote to returning citizens who had completed their sentence including parole and probation, except for those convicted of murder or felony sexual offenses.

Certain Florida politicians and DeSantis responded by passing Senate Bill 7066, which eliminated the right to vote for returning citizens who were given this fundamental right back under Amendment 4 by making voting contingent on an individual's wealth.

DeSantis reached back to the 1870's, to the Jim Crow era, to institute a poll tax to eliminate voting rights. In our studies, we found that 77 percent of Floridians otherwise qualified to vote under Amendment 4 still owed LFOs (legal financial obligations), and those individuals were disproportionately Black.

On May 24, a federal judge found that this law was nothing more than a pay-to-vote scheme that fundamentally violates the U.S. Constitution.

Now, DeSantis is appealing the ruling to the Eleventh Circuit Court. Is it a coincidence that they chose to file it by Juneteenth?

The significance of that date isn't lost on Black leaders around Florida and across our Country.

"Juneteenth celebrates the end of slavery in the United States," says Marsha Ellison, president, NAACP Fort Lauderdale/Broward Branch, and civic engagement chair, NAACP Florida State Conference, the latter of which is an organizational plaintiff in the lawsuit against SB 7066.

"It is also known as Emancipation Day, Juneteenth Independence Day, and Black Independence Day.

"Choosing Juneteenth as the date to file its initial brief in the SB 7066 case is another example of overt racism bellowing from the governor's office," she said. "Gov. DeSantis must come to the realization that Black Lives Matter!"

See JUNETEENTH, p. 21



Established 1986

The Gainesville Iguana

Gainesville's progressive newsletter and events calendar

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

Subscribe!

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

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

*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